

# TOWN OF REDINGTON SHORES

SPRING 2024

[www.townofredingtonshores.com](http://www.townofredingtonshores.com)



## From the Mayor's Desk:

### INTRODUCING "NATURE'S BEACH": REDINGTON SHORES' DISTINCTIVE TAGLINE

By placing "Nature's Beach" in quotes, we aim to highlight its significance as a unique and notable concept. Through discussions with residents over the past year, it's clear that "Nature's Beach" has emerged as a standout descriptor for Redington Shores. It perfectly encapsulates our Town's commitment to preserving its natural beauty, fostering ecological richness, and nurturing a close-knit, small-town atmosphere.



We believe "Nature's Beach" is an ideal tagline, representing not just a physical location but a philosophy—a dedication to maintaining our wildlife and preserving our community's identity. We invite our residents to share their thoughts and insights on this proposed tagline. Your input is invaluable as we strive to capture the essence of Redington Shores and ensure that our branding truly reflects the heart and soul of our Town. We look forward to hearing from you! [mayor@redshoresfl.com](mailto:mayor@redshoresfl.com)

### CELEBRATING EARTH DAY: HONORING OUR PLANET'S RICHNESS AND OUR "NATURE'S BEACH"



Every April 22nd, Earth Day unites people worldwide, emphasizing the crucial need for environmental conservation. It highlights our interconnectedness with nature and encourages collective action

to preserve our planet. Every individual can contribute, whether by reducing their carbon footprint, conserving water, supporting renewable energy, or advocating for environmental policies. Earth Day sparks environmental education, clean-up

events, tree planting, and activism. As we celebrate Earth Day in 2024 and beyond, we must remember that environmental stewardship is an ongoing commitment. While progress has been made, there's still much to address. Our dedication to protecting our planet, like our appreciation for our beautiful beaches, must extend beyond a single day.

Here are some impactful ways to ensure the preservation of our "Nature's Beach" for future generations:

- **Reduce Single-Use Plastics:** Cut down on straws, bags, and water bottles to prevent Gulf pollution and protect marine life.
- **Practice Responsible Waste Management:** Dispose of trash properly, join beach clean-ups, and recycle to preserve our coastal environment.
- **Conserve Water:** Fix leaks, shorten showers, and use water efficiently to maintain coastal ecosystem health.
- **Support Sustainable Tourism:** Choose eco-friendly accommodations, respect wildlife, and minimize your impact on coastal areas.
- **Plant Native Vegetation:** Volunteer for beach restoration, plant native species, and help stabilize sand dunes.
- **Educate and Advocate:** Spread awareness and support marine conservation policies.
- **Connect with Nature:** Spend time outdoors, appreciate our "Nature's Beach" beauty, and foster a sense of responsibility for our coastal environment.

Redington Shores is not just our "Nature's Beach" a place we call home, it's a vital ecosystem packed with life and biodiversity. By adopting sustainable practices in our daily lives and advocating for the protection of our coastal environment and wildlife, we can ensure that future generations will continue to enjoy the beauty and wonder of our "Nature's Beach" for years to come. Let's commit to honoring and preserving our

natural treasure every day, not just on Earth Day, as we strive to create a more sustainable and resilient planet for all.

Sources: [conserveturtles.org](https://conserveturtles.org), [earthday.org](https://earthday.org)

### **PRESERVING OUR "NATURE'S BEACH" AND ITS WILDLIFE**

As the warmer months approach, coastal communities around the world prepare for an annual event that draws attention not only to the breathtaking beauty of nature but also to the responsibilities we bear as stewards of our wildlife environment. Turtle season and bird breeding, often spanning from spring to summer, mark the time when sea turtles return to their nesting grounds to lay eggs, and native birds arrive to re-nest; igniting a chain of events that captivates hearts and minds while stressing the importance of conservation efforts.

One of the key practices during nesting season revolves around the careful monitoring and protection of sea turtle nests and native bird colonies. Female turtles, driven by instinct and ancient patterns, crawl



ashore to find suitable spots to lay their eggs. These nests, typically dug in the sand, become delicate incubators for new life. Successful black skimmer colonies will usually occupy the same nest sites each year. However, the very beaches they rely on for nesting are also frequented by human

visitors, leading to potential conflicts and disturbances.

