

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*



### Lift Station Relocation Construction Underway

There is still a 3-way Stop at the corner of 176 and 1<sup>st</sup> Street. Even while construction is going on, it will help if all obey the signs, as equipment, workers and/or children can come out of nowhere.

The contractor Q.R.C. Inc. started work again October 6<sup>th</sup> with dewatering, and



setting a dig box for the job. With the relocations of water mains and reclaimed completed back in August, the actual replacement of the 8 foot diameter by 15 foot deep well was completed on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>. The job should now continue to progress steadily to completion.

Because of the soil conditions in the area a special foundation is required. This work must be completed before the well. During the week of Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> the work was stopped while Civil, structural, and soils engineers visited the site to better adapt the construction



**Continued on Page 6**



Redington Shores Town Hall is an official drop off location this season for the annual Toys for Tots drive.

Toys for Tots is a program run by the USMC Reserves which donates toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts for Christmas. The program was founded in 1947. The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) charity, serves to fund, raise funds for, and support the program.

The mission of the program "is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community in which the campaign is conducted."

#### Inside this issue:

Commissioners' Reports	2-3
The Mayor's Corner	3
New Trees in Town	3
Seashore Sea Oats	4
Millage Rates	4
Upcoming Election	4
Your "Free" Library	5
Attorney Celebrates	5
Holiday Safety Tips	6

### Mark your Calendar for Upcoming Holiday Events!

Please come and celebrate the joy of the Holiday season on Sunday, December 7, 2008 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 coffee, cookies, and Salt Rock Grill's famous clam chowder.

The annual house and commercial Christmas decorating contest will begin at dusk on Thursday, December 11. Good luck to all homes and businesses that participate!

The Santa Parade through North Redington Beach and Redington Shores will begin at 3 p.m. on December 13th. Convertible cars are needed!

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

the Madeira Beach Marina, Sunday, December 14. 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 and winding through the fingers before traveling north through the intracoastal to The Pub in Indian Shores.

Grab a chair and a spot along the water and enjoy!

## District 1 Vice Mayor - Commissioner— Bert Adams

On September 2 at 5:30 a.m., as Steve Jordan, our Public Works Superintendent, was driving his town truck into the lot at 174<sup>th</sup> Ave. on the south side of the Town Garage, the truck fell into a hole. Steve was able to drive the truck out of the hole, but this incident signaled the beginning of the repair currently in progress to the sewer system on 173<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. A large break had occurred in the main sewer line that feeds all of the Redington Shores wastewater to the county lift station.

This repair is complicated by the fact that at some point in the past, a building was erected over the sewer line. Therefore, as part of this repair, the line is be-

ing rerouted from the south side of our Town Garage to the middle of 173<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. This work should be completed by the time you read this newsletter.

I would like to personally thank North Redington Beach Mayor Bill Queen and his maintenance crew for their cooperation and assistance, and also apologize for the inconvenience to those residents in the affected area.

Officer Dianne Burkhammer of the Indian Shores Police Department has resigned. We wish her the best.

Brad Kelley of Building/Maintenance recently completed Florida Association of Code Enforcement, Inc. (FACE) Level I training at the John Scott Dailey Florida

Institute of Government at USF in Tampa. As part of the fundamentals of code enforcement, Brad's training included property research and ownership, communication skills, principles and practices of code enforcement, legal aspects of code enforcement, report writing and ethics.

Brad will be enforcing all Town codes, with the exception of building violations, which remains the responsibility of Steve Andrews, Building Official.

Happy Holidays to all.



## District 2 Commissioner—John Branch

Halloween was a great success in District 2 – well over 100 children with their moms and dads came by. One young lady brought a ferret on a leash!

With the underground project complete I want to say a special thanks to Vice Mayor Adams; he worked out problems at all hours of the day and night for the past 3 years, saving the Town money, and always with a professional manner.

After 3 years and many hours of work the Lift Station at 1<sup>st</sup> St. E. and 176<sup>th</sup> Ave.

E. will be out of the road. I could not have accomplished this promise to the citizens of Redington Shores without full cooperation of all elected officials, maintenance crews, the technical advice of our Building Official and paper work by the ladies in the office. Please be safe in this area – stop at the signs and watch for children- many use this route to the park.

