

December 2006

Town of Redington Shores  
17425 Gulf Blvd.  
Redington Shores, FL 33708

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Mayor: *Jody Armstrong*

District 1 Vice-Mayor—Commissioner : *Bert Adams*

District 2 Commissioner: *John Branch*

District 3 Commissioner: *Casey Wojcik*

District 4 Commissioner : *Robert Holthaus*



## Beach Access Improvements

Ah, progress! After more than a year of planning, the first three of our sixteen beach access walkways are complete! These three accesses located on Lee Avenue between Atoll and Coral were selected because there was remaining grant money available from the utility undergrounding project in the neighborhood west of Gulf Boulevard. Additional mon-

ies are budgeted for this fiscal year to continue the beautification project.



We are aggressively pursuing all grant possibilities, but the competition for dwindling sources is stiff. Nonetheless, Building Official Steve Andrews recently submitted a grant application for money to begin



beach walkovers. Walkovers will complement the walkways from the seawall to the beach by providing easier access through the protective dune system. The design patterns the walkovers constructed in Indian Rocks Beach, a project already approved by FDEP.



## Mark your Calendar for Upcoming Holiday Events!

Please come and celebrate the joy of the Holiday season on Sunday, December 3, 2006 at Del Bello Park. Our annual tree lighting event will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., with the beautiful voices of the Blessed Sacrament Church Choir, a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, and plenty of hot chocolate and the famous Salt Rock Grill clam chowder.

The annual house and commercial Christmas decorating contest will begin at dusk on Thursday, December 14. Good luck to all homes and businesses that participate!

The Santa Parade through North Redington Beach and Redington Shores will begin at 10 a.m. on December 16th.

The Christmas Boat Parade will begin around 6:00 p.m.

at the Madeira Beach Marina, Sunday, December 17. This is an exciting annual event, with many participants showing off their beautifully decorated boats. The parade will travel north, stopping at Shell's Basin before traveling north through the intra-coastal to the Pub, Indian Shores. Grab a chair and a spot along the water and enjoy!

## Town Services and Hours

Redington Shores Town Hall provides a fax and copy machines for your convenience as well as notary services.

Town Hall is open 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Monday through Friday.

Without internet access? See the bulletin boards through Town or tune in to Brighthouse Cable Channel 15 for Town information. Commission meetings are televised live.

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## District 1 Vice Mayor - Commissioner— Bert Adams

The utility undergrounding project continues as we approach year's end. To the residents on 174<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 174<sup>th</sup> Terrace, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets, we should see the overhead lines and power poles gone by December. What a difference this will make!

New pedestrian controlled crosswalk lights have been installed at the crosswalk at 175th Avenue and Gulf Boulevard, which should increase our pedestrian safety greatly. Also the Pedestrian Transportation Advisory Committee proposes that the Florida Statutes for pedestrians be changed to read "Stop" instead of "Yield" for pedestrians in the crosswalk. The amended language has several advantages:

1. It provides a clear definition of when motorists must stop if the pedestrian is not yet on their half of the road. The amended language makes enforcement

easier for motorists who fail to stop when the pedestrian is approaching.

2. The amendment provides language clarifying the responsibilities of turning cars.

3. When required to stop and remain stopped, motorists must apply their brakes further in advance of the crosswalk than if they were only yielding. This allows pedestrians to have the confidence to step into the street and start crossing.

4. Requiring motorists to remain stopped makes it clear that motorists aren't supposed to turn the corner or otherwise proceed until the pedestrian is out of their half of the road.

5. There is no creeping forward to block the crosswalk.

It is necessary to change and clarify Florida State law concerning pedestrians and

their use of crosswalks. This proposal is intended to provide a clearer statement for the benefit of not only pedestrians and vehicle drivers but also those who enforce this law. The suggested wording is as follows:

"The driver of a vehicle shall stop and remain stopped to allow a pedestrian to cross the roadway within a crosswalk when the pedestrian steps into the crosswalk or has indicated that they will enter the crosswalk. This procedure shall apply to signalized intersections and signalized crosswalks. This procedure shall also apply to crosswalks where there is signing indicating that this stop procedure applies."

