

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*



## Kayak Launch Ready for Paddlers!

You can now enjoy our beautiful coastal waters in yet one more way! The much anticipated kayak launch was installed in May at Del-Bello Park as part of an overall renovation of the park.



Prior to the addition of this new access, the closest public launch was at the Park Blvd. Boat Ramp. We look forward to being included in the Guide to Pinellas County Bluways in the near future. The Blueways Trail Guide is a geographically indexed comprehensive listing of kayaking opportunities throughout the county. The Guide can be found online at: <http://www.pinellascounty.org/Plan/blueways/default.htm>.

Improvements were funded through Florida Communities Trust grant program. Earlier improvements include completion of the southern walkway with paverstones, upgraded electric, and water lines for drinking fountains. Speaking of drinking fountains, one will be installed at each of the pavilions in the very near future. The final improvement funded under the grant is the installation of five

exercise stations through the park. Once complete, the park can technically be recognized as a 1/4 mile exercise trail!

Kudos to town maintenance employees for tackling the overgrowth between the waterline and the walkway on the northern half of the park! The walkway is accessible again and the waterline hasn't been this clean in years! The final upgrade to the park will be to have matching paverstones placed on the newly exposed northern half of the walkway. This will give the park a uniform, finished look.

So, even if you don't own a kayak or a fishing pole, take a stroll over to Del-Bello Park and enjoy the beauty and serenity this waterfront jewel offers.

## 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



One year has gone by since I have been your Commissioner, and many projects have been completed or started. The undergrounding in District 1 is close to completion, beach access improvements are in progress, kayak launch is done and work on the parks are just a few projects in the works.

As Vice Mayor my duties include police Commissioner, human resources and maintenance. My involvement with any of these responsibilities could not have been nearly as pleasant without the staff that Redington Shores is privileged to have. Therefore I would like to thank Mary, Patti, Pam, Steve Andrews, Steve Jordan, Brad, Tex Gary, Chief Williams and his officers. They make this Town function and provide for our safety. I would like to suggest that if you see them around Town, say "Thanks."

(It sure is nice to live in such a small town that all of our employees can be named in a couple of lines!)

I have received complaints from some of you about speeding on our town streets. I have forwarded this information to our police and asked them to keep a lookout and enforce our speed limits. Remember, if this pertains to you, you could be putting someone in danger. No parking signs have been posted on 176<sup>th</sup> Ave. W. and Lee Ave. to 177<sup>th</sup> Ave. W. due to emergency vehicles being unable to pass on these streets because of parked cars. The safety of our citizens is foremost.

Speaking of safety, I hope you have your hurricane plan made by now – the season is here. Have a great summer!

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## District 2 Commissioner—John Branch



Greetings!

District 2 has largest number of single-family homes, over 300, therefore our needs and problems are great.

My first report on is on the undergrounding project. Progress Energy stated that with no problems or bad weather, the old poles would be out and the underground utilities should be finished by the last week of July or the first part of August in District 2. Please let them complete their jobs, unless you have an electrical or sewer problem.

It is suggested where concrete was cut, if you can replace with pavers, it would work great. If not, concrete will be replaced.

There will be no work on Town right of ways until the storm water project is completed.

Town code Chapter 129-2 states that the only thing on the right of way will be grass.

Most towns charged residents \$ 1,500 to \$2,200 for undergrounding. Your town took it on for you at no charge (except for changes). This has put a heavy load on all town employees and elected officials for added work.

The Project has added many manhours and much extra work for the Town Officials and Staff.

And now for an update on the Lift Station at 1<sup>st</sup> and 176<sup>th</sup>. The engineering plans are almost finished. When they are complete, we can proceed with sealed bids to start construction. It will improve the location of the lift station.

Due to the owner's health, others cleaned up the home on 1st Street East. The tar pot, boat and other debris was removed. I must thank Christy Herig and Jeff Rue for helping me with this project. I am striving for answers to the roof problem of the above.

A note about litter. Please do not to allow grass or trash to blow into the water. Make sure that paper plates, soda or beer cans are picked up and put into your garbage cans. In most cases, this is an accident by guests not being use to our breezes.

When it gets though, I think of when I was shining shoes in Ybor City during the Great Depression. I saw a sign that read..., "I complained when I had no shoes to wear, then I saw a man without any feet." Thank you, John Branch

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## July 4th Fireworks Celebration

For a second year in a row, our neighboring towns, Indian Shores and N. Redington Beach join Redington Shores for a three town firework display celebration starting at 9:00 P.M. on July 4th.