In District 2 flags and paint marks on the ground show the location of underground utilities, for the Stormwater Phase

2, 3 & 4 project to begin soon.

We lost some of our great citizens in District 2 this past year. As Christmas time approaches Lil and I share hope and prayers with you, as we still believe in the true meaning of Christmas.



## District 3 Commissioner—Casey Wojcik

I am thankful that Redington Shores did not have any major impacts from any of the 16 named storms this hurricane season. Please know that the planning and preparations you did getting ready for this highly active period did serve a purpose for you. Remember that in Feb. 2009 all television broadcasts will be converted to digital. If your evacuation kit includes a portable television, your analog (rabbit ears) televisions will need to be updated with the capability to receive a digital signal. The alternative is to replace your portable TV with a digital enabled portable TV.

We all owe a very large Thank You to Mayor Jody Armstrong for providing the leadership to help the Gulf Beaches Public Library through some very difficult times. She has joined forces with the mayors of the other Towns supporting the Gulf Beaches Public Library to develop a plan to enable the Library to continue to service the needs of our residents and guests through this period of unstable funding sources. Jody is applying her prior business experiences to craft a financially viable direction for the Gulf Beaches Public Library.

The sea oat planting project was a huge success. Nicole Elko, from the Department

of Environmental Management, made available 15,000 sea oat seedlings at no cost to the Town. I want to thank Steve Andrews, the Mayor and the Commissioners who all contributed their time to plant the sea oats as well as the many citizens who also helped with this important effort. Six months after the planting, the sea oat seedlings are green and thriving and they will provide long lasting protection for our coast.



## District 4 Commissioner—Robert Holthaus

Our parks have seen some special events in the past months. Constitution Park was the site again for another excellent annual Town Picnic, enjoyed by hundreds of our residents. This year we even had a live musician – a local resident. This event always brings us together for fun and great food!

Constitution Park again hosted a special event on Nov. 1 – the National Breast Can-

cer 3 Day Walk. Over 2,000 participants used the Park for a lunch stop, and with all of the tents, volunteers, and equipment set up for the event the coordinators left the park in pristine condition when they left. The Town is fortunate to have such a lovely spot for such activities.

The Parks and Recreation Board will continue to concentrate on improve-

ments to Spitzer Park, and to maintain both Constitution Park and Del Bello Park. Del Bello will again host the annual Tree Lighting Celebration on December 7 – always a special time at the holiday season. Martha and I wish all of our residents a peaceful and happy holiday season.



## New Trees in Town!

When FDOT offered the Town of Redington Shores a \$150,000 grant to replace the queen palm trees with Medjool palms, it seemed almost too good to be true. After two years of red tape engineering requirements, the long awaited replanting project was completed on October 7th.

All the queen palms were relocated to Constitution, DelBello, and Spitzer Parks, as well as the new town parking lot on Gulf Blvd.



In May, Mayor Armstrong joined several other Pinellas County mayors in signing a state supported "Green Action Accord." Patti Herr nurtured the tiny native maple tree until it grew enough to be replanted in the northeast corner of Constitution Park. Now standing over 5 feet tall, we look forward to the wonderful shade it will provide.



## The Mayor's Corner

For months, I have agonized over what I would say in this, my final newsletter as your mayor. It has been no secret that I will not seek re-election to the mayoral seat in March 2009. It has been my greatest honor to serve and represent this beautiful town for nearly six years. I have profound respect for the many dedicated and talented people who I have come to know that work hard to protect our environment, our economy, our way of life, and I will miss them all. Now, don't guffaw, given the national crises (intentionally multiple) we face. Let me explain.

First, our environment. Our beaches are the most precious commodity we have. Many of you are familiar with Dr. Nicole Elko, Pinellas County Coastal Coordinator. Dr. Elko is the tip of the iceberg. Legislators Congressman Bill Young and Senator Dennis Jones offer unwavering leadership in their support to fund re-nourishment. Names that include DEP's Mike Barnett, engineer Erik Olsen, advocate Debbie Flack, and so many others who you will never hear about are the unsung heroes who enable us to take this pristine sand for granted. I say that tongue in cheek, because I pray our vigilance never wanes when it comes to protecting our beaches. Don't forget the many organizations (Tampa Bay Watch, CMA, etc.) that work hard to keep our waters and sea life viable.

