

Redington Beach Newsletter

April 2011



Redington Beach Town Hall, 105 164th Ave, Redington Beach, FL 33708

HOURS: Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

www.townofredingtonbeach.com

Phone: 727-391-3875

Fax: 727-397-6911

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

By: Mark Davis

The roadway milling and resurfacing and curb and gutter replacement is right on schedule. Please bare with us as this work progresses. By now I am sure everyone is tired of the dust, bumpy roads, and congestion. To make matters worse, we've had some unusual storms for this time of year causing some delays. The project started at the fingers (4th, 5th, 6th, Streets and 161st Avenue) since this area was the most complicated, requiring design work and curb replacement.

While this is a street resurfacing project, there are many other obstacles that must be addressed. Driveways need to be cut back, replaced, and adjusted to meet curbs. Mail boxes need to be relocated in certain areas. Sanitary sewer manholes need to be raised or lowered. Sod needs to be placed, sprinkler systems need to be cut and repaired. Survey work and county water lines need to be moved. There are always unforeseen conflicts that arise during construction projects.

Everyone should be pleased that we are still under budget with this project and I am anticipating we will continue to remain under budget through completion. Some of you should be relieved that we can expect to be completely finished with everything on 4th Street, 5th Street, 6th Street and 161st Avenue from the four way stop, by the end of this month (April 2011) Currently the work is planned to move to the south end of the town next. All should feel comfortable knowing there will be walk thru's, and punch lists, noting anything that might have been missed. The contractor is not finished until the town officials say so. Please let us know if you have any concerns or questions. Keystone Excavators is an excellent Company and their crews are courteous, and have great expertise in their work.

Completion of the entire project is 90 calendar days after the contractor received a notice to proceed. Actual notice to proceed was February 15, 2011. Penalties may be applied if the deadline is not met unless they are caused by acts of nature or uncontrollable circumstances. I would like to thank each and everyone who has been inconvenienced by this infrastructure improvement. The last and only time the streets have been resurfaced was approximately twenty five years ago.

REMINDER:

A County Alarm Ordinance came into effect on July 1, 2009. The ordinance requires that home and business owners "shall" register their alarm systems with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office or face the possibility of being fined for any false alarms which may occur at that home or business. If a home or business owner is NOT registered the fines are as follows: for 1 to 3 alarms \$175.00, 4th- \$200.00, 5th- \$250.00, 6th -\$400.00 and 7 or more \$600.00. Registration forms are available at Town Hall or by going to the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office website at www.pscoweb.com and click on the SHARP icon to fill out the registration form. Registration is free. For more information on SHARP or for answers to questions about registration, please call 727.582.2870 or email sharp@pcsonet.com.

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

By Mark A. Davis

Town Park: You will soon have a new piece of playground equipment for your children's benefit at the Town Park. The Redington Beach Property Owner's Association has donated a sand digger in memory of Chase Brubaker. The new addition will be in place by the end of the month. Enjoy!

Park Board: Your Parks & Recreation Board has once again been busy. A new Magnolia Tree has been planted in 160th Avenue Triangle. Several plantings have been added in Friendship Park and the Triangles on 2nd Street. Several plants on the causeway were also replaced due to the unusual cold weather this year.

Parks & Recreation: A new park bench has been added to one of our Triangles and was a donation in memory of a loved one. If you are interested in making a donation in the form of a tree or park bench in memory of a loved one, please contact a member of your Park Board or myself at Town Hall 391.3875. Park Board members meet on the 1st Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

Neighborhood Watch: If you happen to notice any unusual activity in any of the Town's Parks or green spaces, please contact Pinellas County Sheriff's office at 727.582.6200. Ask for communications and request a Redington Beach Deputy to be dispatched to the location of concern. Lately there has been some vandalism taking place in Town.

Beaches: Winter is over and our beaches are being used more than in the last few months. Swim buoys need to be replenished once again and is scheduled for May. If you are a boater, please stay outside of the swim area and swim buoy line. If you are a swimmer, always remain cautious of water craft and swim inside the protected area.

