

# REDINGTON SHORES



## NEWSLETTER

Summer 2009



### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mayor	Bert Adams
District #1 Commissioner	Tom Kapper
District #2 Vice Mayor	John Branch
District #3 Commissioner	Casey Wojcik
District #4 Commissioner	Lee Holmes

### MAYOR

#### **Bert Adams**

As with the economic downturn so goes the Town of Redington Shores. Therefore, the format of the newsletter that you have been receiving by door-to-door delivery will be no longer. This is a cost cutting decision by the Town as we move forward in these economic times. The newsletter will still be produced and available on the Town's website, along with copies that can be picked up at Town Hall.

For the first time a combined Hurricane Awareness Meeting between the Town of Indian

Shores and Redington Shores was held at the Indian Shores Town Hall. Meteorologist Brian McClure from Bay News 9, Pinellas County Communications Department Public Information Officer Tom Iovino, Pinellas County Suncoast Fire & Rescue's Chief Rick Walker, and Indian Shores Police Detective Jason Routzahn gave presentations on the importance of being prepared for the hurricane season and having evacuation plans in place.

I, Mayor Bert Adams, along with the Town Commission, wish you all the best during these trying times.

### **District Two – Vice Mayor**

#### **John Branch**

The clean water project (Phase 2, 3 & 4) is on schedule, and should be moving to the North areas (180<sup>th</sup> Ave. – 182<sup>nd</sup> Ave.) in September. This is not a stormwater project, but a water quality project, and all work is done on the Town right-of-ways or easements. We are finding many areas where trees or structures are on Town property, which is not permitted. Only grass is allowed on the ROW without permits.

Keystone Excavators has been most cooperative and courteous during their work. However, we have had some minor problems due to the utilities underground.

The Lift Station at 1<sup>st</sup> Street E. and 176<sup>th</sup> Ave. is completed and working well.

There have been some palm trees planted by some residents in Town right-of-ways or easements without permission. The mature fronds - when they fall off the tree - are a liability if they hit anything. Also, the owner is liable to be billed by the Town if the roots cause any damage to sewer or utility lines. There have been some accidents with fronds causing damage to autos.

We are going through some tough times; let's pull together and have faith. Love people for who they are, and not what we want them to be.

**District One - Commissioner  
Tom Kapper**

Several community matters have been completed in Redington Shores in the past month. Two of our city parks have been renewed. More specifically, the landscape at DeBello Park has been improved with mulch around all plants and flowers. The pavers at DeBello have also been repaired. Additionally, Constitution Park has experienced improvements, including the pressure cleaning of all picnic tables. Regarding building maintenance, the building at Constitution Park was painted. The maintenance building on 174<sup>th</sup> Avenue was also painted. And finally, the Town Hall parking lot was paved and striped. I am looking forward to continued beautification of our town.

**District Three – Commissioner  
Casey Wojcik**

For the past year, I have sent email reminders to several people with the agendas for Board of Commissioner meetings and workshops. If you would like to receive these reminders, please send your e-mail address to [cwojcik@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:cwojcik@tampabay.rr.com). You always have the option to opt out of the distribution list.

Last year we planted 15,000 sea oat seedlings in the dunes between Coral Ave. and 177<sup>th</sup> Ave W. I am happy to report that most of the seedlings have matured and are meeting the goals of reinforcing the dunes. We thank Dr. Nicole Elko of the Department of Environmental Protection for making this project possible by donating the seedlings.

I attended the Governor's Hurricane Conference this year and received a certificate as an Emergency Operations Center Manager. For emergencies that do not require an evacuation, our Emergency Operations Center is Town Hall. When we have to evacuate the Town, our Secondary Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) is located at the Seminole Middle School. We plan to support our Unified Incident Commander with resources and communications as well as providing our residents with information from the SEOC. We are part of a Unified Command Center with Indian Shores. Together we are in the process of finalizing the logistics plan for the SEOC. During an emergency, the Town has established an e-mail contact point for our residents to contact us. That e-mail address is [eoc@townofredingtonshores.com](mailto:eoc@townofredingtonshores.com)

Please note that you are the primary person responsible for your life safety during a hurricane.

Know your evacuation route.

Make arrangements for the destination point you will evacuate to.

Prepare your hurricane kit with fresh batteries, flashlights, portable radios, and water.

A major storm can prevent us from returning to our island homes for days or maybe even weeks.

## **District Four - Commissioner**

### **Lee Holmes**

#### Fire and EMS Services

With strains on budgets and programs, we are in danger of losing Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue Unit #26. This unit, funded by the County, provides EMS services for the Redingtons and is located very close to the North end of our Town. The Mayor joined by Mayors Queen and Simons are continuing to put pressure on the County not to cut funding for this unit. As there is power in numbers, we need our residents to call the County and encourage them to keep the funding for Pinellas Suncoast Unit #26. Meanwhile, I have had discussions with both Fire Chief Graves of Seminole Fire and Rescue and Chief O'Neal with Madeira Fire and Rescue and they assure me that they will continue to provide excellent response time for both fire and EMS services to our community.