The display will be at the Pinellas

County Park at Redington Shores located at 18200 Gulf Blvd. At 7:00 A.M. on the 4th, crews will restrict access in the launch area. North-South beach access will be available until 8:00 P.M., at which time the entire area will be closed off as the safety zone.



## District 3 Commissioner—Casey Wojcik

The Public Works team and I have worked with Pinellas County and other municipalities to develop an “After the Storm” plan to clear the roads and remove debris for the Town of Redington Shores. FDOT will start at the entry points into our County and work toward the beaches.

Our roads will be cleared in the following sequence:

1. Gulf Blvd.
2. 174<sup>th</sup> Ave loop
3. 175<sup>th</sup> Ave – Wall St. loop
4. 180-182 Ave loop
5. West side of Gulf Blvd. Starting at the northern end

The goal is to clear the roads so first responders can get into the town to assess the situation, attend to the injured, enable incoming supplies, and start the recovery. Listen to the newscasts and public information officials so you will know when the Town is ready for your return.



## District 4 Commissioner—Robert Holthaus

Our Town of Redington Shores is fortunate to have 3 beautiful public parks within its boundaries. As Commissioner of Parks & Recreation I continue to be involved in the many improvements we are fortunate to be have at this time.

Spitzer Park currently is the playground for our younger children. Located at the corner of 176<sup>th</sup> Ave. E. and 176<sup>th</sup> Terrace Drive, the park is soon to be expanded to more than double its present size as a result of the Town’s acquisition of the adjacent lot from the Newlin family.

Del Bello Park is our newest park – its central location on Gulf Blvd. makes it especially popular for all ages. A recently improved fishing pier and newly installed floating kayak/canoe launch are available for all to use. Two covered pavilions with tables and benches make it a great place to sit and relax while watching for dolphins swimming in the intracoastal waters. Several exercise stations are being installed along the walkway, and two drinking fountains will soon be installed.

Constitution Park is our largest and most used park. With its large covered pavilion it is used for our main Town events, such as our annual picnic. Plans are currently in effect for upgrades and improvements which hopefully will begin soon. Many people have never noticed the squared brick object near the flagpole. This is a time capsule that was built when the park was dedicated and opened on September 17, 1987 – to be opened September 17, 2087. You are all invited for the opening of the capsule! Hope to see you there.



## The Mayor’s Corner—Jody Armstrong



Taxes and insurance continue to be the major topic for all Floridians. During this most recent legislative session, I had flashbacks of law school with the volumes of information the Florida League of Cities sent our way. I think there were as many different proposals as were legislative delegates!

Please don’t think I am complaining about information overload. Rather, I raise the topic in praise of the watchdog support the Florida League of Cities provides. They serve as our advocate at state and federal levels. They provide municipalities (including elected officials) with training and technical assistance, and they offer cost effective programs, all aimed at promoting local self-government. Some examples of ways FLC has helped the Town of Redington Shores include training for elected officials (covering such topics as Sunshine Law, rules of order, and explaining budgets) and offering competitive insurance, banking, and pension services. I’ll dare to say that most of the successes enjoyed by municipalities is in some way directly linked to the Florida League of Cities!

Another organization you have heard me speak about is the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association, or FSBPA. In September, FSBPA will celebrate its 50th Anniversary. FSBPA serves as a league of cities on beach and coastal issues. The organization is our lobbyist and educator on beach preservation issues and renourishment funding. From the very beginning, FSBPA has spearheaded every important improvement in Florida’s beach preservation program. Thanks largely to FSBPA’s efforts, Florida leads the

## Building Official—Steve Andrews

Summer is upon us, the rains have come back, “Snowbirds” are gone and then the heat moves in – which leads to problems in lawn and home maintenance.

Many of the Town’s Codes deal with health, safety and welfare. But to some extent Codes deal with property maintenance standards and consideration for one’s neighbors for quality of life issues.

With the start of Hurricane Season, recent awareness meetings and other publicity there were issues raised about preparations and evacuations. A few of these preparatory items can be part of a regular maintenance schedule. These include keeping trees trimmed, yards free of lawn debris, junk, unnecessary personal items and anything else that could become a projectile and therefore a danger to you or your neighbor. Other items include maintaining address numbers on the house (first for emergency services) for building identification, especially if all mailboxes and street signs are gone. It is important to reduce the amount of flying debris such as lawn furniture, pool toys, light weight personal water craft and other miscellaneous items that are sometimes stored outside.

The yard items include mailboxes, awnings, carports and fence pieces that will be flying around during a wind storm with parts of roofs or mechanical equipment that is not tied down. These storage items also present a visual blight in some cases. At issue is the outdoor storage, which is easy to remedy either by properly storing inside the house or shed, or disposing of items no longer used, working, or for which there is no proper storage location.