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



## District 2 Commissioner—John Branch

I have had the pleasure of serving as your Commissioner for a year now. Much has been accomplished due to the knowledge of our Mayor, Commissioners, ladies in the office, the Building Official and the Public Works staff.

Our Mayor, Jody Armstrong, Commissioner Wojcik and Steve Andrews, Building Official, know how to obtain grants for all available funds for our Town, saving us thousands of dollars.

I meet weekly with the undergrounding team, have answered many questions for home owners and solved problems along with the help of Steve Jordan, Director of Public Works, and Brad Kelley, Building Inspector. They also fix sewer problems at all hours of the day and night. Our sewer system is over 50 years old, and is

falling apart. I received \$30,000 from the Town for engineering plans to study the sewers, and for plans for a new station, moving the existing one out of the middle of the street at 176<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 1<sup>st</sup> Street E. It is dangerous for the workers, and takes its toll due to pounding of traffic on the covers. Sewer lines are old and have water coming into the system.

We have grants approved for the storm sewers in District 2, including the curbs, and are waiting on the engineering. The project will take approximately 2 years. The undergrounding of utilities will take less time.

Due to hurricane preparedness and all potential disasters, your Mayor, Commissioners, Building Officials and staff have

many classes they attend. This requires extra time; but I promised you I would perform the job of Commissioner as needed – I am keeping this promise.

We are in the process of cleaning up certain homes and yards in our area, and requiring that lawns be maintained. Please call Town Hall if you see any problems. Let's all be good neighbors; when code enforcement becomes involved someone loses.

I have never said I have all the answers but I will find the answers for you. Please feel free to call me if I can be of any service to you.



## Paddlers: Get Ready!

A new addition to Del Bello Park is about ready to launch! We are eagerly awaiting the installation of a ramp and floating dock specifically designed for

kayaks and canoes. Kayaking is one of the fastest growing eco-sports, offering a quiet, peaceful means of enjoying the beautiful waters surrounding us. Once the park upgrades are complete, plans are

being made to have a grand opening complete with demonstrations and rental opportunities. Stay tuned and join us as we offer more ways for you to enjoy our great outdoors!

## District 3 Commissioner—Casey Wojcik

It has been an exciting six months working with other local emergency management teams and improving the Town's ability to prepare for and recover from disasters. We have attended seminars to increase our awareness of available programs. We updated the Town's Emergency Management Plan, incorporating the latest resources available to us. I accompanied Town staff

members on a tour of the secondary emergency operations center. We are completing training and certification by the National Incident Management System that will result in enhanced communications among all local, state, and federal agencies during disasters.

Thankfully our Town did not experience a major hurricane this year. It is our goal to improve the quality of life for our

citizens through continuously improving our disaster awareness, updating our Emergency Management Plan, and hasten our recovery from any incident.



## District 4 Commissioner—Robert Holthaus

The last two months for me as Commissioner of District 4 have been both rewarding and frustrating. Since my appointment in August I have received a warm welcome and much needed advice and assistance from the current Commissioners and our Mayor. Our staff at Town Hall is unbelievably competent, and capable of answering my every question or request. I have much to learn – our Town is very fortunate to have them as our Town Hall officials.

With their help I will attempt to represent the citizens of District 4 and all of Redington Shores with dignity and competence. One of my current duties is as Parks & Recreation Chairman, which includes overseeing the condition and improvements of our public parks – namely, Constitution Park, Del Bello Park and Sptizer Park. The Parks & Recreation meetings are held at Town Hall the

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. I welcome any advice or suggestions from our townspeople. You may contact me through Town Hall or by phone.