Second, our economy. The number one industry in Pinellas County is tourism, employing >85,000. Sitting on our tourist development council, I had the opportu-

nity to get to know many of the staff of Visit St. Petersburg/Clearwater bureau whose mission is to market our destination to worldwide tourism. Contrary to popular belief, tourists don't just happen, they are earned. Tremendous technological advances occurred within the first year of DT Minich's appointment as executive director. Staffers worth mentioning are David Downing, Linda Bergeron, Kevin Smith, Jennifer Parramore, and Rhonda Sanborn. Long days (and nights) are the norm as they sell Pinellas County to the film, sports, and conventions coordinators, in addition to the beach going vacationers.

Finally, our way of life. This is what makes Redington Shores unique. I have been blessed with a hard working commission, staff, and volunteers. Without question, Bert Adams, John Branch, Casey Wojcik, and Bob Holthaus are pure in their intentions to collectively make our town a better place to live and demonstrate it in their respective supervisory areas. Town Clerk Mary Palmer, with over 24 years of town service, is our rock solid foundation. Deputy Clerk Patti Herr sets a warm, welcoming atmosphere to Town Hall visitors. Maintenance staff is very visible, responsive, and known on a first name basis by many of our resi-



Continued on Page 5

## “They Sow Sea Oats by the Seashore” - by Jenny Wojcik

The Beaches surrounding the 3 new walkovers in Redington Shores went “green” on Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup> thanks to the Pinellas County Coastal Commission and 20+ residents and friends of our magnificent shoreline. From Coral Avenue southward to 176<sup>th</sup> Avenue, federally protected sea oat seedlings were planted by an all volunteer crew in an effort to support dune preservation and beach conservation during hurricanes and high-tide storms.

In order to replenish any sea oats that may have been disturbed or distressed by the walkover project, Nicole Elko, Pinellas County’s Coastal Coordinator donated 15,000 sea oat seedlings to the town after the new walkovers completion. In flats of 200, the seedlings were delivered by the town’s public works department crew to the home of 3<sup>rd</sup> District Commissioner Casey Wojcik.

Beginning at 8:00 a.m. and a mere 86 degrees, we began sowing sea oat seedlings. Mike Glick, a former Redington Shores resident (and experienced sea oat planter) arrived with shovels, towels and a demonstration on the best way to plant the seedlings. As Mike explained, by planting the seedlings deep in the sand where moisture is already present the plants have a better chance to become stabilized thus a better chance of survival in the early days after planting.

Commissioner Casey Wojcik spear-headed and coordinated this most suc-



cessful project and was the first person on the beach and of course, the last to leave.

Commissioner Wojcik and his wife Jenny set up a refreshment table with water donated by the city and lots of Gatorade and V-8 Fruit Juices, plus

snacks for those who came without breakfast or those who needed a pick-me-up during the course of the plantings.

The city provided trowels, shovels and some brut force of their own. Mayor Jody Armstrong was the first to finish a “flat” with the help of Maria Andrews (wife of Building Official Steve Andrews). District 2 Commissioner John Branch and



his wife Lil, District 4 Commissioner Bob Holthaus, and Building Official Steve Andrews unquestionably did their share of planting.

We knew this would be a daunting task, but the task is completed and a rain shower on Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> was welcomed by the seedlings and no doubt, their planters. These are the wonderful volunteers that made this a “growing” success: Mike Glick, Mayor Jody Armstrong, Jamie Johnson, Building Official Steve Andrews, Maria Andrews, Commissioner John Branch, Lil Branch, Peggy Gay, Mark Jones, Chris Diaz, Tory Diaz, Commissioner Bob Holthaus, Ron Stein, David Lee, Mike Hollis, Gary & Diane Forbes, Commissioner Casey Wojcik, Jenny Wojcik, and special thanks to a 6 year-old tourist named Michelina Dotta (pictures left) of Alexandria, Virginia who enters first grade this fall and will be reporting “what she did on her summer vacation” was sowing sea oats by the seashore. “

## Pinellas County Municipality Millage Rates

Even with Amendment 1 tax exemptions, the sting of the annual real estate tax bill still hurts. The Commission and Financial Advisory Committee scrutinize each budget line item to ensure the town budget is as lean as possible. The result? Redington Shores has the 6th lowest millage rate in the county as compared to the 23 other municipalities.