All of the above are maintenance issues that could be easily fixed by a homeowner or with maintenance help. This type of cleanup,

while eliminating visual blight, can also be thought of as damage prevention should a storm come through town.

Town Code Chapter 103 deals with nuisances. These include grass over 8” in height, overgrowth of weeds, unkempt shrubbery and trees, along with accumulation of lawn debris, junk and trash. This type of overgrowth or accumulation not only gives a bad appearance; it also presents hazardous conditions in a couple of ways. First, the dry or dead vegetation is a fire hazard, with larger limbs being flying projectile problems during windy conditions. The accumulations also harbor bugs, rodents and other vermin that carry fleas, rabies and other health hazards to the property owner and neighbors.

All of these issues can be decreed as nuisances by the Town, and with proper notice to the property owner a Special Master Hearing can be called and fees billed to the owner for cleanup as well as legal fees. This bill would also go against the property as a lien if it is unpaid when billed.

So again, it is much easier to maintain these items on a regular basis, rather than in a rush emergency situation (such as prior to landfall of a hurricane or being threatened with fines by the Town). The result is a better looking home and Town, which can support higher property values and possibly a safer environment for neighbors and their homes, with less worry about flying debris or wild animals that can cause serious health and safety problems.

## Are You Ready?

Every year, the Town of Redington Shores hosts a Hurricane Preparedness Meeting to share the latest information with our residents. The panel discussion includes area experts and first responders.



*News Channel 10 Chief Meteorologist Dick Fletcher is pictured with Commissioner John Branch and Mayor Jody Armstrong at the annual Hurricane Preparedness Meeting held at Town Hall on May 30th, 2007.*

Your Town Commission is committed to providing the best possible response to a disaster. All elected officials and staff have had several hours of training on the National Incident Command System. This same group further prepares by participating in a tabletop emergency plan review.

The Town of Redington Shores was the first municipality in the county to purchase new state of the art software that allow us to perform initial damage assessments quickly. The data is electronically compiled in FEMA required format. This allows for swift and accurate datakeeping for resource response and future reimbursement. The faster we can convey our needs to the county, state, and federal agencies, the faster response will arrive. The Town was also the first to offer a pre-clearance re-entry tag to residents to enable swifter access after the storm. It also lets law enforcement know who belongs and who doesn't.

Now that you know your town is ready to respond and recover, what about you? Are you ready? First and foremost, you need to have a plan in the event a hurricane threatens. Where will you go? Do you have pets? Are your prescriptions filled? Have you stocked up on necessities and comfort items? Please don't wait until a storm is approaching to start scrambling, or worse yet, do nothing at all. If you aren't sure you've thought of everything, pick up a hurricane guide at Town Hall, the library or see the Pinellas County website for an online guide: <http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/PDF/survive-the-storm.pdf>

Remember, YOU are responsible for your own life safety and we want to see your smiling faces after the storm!

## On Gulf Boulevard ...Where are the Palms? and the Crosswalk, too?!

It has been over a year since the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) offered the Town a grant to replace the palm trees along Gulf Boulevard. Sometime in June 2006 we were given notice to proceed with the design. Since that time two revisions of the Towns proposal have gone through review, the first based on the original (current) palms base plans, the second then redrawn to the FDOT current 11" x 17" sheet size had been submitted by January 2007.

Early this year FDOT changed personnel, so the new engineer who reviewed the second submittal required a Variance to be applied for that must be sealed by an engineer. The Town is currently in process of arranging the engineer to calculate the and draw the variance parameters to resubmit the plan. If approved, the Town must still go to bid and select a contractor and any planting after this month may have to wait until the fall as the Date Palms cannot be moved from the groves during the summer.

The crosswalk proposed at the Redington Shores County Beach Access is also in a similar situation to the above pro-

ject. While the crosswalk is a project that the Town can permit through the local FDOT maintenance office, the Town had a pre-permit meeting with this office in November 2006. At this meeting the state officials stated that much more improvements must be done to the roadway and median for a plan to be approvable, so it is not as easy as cutting a walk thru the median and stripping the walkway any-more. This led to the Town having to make some decisions on whether to proceed with a plan that may still require another "engineer" variance, or to go out to bid for design through construction elevating the proposed \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00 cost by 10 times or more?

This is currently on hold to finish up with the palm tree replacements design, and see how far we must go with FDOT's requirements, also in the interim, other avenues of financing or grants are being explored to make the crosswalk a reality.