Gulf Blvd Improvements: Florida Department of Transportation has replaced the cross walk flashing beacons with new and improved and a more visible type. Instead of the single flashers they were replaced with double beacons at separate eye levels so they can be seen at different angles and distances better. As always, do not just rely on traffic to stop for the signals. Always make sure of your safety before crossing the road. Any cross walks not equipped with flashing beacons have safety flags attached to the poles. Please hold these while crossing so that oncoming traffic can see them making you more visible. Stay Safe!

Insects: We are being invaded with grasshoppers here in Town once again. If you notice them in your yard, the young ones are about 1/2 an inch, black with orange. This is the best time to exterminate them at this stage. A good all purpose insecticide such as Liquid Seven works great. Since these insects have no natural enemies, chemicals are almost always necessary or they could devour your ornamental plants completely in just 2 or 3 days. As they get older, they can grow up to about three inches or more and become harder to control. Birds will not eat them so you might want to keep an eye out for them. We have had to make two separate applications as of this writing.

Turtle Season

Nesting Season May 1st to August 31st

Hatching Season July 1st to October 31st

This is a friendly reminder that beach front lighting should be turned off during turtle season. It is the code of the Town of Redington Beach to minimize artificial light illuminating areas of the beach. No artificial light source shall illuminate areas where it may deter adult female sea turtles from nesting or disorient hatchlings. Redington Beach has a Sea Turtle Lighting Ordinance, Section 4.9. If you have any questions or concerns about beach front lighting during turtle season, please call 727.391.3875.

Nesting Tips: Should you encounter a nesting female, stay far behind so she cannot see you. Do not make any noise, or shine lights. This will frighten her. (no flash photos).

Hatchling Tips: If you see a nest hatching DO NOT touch the hatchlings or attempt to release them DO NOT expose hatchlings to white light or photographic flashes. Call nesting supervisor at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium at 1.888.239.9414, ext 224.

Additional Ways you can Help: During season, please remove beach furniture nightly. Nesting turtles can become trapped on items left on the beach. Remove trash from the beach (sea turtles will eat plastic bags as they resemble jelly fish.) Volunteer to nest sit during hatching season.

DO NOT disturb or handle sea turtles, eggs, or nest. All are violations of both Federal and State Laws. Sea Turtles, nests, and hatchlings, may only be handled by those with a permit from the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. Sea Turtles are protected under the endangered species Act by Florida State Law. Penalties for interfering with Sea Turtles can be severe.

Excerpts– Code of Ordinances

Section 12-2 Nuisances

"It shall be unlawful:

1. To allow, suffer, or permit palmetto scrub, weeds, vines, bushes, grass, thistles or other rank or noxious vegetable growth to grow or otherwise accumulate upon any premises within the Town or upon rights-of-ways adjacent to such property, regardless of whether such premises are occupied or unoccupied.
2. To allow, suffer or permit any building or structure which by act of God, fire, decay or other cause may become structurally dangerous, unsafe, dilapidated or unsanitary to remain (in such condition) without forthwith doing and performing all things necessary to cause such building or structure to be reconstructed, restored, torn down or removed, in conformity with applicable laws or regulations of the Town which may be applicable in respect thereto.
3. To allow or permit or fail to remove anything which might be considered unsanitary by keeping, maintaining, allowing to exist or permitting anything whereby the life of health or any person may be threatened or impaired or by which or through which, directly or indirectly, disease may be caused or the environment of any person rendered unclean or unwholesome.
4. To allow the owner or occupant or family member of any residential living unit in any residential or commercial area of the Town to park or store or keep upon his premises, in the open or in the street or area adjacent, thereto, any vehicle which is not in mechanical operating condition for immediate locomotion under its own power, or any derelict or junk vehicle, or to create or permit the use of any part of his premises to be used for the storage or parking or the presence thereon of any motor vehicle not bearing a current inspection sticker and currently licensed and registered and not mechanically capable of immediate operation under its own automotive power, or to permit the storage upon the property of rubbish, old cars or old unlicensed boats or old trailers or parts of trailers, or any other materials thereof.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

By: Mark A. Davis

Once again hurricane season is almost upon us. Now is the time to start preparing. Make a check list, listing any emergency materials you might need if we find ourselves trying to weather out a storm. First aid kits, radio, extra batteries, clean clothing, water, and non perishable foods are just a few of the essentials. Make sure your vehicles are gassed up in case you should need to evacuate. Know where all the local shelters are located and share this information with your entire family. Have a plan of action. Important documents or papers should be kept in a safe place to prevent water damage.