## The Mayor's Corner

### Annual Picnic a Local Hit

The annual Town picnic, which took place October 14, was a wonderful event. There were over 350 residents that attended the festivities, including Nachman's famous roast pig and barbecued chickens, Beach Plus Pizza's condiments for hot dogs and hamburgers, a great D.J. and excellent weather. The dedicated volunteers as always helped make our picnic successful, and we were pleased to see so many new residents participate, along with our faithful "old timers." The picnic is held at Constitution Park on the second Saturday of every year. Since its 1991 inception, the event has continued to grow; let's hope the Town can give back to its residents a special day for the next 15 years and more!

. I am so blessed with such a dedicated, hard-working Board of Commissioners and staff! The progress you see around Town and the prompt responses you receive are directly attributed to the high standards we have set for ourselves. Our staff is second to none! From the welcoming atmosphere in Town Hall to the fast responding Public Works employees and our steadfast, professional Building Official, rest assured your Town is in good hands. With so many infrastructure projects in progress through Town (note the Commissioners' reports), everyone is busy as beavers, yet we never lose sight of our purpose – to provide the best possible service to you, our residents.

One of my responsibilities as Mayor is to be your external ambassador to the world. What this translates to is a very busy calendar as I attend monthly meeting with the BIG-C (Barrier Islands Government Council), the Pinellas County Mayor's Council, the Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber Mayor's meeting, and the Sun-

coast League of Cities meeting. I also represent the beaches as a board member on the Pinellas County Tourist Development Council (TDC) and the Florida Shores and Beaches Preservation Association (FSPBA). If that's not enough, I attend the annual conferences for the Florida League of Cities and the FSPBA and try to expand my knowledge by attending conferences and seminars.



In September, I attended a grant symposium sponsored by Florida Communities Trust (FCT) which provided lots of insight in approaching conservation land grants. The added bonus is that I placed faces with the names of the key people who

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## Town to Implement Post-Disaster Re-entry Program

The Town of Redington Shores is proud to offer a user friendly plan for the re-entry across the bridges to our town post disaster. Current procedure requires the checking of identification of all who return to the beach. As this is a very slow process, those waiting in line may become very impatient.

In order to facilitate the re-entry over Park Blvd. bridge to Redington Shores after a major storm, we have created a program using hanging tags. These tags are available at Town Hall at a cost of \$1.00 per tag (to recoup printing and administrative costs). There is a special form, which will be available at Town Hall and on our website: [www.townofredingtonshores.com](http://www.townofredingtonshores.com), that you will need to complete and submit before your tag will be issued. Since these tags are numbered, a log will be kept of the tag numbers issued and to whom they were sold. Likewise, lost or stolen tags will be blacklisted. You will be asked to update your information annually to maintain the integrity of the log.

The way the tag works is that when the Sheriff's Department deems it safe to re-enter the barrier islands, the citizen or business person goes through the check point, they hang the tag from the rear-view mirror, and the law enforcement officer will know that their ID's have been checked beforehand. If practicable, a separate lane will be created for residents with hang tags. Re-entry will be expedited because law enforcement does not have to stop every car going through the checkpoint. This will make it easier for everyone involved by making re-entry a lot easier and faster. Keep in mind, the Sheriff's Department reserves the right to ask for additional identification at any time. The hang tags also acts as a security system for the patrols after re-entry because vehicles belonging in town will be easily distinguishable from those that may not belong here. This also helps patrols in preventing looting and vandalism.

Businesses in town should purchase enough tags to cover their emergency staff. The business manager should only hand the tags out when an evacuation is called. The employees should return the tag after the emergency in preparation for the next event. When the permit application is completed, the business owner may complete one form and provide a list of employee names, which

must be updated annually. Tags issued in this manner are listed under the business name, with staff names and addresses listed as secondary addresses.

The sale of hang tags will cease upon notification a hurricane watch has been issued for our area. A hurricane watch is issued when storm treat is expected within 36 hours. The reason for the suspension is to allow our staff to prepare the Town properties for evacuation.

Our neighboring towns of North Redington Beach and Indian Shores have also been approved for this program. They are awaiting delivery of their hang tags. Upon receipt, a joint press release will be issued announcing the program.