#### Library

Our Gulf Beaches Library, funded and supported by Redington Shores, North Redington Beach, Redington Beach, Madeira Beach and Treasure Island have hired a new Director. Maggie Cinnella is the new director of the library. She has been busy organizing the staff, a new budget and streamlining operations. However, she says she is not too busy to meet and greet our residents and hopes that you will go to your library and see all of the neat things it has to offer. It is important for our residents to know that each of you is automatically a member of the library. You only need to go to the library and show them an ID with your Redington Shores address on it and they will issue you a membership card. This card entitles you to have access to just about all of Pinellas County libraries. Please go and say "Hi" to Maggie and investigate the great things for both you and your children. Remember, a library is a valuable asset of the community.

#### Renovations/Remodeling

Property owners should know that renovations or remodeling of existing structures will probably require a permit. If you are not sure, you should call or visit our Building Department and discuss your project with Building Official Steve Andrews. Failure of an owner to obtain proper permits can

result in a penalty of five times the original permit amount. Another very important point that you should know is that the Town of Redington Shores has flood prevention regulations, required by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The plans and specifications for your addition, renovation or remodeling must indicate all of the work to be performed and the application for permit shall include a total cost amount. As the owner, you will also be required to execute an affidavit attesting to the market value of the structure, as well as to the total costs for the work. Any violations of building regulations required by the NFIP may have an impact on the Community Rating System awarded to our Town and directly impact the cost of Flood Insurance to our residents. ALL WORK PERFORMED WILL BE BY A PROPERLY LICENSED CONTRACTOR.

### **Building Official Steve Andrews**

On Tuesday May 27, after a short meeting in the office, Assistant Director Andy Squires and Dr. Nicole Elko of Pinellas County Beach Management drove with Building Commissioner Lee Holmes and Building Official Andrews for a 4-wheel drive safari along our beach. The group stopped at each access where a walkover is proposed to be built, to go over conditions of approval and suggested mitigation programs to gain future funding for programs such as beach renourishment or other beach enhancement grant monies.

It was evident that foot traffic in the sand from beach accesses degrades existing dunes, disturbs native wildlife and prevents dune expansion or accretion. The path that gets worn through the dune remains unstable, and degrades the dune system performance. Without walkovers flood waters could run straight through the path, unbroken by dunes or vegetation and channel the water, further eroding the sand. The "walkovers" are proposed connections from the Town's beach access easements to the Gulf beaches of Redington Shores. The Gulf of Mexico beaches are a precious amenity that draws residents and tourists alike to settle in or visit the Town. The beach provides wildlife habitat and recreational areas for enjoyment by a

number of residents of southern Pinellas County and the contiguous municipalities in the area.

Since most of the Town's beach accesses are on level grade and where dunes occur, a path exists through the dune at grade level to access the beach. This continuous traffic/paths through the dunes creates an erosion pattern and jeopardizes wildlife within the dune system due to the close contact with pedestrian traffic. The dune paths do not provide a continuous barrier to storm surges, and may subject the landward properties to greater erosion in a storm event.

The project involves constructing elevated boardwalks or "dune walkovers" in place of the existing grade level walk paths. The construction of the walkovers will have guard rails to keep traffic on the designated path, and guard against intrusion in the dune environment. The walkovers will be constructed continuous from the paved access across the dune line to the beach, eliminating paths through the dune line. This should also allow the dunes to further accrete sand and build up a better defense and buffer between the coastal resources and landward development where dunes are existing, or after a proposed sea oat planting program.

Dune walkovers as proposed will mitigate the intrusion to the environment by providing an elevated crossing of the dune systems. By eliminating the path through the dune system the dunes will naturally infill the gaps and create a more continuous barrier to storm surge. By elevating the pedestrian traffic and controlling access, the walkovers will protect the wildlife species indigenous to the dunes. The accretion and continuity of dunes further supports the Local Mitigation Strategy by providing a buffer between the breaking waves of a storm event and the landward developments – possible lowering surge velocity and flood levels.

Planting sea oats on generally level beach supports dune growth, and protection of the young dunes, especially if Town Codes could be revised to reward/require such beach habitat renewal (this of course would likely to be further from occupies spaces); so any planting or dune growth may have to start at the far end of the

walkover system for areas of proposed dune creation/expansion. All sites will include signage for education regarding dunes creation, plantings and anticipated wildlife. For habitat protection temporary signage as well as barricades are needed.

### **A Message from Maintenance**

The Town maintains all storm drains as well as the sewer system. The drains are cleaned on a quarterly basis at which time inspections denote which ones are in need of repair and which ones need extensive cleaning. Please try your best not to let paint, grease, old rags, etc, get into your drains or sewer. This causes all kinds of problems that add up to inconvenience to you, the homeowner, and are quite costly to maintain.

Town Ordinances require all dog litter must be removed and disposed of, and dogs and cats must be on a leash. Please adhere to these ordinances.

### **Clerk's Corner**

We hope you all enjoy the July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks Display. We would like to thank all who donated to help us remember those who gave their lives for the freedom we enjoy. A special **THANK YOU** to our Fireworks Committee members, Ron and Mary Gerst; Peter Ganio; Joe Diez; Mark Jones; Norma Rienhardt and Nance Bloomer, their efforts really helped this event become a reality.

### **BUSINESS TAX RECEIPT RENEWAL TIME!**

Just a reminder – this is the time to renew your business tax receipt. All residents that operate a business from their home must obtain a business tax receipt from Town Hall. Also, any property owner who rents his/her property, whether a house or a condominium unit, must obtain a business tax receipt for rentals. You may obtain an application form at Town Hall.