EVACUATION ROUTE: REDINGTON BEACH SOUTH ON GULF BOULEVARD, TOM STEWART CAUSEWAY BRIDGE, MADEIRA BEACH.

WHERE TO GO: It is recommended you make plans to stay in the home of a friend or relative, a hotel or motel. Evacuees requiring special assistance, (i.e. wheelchair facilities, kidney dialysis, oxygen, etc), should submit the "Special Assistance Form". Given resource demands, those requiring assistance, will be directed to and/or offered transportation to a shelter offering the required support. If you must evacuate to a shelter, the closest shelter to Redington Beach is Bauder Elementary School, 12755 86th Avenue, Seminole, no pets allowed.

Redington Beach	
Emergency Request for Special Assistance/Transportation	
(Must be submitted annually)	
DATE:	_____
NAME:	_____ AGE: _____
STREET ADDRESS:	_____
PHONE:	_____
HEARING IMPAIRED (Y/N):	_____
CONTACT PHONE #	_____ RELATIONSHIP: _____
CITIZEN NEED (be specific):	_____
OXYGEN REQUIRED (Y/N):	_____ LITERS PER MINUTE: _____
DEPENDENT ON LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM (Y/N):	_____
CAN WALK w/o ASSISTANCE (Y/N):	_____ WITH ASSISTANCE: _____
REQUIRE A WHEEL CHAIR (Y/N):	_____ BEDRIDDEN (Y/N): _____
Can be moved via wheelchair (Y/N):	_____ HAS WHEEL CHAIR: _____
People to Accompany:	_____ Relationship: _____
Request submitted by:	_____ Relationship: _____

If you have special needs during a hurricane or storm, make sure you are signed up for the Special Needs Assistance Program. See form above.

During an event such as an official storm/hurricane warning, sand will be available across the street from Town Hall, at Friendship Park until supply runs out. At that time, the location will be relocated to Archibald Park, Madeira Beach, across from Subway Sandwiches. Sand bags are available at Town Hall and are limited to 20 per house.

The closest shelter accepting pets is Oak Grove Middle School in Clearwater. Largo High is also a nearby shelter.

Find out where to take your pet now. Your veterinarian can advise you. A few shelters allow you to bring a pet, but there are restrictions. Service dogs are allowed in regular shelters and motels.

HURRICANE EVACUATION TIPS:

If you live in an unsafe structure, mobile home, or residence subject to flooding, be prepared to evacuate when recommended by state and local officials.

- *Before hurricane season, check with local emergency management officials for evacuation plans in your area and obtain a copy.*
- *Select your evacuation route as identified in plan and your destination: Friends and relatives well outside the flood risk area, hotel or motel, public shelter, and keep your car fueled.*
- *Carry along survival supplies: family medication, first aid kit, bottled water and canned or dried provisions, infant provisions and games, etc. for children.*
- *Keep important papers with you in a waterproof container at all times: insurance policies, household contents inventory, mortgage papers.*
- *Shut off water, electricity, and gas when told to do so.*
- *Return home when authorities tell you it is safe. Call your local emergency management official now to ask about evacuation routes. For general information write to : Federal Emergency Management Agency, State & Local Programs & Support, Washington, D.C. 20472*

HURRICANE : FLOODS

Hurricanes are the greatest storms on earth. You should be concerned about them, whether you live on the coast or inland.

For Coastal Residents: *If you live near the Gulf of Mexico or along the Eastern Seaboard, you probably know the hurricane season starts in June and can continue through November. As the hurricane season approaches, you should prepare for it. Locate the low lying sections of your community so you can avoid them. Find the safest route to high ground. After you have made all the necessary preparations to protect your family and your property, are you fully ready to deal with a hurricane?*

Are you sure? Do you have flood insurance? Many people do not know their home owner's insurance policy does not cover losses from flooding.