During nesting season, beachgoers digging holes pose risks to turtles and hatchlings. Unfilled holes can trap turtles, hindering their journey, while hatchlings can become stuck, vulnerable to predators. To address this, fill holes daily. Beach cleanliness is crucial too, as litter harms marine life. Cleanup initiatives, from organized events to individual efforts, are vital. Educational campaigns raise awareness and promote responsible waste management. Additionally, changing our light bulbs and installing wildlife friendly lighting helps avoid hatchling disorientation. Together, we can protect our marine ecosystems and vulnerable species, fostering environmental consciousness and stewardship.

<https://conserveturtles.org/beachfront-lighting-turtle-friendly-fixtures-lights/>

As we embrace nesting season and the awe-inspiring spectacle of nature it brings, let us also embrace our role as custodians of the marine environment. By filling holes, picking up trash, adjusting our light sources, and advocating for sustainable practices, we honor the ancient journey of sea turtles, birds, and other wildlife and ensure that future generations can continue to marvel at the wonders of our "Nature's Beach."



### **REUSE, REDUCE, AND RECYCLE**

*Article collaboration with Christy Herig*

Pinellas County is steadfast in its commitment to achieve "Zero Waste to Landfill by 2050". This ambitious vision emphasizes the County's dedication to environmental sustainability and responsible waste management.

In the year 2022 alone, a remarkable 293 million pounds of recyclables were successfully transformed into new products, marking a significant stride towards this overarching goal. This achievement builds upon a legacy that traces back to the 1960s when fishermen initiated the construction of artificial reefs. However, it wasn't until 1975 that Pinellas County Solid Waste embarked on the creation of artificial reefs using clean, inert debris, particularly concrete. Over the years, approximately 50,000 tons of material have been deployed to foster these vital marine ecosystems.

Annually, the County collaborates with the *Tampa Bay Times* to ensure the Recycle Guide remains up-to-date, serving as an indispensable resource for residents. A key reminder emphasized in this guide is the importance of refraining from bagging recyclables. This precaution is vital as plastic bags pose a significant hazard to recycling machinery and personnel. Instead, all recyclable items should be clean, dry, and larger than a hockey puck.

Items suitable for recycling include glass, plastic (ranging from #1 to #7), metal food cans, cartons (excluding plastic caps), dry unshredded paper, and

broken-down cardboard boxes. Conversely, materials such as clothing, yard waste, foam packaging products, food waste or residue, paper towels, tissues, napkins, wires, cords, or hoses do not belong in the recycling bin.

In a bid to facilitate community participation, Redington Shores Town Hall has been designated as one of the drop-off locations for recyclables within Pinellas County. Residents can easily locate the big, prominent recyclables container situated in the northeast corner of the Town Hall parking lot to conveniently drop off their recyclables.

By spreading awareness and actively engaging in responsible waste disposal practices, individuals can play a pivotal role in realizing the County's vision of a sustainable future. Let us unite in this endeavor and collectively work towards a cleaner, greener tomorrow.

Spread the message, be part of the vision!

Source: <https://pinellas.gov/recycle-guide/>



*Lisa Hendrickson*

Mayor Commissioner of Redington Shores

### Vice-Mayor/Commissioner

**Joe Licata  
(District 4)**

Spring is finally here and so is Daylight Savings Time! I have to say, I love having more sunlight later after the traditional workday ends. Nothing like being able to knock out some yardwork and other outside chores during the week so they don't bite into the weekend. DST makes the days seem fuller! Now we just need Congress to approve the overwhelming vote to stay on DST Floridians made almost 5 years ago now. One can always hope!



I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Commissioners, Tom Kapper from District One, CJ Hoyt from District Two, and Erin Schoos from District Three. Tom Kapper was on the Commission from 2010

to 2020 so he brings back a decade worth of experience. This is a great resource for such a newer Commission! CJ Hoyt served on the Planning and Zoning Board from 2017 – 2023 and she also served on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (formerly Beautification Committee) from 2022 – 2023. Her dedication to volunteering and serving is a huge win for the town. Erin Schoos stepping up to serve her district in addition to being a fellow native Floridian is also a very welcome addition. The promotion of Lisa Hendrickson to Mayor was also a big win as she epitomizes the beliefs that so many in District Four hold that we love our beach the way it is and want to protect its charm.

Over the past few months, many issues were resolved in District Four. Town Administrator, Mike McGlothlin, along with the town's Public Works staff, Supervisor Mike Pafumi, and staff members Mario Orlando and Jose Berdecia, swiftly handled things like broken street lights, a digital speed sign, a pot hole that developed due to the December 17<sup>th</sup> flooding that hit Punkin Key, a stray buoy that Idalia had uprooted in the water off 180<sup>th</sup> Ave E among many other routine responsibilities addressed on a daily basis.