*"Remember drivers must yield right of way to pedestrians crossing the*

*roadway in a crosswalks!"*

## 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:

**Sat., October 13th:** Annual Town Picnic at Constitution Park 1-6 P.M. Volunteers needed for two-hour shifts including: set-up, cooking, food service line, Pepsi and beer service, and clean-up.

**Sat., October 20th:** Florida Coastal Cleanup 8 A.M.— 12 noon. Volunteers needed to pick up trash and debris along the coastline and in out parks.

**Sun., December 2nd:** Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at Del Bello Park 5-6:30 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.

### Ongoing:

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

Newsletter 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.

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

## Mayor from page 3

nation in beach preservation and "best sand management" practices.

Being the best in the nation is due in part by strong support in our Legislature. Senator Dennis Jones led the delegation supporting SB 1472, which reflects FSBPA's long-standing commitment to preserving our beaches. This four-part legislation protects public beach access; provides a cautious permitting track for geotextile container armoring structures; gives direction for balancing property rights and storm protection as well as economic benefits of beach renourishment; and sets for an initial statewide sand management policy. The FY '07-'08 appropriation for beach projects alone is \$47.5 million.

Sitting on this Board of Directors, I am humbled by the level of commitment and scientific knowledge this group brings

to the table. From DEP engineers to community leaders, the meeting of the minds occurs on the topic of beaches. Scientists and engineers flock from around the country to attend the annual conference to learn what Florida is doing.

Pinellas County is fortunate to have the services of Project Manager Dr. Nicole Elko. Dr. Elko has mastered the art of environmental permitting and is recognized as a leader in implementing a best sand management practice policy for Pinellas County. I can't say enough good things about Dr. Elko's hard work and dedication to our beaches.

FLC and FSBPA are just two examples of how other entities support our Town. We couldn't accomplish this much on our own!

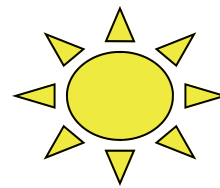


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### Town Staff

**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



### Budget Timeline

Developing the Town’s annual budget involves a series of meetings and public hearings. The Financial Advisory Committee is already hard at work first by taking a look back at current year income and expenses, as well as compiling the beginning numbers for the new year’s budget.

Important dates for budget development are:

**Tuesday, June 26th:** Workshop Meeting - Informal Discussion.

**Tuesday, July 10th:** At Regular Meeting, Decide on Proposed Millage Rate.

**Tuesday, July 31st:** Workshop Meeting, Informal Discussion on Proposed Millage and Tentative Budget.

**Thursday, August 23rd:** Special Meeting to Amend and Adopt Proposed Millage and Ad Valorem Tax and Amend and Adopt Tentative Budget. Must vote on each.

**Wednesday, Sept 5th:** Special Meeting to Adopt Final Millage and Ad Valorem Tax and Amend Adopted Tentative Budget and Adopt Final Budget. Must vote on each.

truth. It may not be necessary to make as many arrests or write as many tickets because good community policing reduces crime and results in community compliance.

### Community Policing—Sgt. Doug Pasley

What is community policing? Probably the best definition is, “Police in Partnership with the Community.” One might ask how to partnership with the police, since partnership is not a word normally used in conjunction with police. Often you hear “be a friend to the police” or “help your police department.” In actuality being a friend and helping the police are part of the partnership.

It is necessary that the community partnership with their police department. Isn’t policing the job of the police, and what they get paid for? Yes, that is their job and they do get paid for it. I need to explain what has happened to demand such a change.

Traditionally policing was done with the friendly cop on the beat who was there every day, and knew everyone by name. Everybody loved the beat cop, who was trusted by the community to listen to personal problems or to give good advice. When something happened on his beat people would run to tell him what happened and who did it. Along came technology. For the first time the police had cars, portable radio’s and telephones to cover much larger areas. Today’s computer technology has changed policing even more. With a name and birthdate a police officer can tell you more about yourself

than you probably know! The problem with technology is that it took the citizen out of the process. Even the police fell into the technology trap, believing that they don’t need the citizens; they have DNA, photographs and forensics. The reality set in that many crimes were not reported, and without the citizen participation the crime was very difficult to prosecute – at times even lost in court.

In reviewing the police process it was discovered that the community no longer trusted its police. The police thought they knew what was going on in the neighborhood, but found they had no idea. Police were being accused of things that they did not do. There was very little support for the police. A common attitude developed in the community not to call the police because they don’t care and won’t do anything.

The community policing concept was not welcomed with open arms by many officers. By not having an understanding of the concept many officers think it is a program where nobody goes to jail or gets a ticket. Some even think that the community tells them how to do police work. This thinking is far from the