Redington Shores	1.8016
Seminole	2.4793
St. Petersburg	5.9125
S. Pasadena	1.4886
St. Pete Beach	2.3764
Treasure Island	2.4999
Tarpon Springs	4.5738

Belleair Beach	1.98
Belleair Bluffs	3.9997
Belleair	4.5605
Belleair Shore	.5256
Clearwater	4.7254
Dunedin	3.5597
Gulfport	3.4742
Safety Harbor	2.7820
Indian Rocks Beach	2.0
Indian Shores	1.6
Kenneth City	3.9902
Largo	3.6448
Madeira Beach	1.7954
N. Redington Beach	.7511
Oldsmar	4.05
Pinellas Park	4.5478
Redington Beach	1.941

## Upcoming Election

The Town General Election will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2009. 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 4 for a two year term, and

Mayor for a three year term.

Candidate qualifying period runs from 9am on December 5th through noon on December 19, 2008. Contact Town Hall for more information.

### The Mayor's Corner from page 3

dents. Thank you, Steve, Tex, Brad, and Gary for keeping our town beautiful! Building Official Steve Andrews offers well reasoned advice to all who seek his guidance, making the permitting process as painless as possible. Town Attorney Jim Denhardt, with over 30 years of representing our town, is always available for consult and consistently delivers all options to solve concerns. I would be remiss if I did not recognize our Planning and Zoning Board members Tom Kapper, Sam Ireson, Jeanette DeMarco, Fred Hajjar, Bob Phillips, Bonnie Stein and David Garcia, who serve as guides to the future face of our town as they consider development plans and variance requests. Blessing to Lil, Ellie, Doris, Lee, and all our volunteers who step up when hands are needed (which is nearly always).

Finally, my hat's off to my fellow members of the BIG-C, led by Indian Shores Mayor Jim Lawrence, who work in the best interest in and on behalf of all the beach communities prove that the voice of many speak louder than one alone.

Serving in the public spotlight can be a dirty, thankless job. It is easy to criticize and condemn. I was going to call this article "the good, the bad, and the ugly," but decided it wasn't worth the space to give credence to the sinister few who seek to undermine the good we seek to achieve. After experiencing the selfless sacrifice of so many wonderful people, I challenge each of you to step up to the plate and get involved. You may be pleasantly surprised to find yourself in a truly rewarding experience.

Again, I thank you for affording me this wonderful opportunity to serve as commissioner and mayor.

### Your "Free" Library

The Gulf Beaches Public Library Cooperative is comprised of five municipalities: Redington Shores, N. Redington Beach, Redington Beach, Madeira Beach, and Treasure Island. The facility is located in Madeira Beach at 200 Municipal Drive across from Winn Dixie Plaza. Belonging to this cooperative enables all town residents to use any and all of Pinellas County's libraries without fee. Our cooperative operates at the lowest per capita cost in the county (\$17.67). This cost is as high as \$57.24 in Safety Harbor.

The current alternative to participating in this cooperative is the purchase of a \$100 card per household. While the economics may seem attractive to tight budgeted municipalities who would eliminate their annual contribution (as Treasure Island did), the concept rips through the core of our long held belief that libraries are "free." Efforts to develop some type of reimbursement program through the municipality have proved unsuccessful to date (Kenneth City). Basically, citizens cannot or will not pay for something that they believe should be free. Further eroding participation during economic challenges, all library systems throughout Florida can expect further future funding cuts, thus increasing local participation costs. Conversely, with the

downturn in the economy, library usage has increased.

Libraries as we know them may see some dramatic changes in the upcoming years. Your individual involvement is critical to shaping the future. Involvement includes not only participation in program offerings and supporting fundraising events, but also in volunteering your time. Gulf Beaches Public Library will be aggressively seeking volunteers as part of its reorganization efforts. To learn more about your local library, visit the website at: [www.gulfbeacheslib.org](http://www.gulfbeacheslib.org) or call 391-2828.

Referring back to per capita costs, efforts to merge all 14 libraries within the Pinellas County Library System in the future will result in higher per capita costs for members of the Gulf Beaches Library as a single rate will be assessed all county residents. The Library Cooperative participants who currently pay higher fees (ie. Safety Harbor and others) will realize cost savings as a result of a level fee.