Administrator McGlothlin also worked with our Code Enforcement Deputy, Daniel Doherty, and previous Building Official, Vince LaPorta, to bring a degraded seawall up to code that was a concern to its neighbors.

I would also like to extend another round of welcome to our Town Clerk Margaret Carey and our new Building Official Mark Vasquez. They bring a wealth of experience and education to their positions and have hit the ground running. The hard work and many after-hours duties by town staff are much appreciated. As usual the town's Deputy Clerk Jolie Patterson has been key with many behind-the-scenes responsibilities. Connie Mowrey the Town Receptionist as well as Yvonne Williams- Permit Technician continue to crush it! We indeed have a well-rounded and cohesive staff! None of what we do as a Commission is possible without such dedicated and easy to work with folks! It is a great time to be a Commissioner and resident of the best beach town in Pinellas County! Till next time, I hope everyone has been keeping well and enjoying this great weather!

*Joe Licata*

Vice Mayor-Commissioner District 4

**Commissioner Kapper  
(District 1)**

Greetings District 1 residents! As others in this newsletter have mentioned, Redington Shores is a special place. So special, in fact, that after a few years of “retirement”, I decided to return this year as a Commissioner. It is refreshing to find myself among other elected officials and staff who care about our community as much as I do. These are some of the happenings in District 1:



- Kudos to the maintenance staff for all of their hard work on Town Hall improvements. The Town sign and wildlife statue in front of town hall look great.
- Addressing Beach Concerns. Town staff are working on ways to improve education for beach visitors. Updating signs and website information in addition to posting beach rules around town are a few of the communication vehicles we are working on.



I look forward to sharing my institutional knowledge and historical background of Redington Shores with my fellow Commissioners as we plan for the future.

*Tom Kapper*

Commissioner District 1

**Commissioner Hoyt  
(District 2)**

“In this great future, you can’t forget your past” ... This line from an awesome Bob Marley song reflects the honor I feel to represent the Town of Redington Shores and our District 2 on the Commission. I am looking



forward to working with our new Town Staff, as well as our Commission. With diverse, yet complimentary backgrounds in government, IT, construction, paralegal, and corporate business, our new Commission certainly has the ability to forge a “great future”. At the same time, I pay homage to all the people who have served this Town before me and have helped to ensure that Redington Shores is a slice of paradise on the Gulf Coast of Florida. Most instrumental in my journey is my dear, dear friend and our previous Mayor, Bert Adams. If you knew Bert, you loved him – he was a cherished friend to many people and will forever be a part of our Town. Bert was the Mayor of Redington Shores for 10 years; he passed away on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022. I miss him and I honor his legacy every day.

**“There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.”** ... The latter part of this Albert Einstein quote certainly applies to life in our amazing Town! Redington Shores is not only “our” home, but home to an abundance of the “miracle” of wildlife - Dolphins, manatees, sea turtles, otters, osprey, eagles, black skimmers, cormorants, anhingas, and more fish, birds, and butterflies than we can name – also call our Town home. Thankfully, the miracle of “wildlife” loves our “Coastal Strand” ecosystem, made up of natural water and terrestrial habitats across our beaches and Intracoastal Waterways (ICW). Many efforts are underway in RS to protect our natural habitats, while also beautifying our Town. The RS Parks and Recreation Committee is implementing Florida Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) practices to conserve our natural resources and enhance our parks and green spaces. There are 9 Principals of FFL: 1) Right Plant Right Place 2) Water Efficiently 3) Fertilize Appropriately 4) Mulch 5) Attract Wildlife 6) Manage Yard Pests Responsibly 7) Recycle Yard Waste 8) Reduce Stormwater Runoff and 9) Protect the Waterfront. Any residents interested in learning more about the FFL program and how you can implement these practices in your own yard, please contact me or Town Hall for more information. And please stay tuned, as new landscaping and improvements are being made throughout our public spaces, including potentially our new slogan, “Nature’s Beach”.