Most coastal damage caused by hurricanes is the result of flooding from giant waves driven by the hurricane winds. A hurricane could wipe out your property improvements. If the insurance adjuster determines flooding caused the devastation, not the hurricane winds, you could be out of luck unless you have flood insurance.

For Inland Residents: *People who live well inland from the coast often feel they will not be affected by an approaching hurricane, since they will not experience the crushing hurricane winds and waves. True, as a hurricane moves inland, its wind forces weaken rapidly. But inland flooding caused by hurricanes can be extensive. The tons of water the storm picked up over the ocean will be released as the storm moves inland. Rainfall from a hurricane sometimes can be measured in tens of inches. Inland residents also need to prepare for hurricanes by purchasing flood insurance. Remember, the damage to your home and its contents is not covered by your home owner's policy. Even if the flooding in your home measures only one or two inches, it can mean ruined carpets, some furniture destruction, perhaps even the loss of a major appliance. And if the water did structural damage, the costs of repair and restoration could mean the end of vacation plans, a child's education plan, even a major setback to your long-range budget plans. Without flood insurance, a major flood loss could add up to financial ruin.*

BEFORE THE FLOOD: *Purchase flood insurance. If the community you live in has joined the National Flood Insurance Program with a pledge to adopt flood plain management measures, you will be eligible to apply for it. Only a five day wait is required for your flood insurance policy to become effective. Renters can buy policies to protect their personal property against possible flood damage too.*

A Federal program, the National Flood Insurance Program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, makes this possible. A simple call to your insurance agent or broker starts the process to cover your home, possessions, and business. Your agent or broker will help you decide how much coverage you need.

Continued on Next Page

List all your personal property. Make an itemized list of your furnishings, clothing, and valuables. This list is for your protection and will help prove your claims are valid. It's a good idea to take pictures of these items, as well as of your home, both inside and out. These photos will help adjusters to settle your claims. They can also help prove uninsured losses, which are tax deductible.

Keep your policy and list of personal property in a safe place, such as a safe deposit box. Be sure to remember, or to carry in your wallet, the name and address of the agent or broker who wrote your policy.

Learn the safest route from your home or place of business to high, safe ground, should a flood occur. Practice taking these routes. If there is a flood, you may only have minutes to get to safety.

IF THE FLOOD COMES: *Keep your battery operated radio tuned to a local station, and follow all instructions. Keep calm, but if you are told to evacuate, move out of the house or building to safe, high ground.*

Turn off all utilities at the main switch if evacuation is necessary, BUT ONLY IF TIME PERMITS. Do not touch any electrical equipment unless it is in a dry area or you are standing on a piece of dry wood with rubber footwear and gloves on.

Open basement windows to equalize water pressure on the foundation and walls. BUT ONLY IF TIME PERMITS.

Move all the valuables you can to a higher floor if there is one, BUT, AGAIN, ONLY IF TIME PERMITS.

Be aware that floods are deceptive. Avoid already flooded areas. Do not attempt to cross any stretch of flood waters on foot if the water is above your knees.

Know that in floods, cars can become coffins. DO NOT DRIVE WHERE WATER IS OVER ROADS. Under those flood waters, the road could already be washed away and rapidly rising water could lift the car and carry it away—with you in it. Getting your feet wet on the way to higher ground is preferable to never getting there.

Be extra careful if you have to evacuate in your car at night. In the dark, you can't see the flood dangers. If, by mistake, you find yourself driving in water and the car stalls, get out of the car and climb to high ground immediately.

If you're caught in the house by the suddenly rising flood waters, move to the second floor and/or, if necessary to the roof. Take warm clothing and a flashlight with you, as well as your battery-operated radio. Don't try to swim to safety. Wait for help. Rescue teams will be looking for you.

AFTER THE FLOOD: *Call the insurance agent or broker who sold you your flood insurance policy immediately, if your home, apartment, or business has been damaged by the flood. The agent will submit a loss form and an adjuster will be assigned to inspect the property. That adjuster will call on you as soon as possible to inspect the damage your property has realized. Those with the most serious damages will be handled first.*

Have handy your insurance policy and your list of possessions to simplify the adjusters work. This will help settle your claim sooner.

When it is safe to return to your home, before you enter the house, be sure that the structure is not in danger of collapsing.