The Gulf Beaches Public Library is a well organized treasure we cannot afford to lose. Please support it!



### Was Something Missing Last Independence Day?

**Don't let this happen again! We need your support to make a July 4th, 2009 firework display become a reality! Don't wait! Drop your donation off at Town Hall today. As friends and family join to celebrate the freedom we enjoy as Americans, please reach out and ask for their support as well. Together we can make it happen!**

### Town Attorney Celebrates 30 Years

On November 9, 1978, the town commission unanimously voted to appoint James W. Denhardt as town attorney. Mayor Jody Armstrong presented Attorney Denhardt with a proclamation honoring the 30 year milestone at the town meeting on November 12th, 2008. All

meeting attendees enjoyed a celebratory cake after the meeting concluded.

We thank Attorney Denhardt for his dedicated service and look forward to many more years!





Town of Redington Shores  
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## Town Staff

Town Clerk: Mary Palmer  
Deputy Clerk: Patti Herr  
Building Official: Steve Andrews  
Public Works Director: Steve Jordan  
Public Works Staff: Tex Loy, Brad Kelley, Gary Windon

## Holiday Safety Tips

The holidays are a special and joyous time of year. It is also a time when individuals need to be alert to the possibility of crime. The Indian Shores Police Department encourages individuals to take simple precautions to ensure a happy and safe holiday. The hustle and bustle of the holiday season can easily create a distraction for people. However during this festive time, it is important to pay special attention to the things going on around you. The holiday season is considered peak season for burglars, pickpockets and shoplifters. Don't let the spirit of giving lull you into giving burglars and pickpockets a chance to dampen your holiday spirit. Thieves love the holidays as much as everyone else, especially because it's an opportune time for crime. The Indian Shores Police Department believes you can never be too careful, too prepared or too aware. Please share these safety tips with your family, friends and neighbors. We ask you to remember these simple safety precautions and enjoy the excitement of a safe and happy holiday.

The holiday season is a time for crimes of opportunity. Keep these tips in mind this season:

- Don't leave packages in plain view in your vehicle- put them in your trunk.
- If you will not be home for deliveries, have your items delivered to a neighbor who will be home.
- Hold on to your money: Always carry your purse tucked tightly under your arm, ladies. And for you men...it can happen to you too! Put your money and only necessary cards in your front pants pocket where it is harder for a bad guy to get at it.

- Don't park in secluded or dark areas of the parking lot. Be patient and courteous while parking.
- Try not to be the last to leave the store. Leave when the stores are still open and there are plenty of other shoppers in the parking lot.
- Shopping with the kids? Teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.

When you get home, remember this home safety reminder: Approximately 50% of all burglars enter the house via unlocked or open doors and/or windows. Keep all doors, including your garage door, closed and locked. Don't display gifts where they can be seen from outside.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE INDIAN SHORES POLICE DEPARTMENT- BE SAFE !**

For more information call: Detective Jason Routzahn, ISPD @ 727-595-5414 or [Jroutzahn@myindianshores.com](mailto:Jroutzahn@myindianshores.com)



**Wishing you the brightest and best of the Holiday Season and every happiness for the New Year.**

## Lift Station Update from page 1

methods to the conditions. When construction reconvened, the contractor punctured a reclaimed water line while re-arranging the site for the above conditions. The water line was repaired that evening, but the additional water in the ground had to be dried out before the work could begin again. The foundation was finished Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> and the lift station wet well was installed the following day. Other connections to this wet well must be completed before the work can be re-buried and compacted up to ground surface level. This work includes connecting the gravity sewer main, installing the valve box, connecting the force mains through the valve box and installing all of the pumps, electrical and control components. All of the new connections must be made while the existing lift station is still functioning. After testing and trouble shooting, the temporary by-passing of sewers will be stopped, all of the functions switched over to the new lift station and if all goes well, the old station can be demolished. Right of way area restoration and any other repair items will be complete the project.

The contractor's schedule has 60 days left to completion, the last 17 days of which are for the abandonment of the old station and restorations. There may be a couple of days added for emergency repairs and re-digging, but we believe the work will stay on schedule. Remember, part of the reason projects like this take so long, is that a lot of time is spent protecting life and property from the dangers of working in the ground in a roadway.

In the end, it will have been worth the wait!