**“Never, never be afraid to do what is right, especially if the well-being of a person or animal is at stake”** ... This quote by Martin Luther King, Jr. is demonstrative of a brave and sensible initiative that the Town Commission has taken under consideration to protect the safety of our residents and visitors, as well as our precious wildlife. Resolution 07-2024 (which the RS Commission is currently considering) requests the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to approve “the establishment of a Bird Sanctuary within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Town”. This “Bird Sanctuary” initiative is a result of an occurrence of (legal) waterfowl hunting earlier this year (off the coast of District 2), which truly shocked the residents. No one could believe that hunting was legal in our Town, located in the most densely populated county in FL! After engaging with FWC, they suggested that the best means to address this concern would be to request that our Town become a designated “Bird Sanctuary” or “Restricted Hunting Area”. This has been done in other areas across the state of FL, including in the coastal communities of Manatee and Sarasota Counties (as detailed on the maps of “Designated Bird Sanctuaries” by FWC). In fact, there is already an established Bird Sanctuary called “Boca Ciega Bay” directly across the ICW from our Town, which includes Millenium Park! Our “Bird Sanctuary” designation would reinforce the existing one across the ICW, helping to protect residents, visitors, and wildlife. We are truly blessed to live in such an amazing place! On a daily basis, the beaches of Redington Shores are filled with Black Skimmers and American Oystercatchers (both of which are designated as “state threatened”). There are only two black skimmer colonies on Pinellas County beaches and we are fortunate enough to have one of them! We also have residents and visitors using our ICW on a daily basis for kayaking, paddleboarding, and many recreational watersports. Given all of these factors, designating our Town a “Bird Sanctuary” seems like a sensible thing to do. Whether you agree or not, I would love to hear from you on this important topic – please call or email me to share your thoughts!

**“Be the change that you wish to see in the world.”** ... This quote by Mahatma Gandhi is reflective of how I would like to partner with all of the residents of

Redington Shores. I encourage everyone to get involved, attend meetings, and let your voice be heard! If you want to make a difference, take an active role or engage with people who do! There are a number of upcoming important initiatives that the Town is working on and I would love to get your input!... Light Pollution, Variance Costs, FEMA programs, updates to the Land Development Code and the Town Charter, just to name a few. Please reach out to me at any time – I want to hear from you and understand what is important to you and your way of life in RS! We are all in this Town together, and TOGETHER we can continue to make Redington Shores a little slice of PARADISE for everyone who lives and visits here.

In closing, I will share one last inspirational quote, attributed to Margaret Meade... **“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”** ...

**“BE BRAVE. DO SOMETHING.”**

*CJ Hoyt*

Commissioner District 2

### **Commissioner Schoos (District 3)**

Greetings, fellow residents! I am so thrilled to be serving as the District 3 Commissioner of Redington Shores. For those of you who I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting, please allow me to introduce myself.



I am a proud seventh-generation Florida native, and was born and raised in Hillsborough County. I became a resident of Redington Shores in the Fall of 2012, renting an apartment, and immediately fell in love with this community. My husband joined me in 2013, then we welcomed our daughter, Nola, to her first home here at the beach in 2017. In our time living here, the relationships our family has made within this community have been among the most meaningful in our lives. Our neighbors and neighborhood businesses have enriched us beyond measure, and it is my hope that by serving this town, I can give back some part of what it has given to me.

This Spring has been busy! The annual Flood Insurance Workshop held on February 22nd was very informative, especially after the flooding experienced by our residents during the 2023 hurricane season, and also the December storms. Our beaches sustained significant losses to our dunes, and the Public Works staff members have been working diligently to clear the public beach access points, as well as providing steps down to the beach where they are needed. The height of the “Spring Break” season has passed us, and the Indian Shores Police Department has done a great job patrolling the beaches to help educate our visitors and ensure dogs and electric vehicles are kept off of the beach. Nature Park is in the process of being renewed, and I am so excited to see the results of the work that our Parks and Recreation Committee has put in.

If you have not been to Town Hall recently, I recommend that you stop by and introduce yourself. There are many new faces, all who are working tirelessly to improve the lives of all of our residents. I am immensely grateful to all of the past staff, officials, and volunteers who have made this town the incredible community it is today, and am very optimistic for the future that our current leadership is creating together. We cannot, however, do this alone- we need our residents to take an active role in our community, whatever that means for you. If you see a dog or an electronic bike on the beach, please take the time to report it. If you notice a streetlight is out, let someone know. If you have questions about our town ordinances, please do not hesitate to reach out. We would love for you to come to a Town Commission meeting if you are able. Open communication is so important to working cooperatively for the benefit of our entire community. I am always just a phone call or email away. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns you may have. Thank you for this opportunity to serve our great town!

*Erin Schoos*

Commissioner District 3

## Town Administrator

### Mike McGlothlin

It is my pleasure to introduce myself to you as your new Town Administrator here in Redington Shores. Prior to this appointment I served as a City Administrator in Oregon, and I am currently in my 36<sup>th</sup> year of government service. I have been blessed with a fantastic wife, Jessica, as well as our three outstanding children; Grant, Isaiah, and Mya, and we are extremely excited about having become a part of the Redington Shores community.