Open windows and doors to let the air circulate. This will help remove foul odors and protect you from escaping gas. It will also help dry out the house. Take pictures of the damage—both to the house and its contents.

Don't strike a match or use a flame when you enter the house. Escaping gas could cause a tragic explosion. Watch for live electrical wires. Be sure the electrical current is turned off, and do not attempt to turn on any electrically operated light or appliance until an electrician has checked your system.

Begin cleanup as soon as possible. Throw out any perishable foods; they may be contaminated. Hose down hardgoods such as major appliances and furniture, even if they are destroyed. You need to keep these for the adjuster's inspection. The adjuster will help you make decisions on repairing possessions or getting rid of them.

Pump out the basement if it is flooded, but do it gradually. Drain one-third of the flood waters each day to minimize further structure damage. Shovel out the mud while it is still moist and dry rugs and carpets thoroughly.

Make any temporary repairs necessary to stop further losses from the elements or from looting.

Floods cause more damage nationwide than any other natural disaster. If you live in a flood-prone area, be smart. Protect yourself and your family from the consequences of a flood disaster. It could happen to you.

Call your local insurance agent or broker now to ask about flood insurance. For general information write: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Federal Insurance Administration, Washington, D.C. 20472

NPDES: NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM

The Town's NPDES (storm water permit), a federal mandated program, will be up for renewal this coming year. Many new requirements will affect the town as well as residents. The United States of Environmental Protection, along with the State of Florida's Department Environmental Protection will be implementing more laws and regulation with best intentions to protect our fragile environment. Unfortunately, the impact on a town the size of Redington Beach as well as some of the other small coastal communities could be disastrous economically. Pinellas County Government is in litigation with EPA for just these reasons.

In our Town's case, we began implementation of EPA's requirements in 1997 prior to becoming actual law, just so that we could gradually plan for budgeting, practicing the procedures and becoming familiar with the requirements small cities and town's have. These small cities and town's now have the same requirements as large cities and we do it with skeleton crews and limited budgets. As you read our quarterly newsletters, you will see various regulation in some of the articles written. Please comply with these laws and regulation as they are Federal Laws, not to mention, state and local laws as well. As EPA is getting more strict with compliance, the Town's Code Enforcement Department must enforce these regulations that can be quite costly to individuals and to our town as well. So, next time you hear of someone being cited for an environmental infraction, please realize with a little cooperation on everyone's part, it could have been prevented, not to mention fines could have been avoided and the environment in which we live would have had a much needed helping hand.

NPDES continued on Page 10, 11, & 12

It is spring again. The weather is warming up. This makes for more activity both in town and along the beaches. It is important to be aware of the fact that safety is everyone's responsibility. With the current road construction project, there is heavy machinery driving to and from the construction site. Many of our friends and neighbors are using the beach, walking their dogs, bicycling and just enjoying our beautiful spring weather.

It is a good time to examine the way we interact with others when getting around town. We need to increase our awareness of the dangers that come with the fact that our streets are narrow without sidewalks. This means that cars, bicycles, and pedestrians have to share the streets. This takes a certain amount of care and consideration. We should keep our minds on making sure that we take it slow and obey the traffic rules.

I have heard complaints about the sheriff deputies patrolling the city and stopping drivers for carelessness about stop signs and speed. This should not be viewed as harassment. Their job is to do their best to ensure our safety and security so we can go about our lives and enjoy the wonderful place we call home.

Please do your part. We all have a responsibility whether walking, bicycling, or driving. When you cross Gulf Boulevard to and from the beach, please make sure the traffic is clear before stepping out in the road. Remember that the cars do not stop automatically for you. Make sure it is safe to cross before you do.

If we all take a little more time and watch out for others, we can all have a good spring and look forward to many more good seasons together.

To borrow from the new Garden Club bumper sticker, "Slow Down! We on island time...."

Commissioner Tom Dorgan

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Choose the safest route (e.g., availability of sidewalks, crossing guards, less traffic, etc.)

Be Alert

Be visible and noticeable.

Walk with a group if possible.

Walk on the sidewalk. If you must walk in the roadway, walk only on the left side facing traffic.