## Del Bello Park Gets a Facelift

After being closed for nearly a month because of rotted and unsafe decking, the fishing dock at Del Bello Park on the Intracoastal side of Gulf Boulevard across from the Redington Towers is open to anglers! The planned improvements, fully funded with grant money, could not have been more timely. Instead of using pressure treated wood, a composite of plastic and wood fiber called EverGrain was used. This new material is more durable, doesn't splinter or absorb water, and exceeds ADA slip resistant guidelines.

In addition to the new dock, two water coolers will be installed at the covered pavilions. The water and electric lines serving the coolers have already been



## Upcoming Election

The Town General Election will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2007. Registered voters will elect three members to the Board of Commissioners.

The seats and term lengths are:

Commissioner District 2 for a two year term,

Commissioner District 3 for a one year term, and

Commissioner District 4 for a two year term.

Candidate qualifying period runs from December 1st through noon on December 15, 2006. Contact Town Hall for more information.

installed. The coolers should be installed by year's end.

Pavers to complete the walkway around the park were installed in early November. We are looking into the feasibility of adding pavers over the remaining half of the existing concrete walkway to add uniformity to the park.



All permits for the kayak launch were finally secured after nine months. The contractor hopes to have the launch installed shortly.

Finally, the Parks & Recreation committee is tasked with recommending appropriate exercise equipment to the Commission in the near future to complete the improvement project. Once complete, we hope residents will find Del Bello Park irresistible and frequent it often!

### The Mayor's Corner from page 3

approve the grants. FCT funded the Del Bello Park acquisition. I hope to secure funding for the expanded Spitzer Park. The beauty of FCT grants is that the land acquired with these monies must always remain greenspace. Once preserved, future generations do not have to worry about development.

October found me in a progressive leadership program offered by the Florida League of Cities (FLC). The program, the Advanced Institute for Elected Municipal Officers (IEMO) covered leadership styles, decision making & media relations, advanced revenues and finances, growth management, and team building. In addition to the lecture topics, the venue enabled frank discussion about issues affecting our towns and I left with a strong sense of support and camaraderie with my fellow classmates. It is very reassuring to know a strong support system exists for local government.

As this newsletter goes to print, I will be at the FLC legislative conference. I am on the Home Rule Administration Council. This council discusses and recommends appropriate action to protect and enhance city autonomy. Current topics include proportionate revenue share, fireworks, and cable franchising.

Recently, I was appointed to a BIG-C sub-committee tasked with investigating the appropriateness and feasibility of having Wi-Fi installed on the barrier islands. There is a tremendous benefit to having Wi-Fi not only for pleasure, but for emergency response and regular town business. Imagine being able to use your laptop while sitting with your toes in the sand on the beach or having the building official able to retrieve data while on a job site. Wi-Fi was the only means of communication available to New Orleans post Hurricane Katrina. Please know that this Commission is committed to be as prepared as humanly possible for emergency response.

Speaking of emergency response, we have made great strides in developing our plan. We now have debris manage-

ment and debris monitoring contracts in place, our cell phones are walkie-talkie enabled, and our re-entry hang tag program is approved. Chapel on the Hill becomes our remote town hall when evacuation is required. Indian Shores will share the space with us. A mild hurricane season offered us the opportunity for a couple dress rehearsals and staff feels confident in implementing our emergency plan. The first 72 hours post storm falls on our shoulders alone. My question to each resident is, "Are you prepared?"

To further our response readiness, we are developing teams of resident volunteers who are trained in NIMS (national incident management system) and can serve as part of the initial damage assessment teams through back-up for the staff. I hope to have a training program ready by spring. If lending a hand piques your interest, please call Town Hall to have your name added to the list.

As the holiday quickly approaches, I hope that you will join us for the annual tree lighting at Del Bello Park. Most of all, I wish each of you a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season.