There is much work to be done on behalf of our Town and the team here at Town Hall is both willing and up to the task. We have recently added our new Town Clerk, Margaret Carey and our new Building Official, Mark Vasquez to the outstanding team of municipal professionals that I found when I arrived.

The future is extremely bright in Redington Shores with many opportunities for community improvement, and with the professional delivery of municipal government services being one of our primary goals. Some projects that we are looking forward to accomplishing include the undergrounding of utilities along the western side of Gulf Boulevard, completing much needed infrastructure improvements to our sewer system, developing a system where citizens can more easily connect with us so that problems can be quickly reported and corrected, and the updating of our Town Charter.

Over the next few months, your Emergency Management Team will be making improvements and enhancing the messaging capabilities of the Towns’ Emergency Siren System. Enhancements include adding speakers to extend coverage, and the ability to play additional pre-recorded voice messages and music, such as the “Star Spangled Banner” and “Taps” that was recently played to commemorate Veterans’ Day. Please note that additional testing of the system **will** be required at different intervals as these improvements are brought online.

Please do not hesitate to stop by the Town Hall for a visit or give us a call about an issue that needs to be addressed. We look forward to working with all of

you to make Redington Shores the very best municipality on the island!

*Mike McGlothlin*

Town Administrator

**Town Clerk**

**Margaret Carey**

It is my pleasure to serve as your Town Clerk. In the short time since I was appointed in November 2023, I have learned a lot about our beautiful community and the priorities of our residents. One thing I can say for sure is ***you definitely love your beach and the wildlife who call it home!*** As Town Clerk I am focused on honoring Florida’s Government-in-the-Sunshine Law by ensuring transparency with public meetings and records. I am also committed to finding new and innovative ways to connect with residents to educate and inform. My team is also working on ways to streamline processes, such as the Business Tax Receipt application and renewal. This process will move to an online format. As members of a small but elite team, we wear many hats at town hall. The Clerk’s Office staff, including **Deputy Clerk Jolie Patterson and Administrative Support Specialist Connie Mowrey**, are here to help in any capacity we are able. Here are some of the projects we are currently working on for you:



• **Implementation of GoGov.**

We are excited to announce that you are now able to access town news and information from your cell phone!



Search for “RShores” in the app store. This handy little app is packed with helpful information for citizens on the go.

- **Expanding our Redington Shores merchandise for sale.** You spoke and we listened! Stop in at Town Hall later this summer to shop our expanded selection of official Redington Shores merchandise including hats, bags, and stickers. We are currently selling t-shirts for \$15 each.



- **Planning upcoming town events.** Successful events require lots of planning. We have already started thinking about the Town Picnic scheduled for this fall. Please contact the Clerk’s Office for volunteer opportunities.

Email [townclerk@redshoresfl.com](mailto:townclerk@redshoresfl.com)

*Margaret Carey*

Town Clerk

**HURRICANE NEWS**

**2024 Hurricane Workshop**

Redington Shores was extremely lucky to have survived the 2023 storms with minimal damage; however, now is not the time to grow complacent! We encourage all residents to use this time to prep for next year’s hurricane season. **Please join us on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. for our Annual Hurricane Preparedness Workshop.** Guest speakers include the Indian Shores Police Chief, the Seminole Fire Chief, and a representative from the Bay News 9 Meteorology Department!

Follow these helpful tips to prepare for our next natural disaster:

- ✓ **Build Responsibly:** Contact our town’s building official for permits at (727) 397-5538.
- ✓ **Protect your Property:** Elevate your equipment and implement floodproofing techniques.
- ✓ **Purchase Flood Insurance:** visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) or call (888) 379-9531 for policy rates and information.

**INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

The Town of Redington Shores is seeking a part-time Municipal Intern for the summer. Ideal candidates are recent high school graduates or college students with an interest in local government!

Assignments will include:

- Research assistance
- Record retention projects
- Increase the Town’s community engagement through marketing and outreach
- Assist with resident requests

To apply: Please email a resume, letter of reference, and cover letter to [townclerk@redshoresfl.com](mailto:townclerk@redshoresfl.com).

**Mayor**

Lisa Hendrickson

**Vice Mayor**

Commissioner Dist. 4  
Joe Licata

**Commissioners**

Tom Kapper – Dist. 1  
CJ Hoyt – Dist. 2  
Erin Schoos – Dist. 3

**Town Administrator**

Mike McGlothlin

**Town Clerk**

Margaret Carey



Town of Redington Shores  
17425 Gulf Boulevard  
Redington Shores, FL 33708

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