### Trash Talk

- The ordinance pertaining to storage and placement of garbage cans was updated in September. This change was prompted by the receipt of numerous complaints of unsightliness.
- The new code requires that garbage cans be placed at curbside for collection no earlier than 6:00 pm the evening before collection and must be removed no later than 7:00 pm on collection days.
- When not placed for garbage pick-up, all garbage cans must be stored so they are concealed from the view of motorists or pedestrians traveling on any street in Town. If the property is vacant, garbage cans cannot obstruct pedestrian passage by the property.
- Keep in mind that side door pick-up is available. However, consistency in location is the key to preventing missed collection.
- All yard waste must be bundled in lengths not to exceed 4 feet. Waste Services does not take large bulk items, but arrangements can be made for special pick-up by calling 572-6800. Be sure to advise you are a Redington Shores resident as there should be no additional charge unless you have a tremendous amount of trash.



### Volunteer Opportunities

The Town operates with a staff of 8 employees. From time to time, we need assistance to accomplish our endeavors. Please consider giving back to your community with the gift of your time. Call Town Hall at 397-5538 to sign up for the following:

- **Sun., December 3rd:** Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at Del Bello Park 5- 7 P.M.
- Volunteers needed in advance for Del Bello Park decorating and on event day for set-up, Santa photographer, beverage service, and clean-up.
- **Sat., December 16th:** Convertibles with drivers needed for the Santa Parade 10 am to 2 pm.

#### Ongoing:

Administrative assistance at Town Hall to answer telephones, make copies, and other general light office duties.

Newletter assistance to provide articles, ideas for articles, and data compilation.

Post-disaster recovery assistance in all imaginable ways, including general office duties, should we be required to operate at a remote location for an extended period of time. This one is really important for our recovery planning!

If you have a talent not outlined above, please contact Town Hall with your ideas. Thank you in advance!



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## Town Staff

Town Clerk: Mary Palmer  
Town Secretary: Patti Herr  
Administrative Assistant: Pam Nightingale  
Building Official: Steve Andrews  
Public Works Director: Steve Jordan  
Public Works Staff: Tex Loy, Brad Kelley, Gary Windon

## Undergrounding 101 (In Layman's Terms)

Greetings, Residents of Redington Shores! As I am sure you all know, we are in the middle of a multilateral utility project aimed at undergrounding your electrical, phone and cable TV facilities.

Our first step is to install conduits using a method called horizontal directional drilling. It is a trenchless excavation tracked and guided using a transmitter/receiver system. When complete, you will see very little disturbance to the ground, except for local areas where equipment is to be placed, as evidenced by pipes protruding from the ground.



ing tool that punches a tunnel in the ground and the conduits are pulled through this hole. The missile is unguided (aim and shoot) and requires a highly skilled operator to hit the hole dug at the meter base.



Second, after the bores are complete, a crew digs up the area to lower the conduits to the appropriate depth and sweep up conduits at equipment locations. When complete all that will be seen is pipe stubs or pedestals.

Next, the service conduits to each house are installed using a "missile". It is a pneumatic pierc-



When all excavating is complete, cables are pulled inside of the conduits, transformers are set and all wire connections are made.

At this point, the systems are energized and brought on-line. Progress Energy then switches over to the new meters to provide underground electric service to the homes. This conversion process will result in temporary outages while facilities are switched from overhead to underground.

## Support Our Troops



The Town is joining forces with other beach communities collecting non-perishable items for our men and women in Iraq. These items are boxed and mailed to various military sources in Iraq to be shared with our troops. Our goal is to keep the source of supply continuous until our troops can return to the U.S. We need your help to provide this source. A list of suggested items can be found on our website. The collection box is located in the lobby at Town Hall.

Thank you for supporting the soldiers who have committed their lives to protect our freedom. God Bless America.

Once the underground system is complete and energized, the overhead cables will be stripped out and the poles removed. I look forward to this part, as this will be the most notable change and is the most aesthetically pleasing portion of the job.

The project was originally scheduled to be a 24 month project, but at the request of Mayor Armstrong and the Commissioners, F&H Electrical Contractors has committed extra resources to this project in an attempt to finish ahead of schedule.

To the Residents of the town, F&H appreciates your kindness and support of this monumental project!