Cross only at corners or designated crosswalks, with a crossing guard if possible.

If you must cross a street without a crossing guard, look in all directions before crossing (look left, look right, look left again and over your shoulder)

Be aware of turning traffic.

Recognize and obey all traffic signals and markings

Never step into the road from between parked cars or other obstacles that obstruct the view of traffic.

Be extra alert in bad weather.

Never accept a ride from a stranger.

Always assume motorists do not see you.

Unfortunately, there are no guarantees when it comes to keeping our children safe, but every child should know some basic safety rules. What is "safe" varies from child to child. It is very important to assess a child's age and maturity before permitting them to walk to school or a bus stop or ride a bike to school. Children younger than age 9 or 10 often do not make good decisions regarding traffic safety, and they generally should be accompanied by an adult or responsible older child. Regardless of a child's age, if the child's behavior or maturity suggests that he or she will be unsafe without supervision, or if the parents have any concerns about the safety of the route, parents should provide that supervision on the route.

Police: Pinellas County Sheriff
Non Emergency.....727-582-6200

Fire:Non Emergency..... 727-391-3400

Police & Fire EMERGENCY ONLY: 911

Electric: Progress Energy727-443-2641
Water/Sewer.....727-464-4000
Brighthouse.....727-329-5020
Waste Services:.....727-572.6800
Clearwater Gas:.....727-699-1958

BIKE SAFETY

Wear Helmets at all times. It's the law.

Choose the safest route.

Follow the rules of the road.

Walk your bike across all intersections.

Cross only at corners or designated crosswalks, with a crossing guard if possible.

If you must cross the street without a crossing guard, look in all directions before crossing (look left, look right, look left again and over your shoulder)

Never ride into the road from between parked cars or other obstacles that obstruct the view of traffic.

Be extra alert in bad weather. Wear reflective clothing if you must ride your bike in the dark and be sure your bike is equipped with reflectors and lights.

Leave your bike in the designated bike racks on school property.

Always assume motorists do not see you.

Basic Services:

E-Mail Addresses

townclerk@townofredingtonbeach.com

deputyclerk@townofredingtonbeach.com

mark.davis@townofredingtonbeach.com

General:

Info@townofredingtonbeach.com

Code Enforcement: Issues & Updates**By Mark A. Davis**

*From the desk of
... Mark A. Davis
DPW Director and Code
Enforcement Officer*

Code Enforcement Mission Statement

To ensure a safe, healthful environment consistent with community needs and Town Codes while striving for voluntary compliance and public awareness.

Code Enforcement Issues and Updates

For Code Enforcement Questions, contact Mark Davis, Code Enforcement Officer 391-3875

FYI: Ordinance No 11-02 has been amended. It now reads: "It shall be unlawful to sell or attempt to sell or peddle any commercial products whatsoever on the streets, door to door, or other public property within the Town. Warnings will be issued by Code Enforcement on the first offense. Thereafter a citation in the amount of \$183.00 will be issued along with a mandatory court appearance at the criminal court complex in Clearwater, Florida. Each subsequent offense will result in the fine doubling for each and every offense thereafter.

REMINDER: Now that the weather is warming up, the grass has started to grow very quickly once again. Please make sure your lawns are kept cut. Not only does this keep property values up, but it also keeps the snakes and rodent population down. Anything over 12 inches (grass or weeds) is prohibited.

All vehicles and boats must have a valid license tag or registration on the vehicle and must be operable for immediate locomotion.

Building permits must be posted where they can be seen from the street.

Please remove any containers, etc that may hold standing water and breed mosquitoes. We live in a sub tropical state and have a warm humid climate which is ideal for these insects. Not only are they unpleasant but they are known carriers of several diseases as well. One small container could possibly breed thousands of mosquitoes. They are not particular to whom they dine on.

Please refrain from bringing your dogs to the Town Parks. Recently I have received several complaints from residents. This is a violation of Town Ordinance Section 4-3, which prohibits animals at town beaches, parks, and recreation areas. And please remember, it is required that you remove your dog feces while not on your own property. Dog waste contains several bacteria and disease. Children love to play in the yards, dirt, etc.

It appears more and more are people installing security lighting at their homes. I receive frequent complaints that some home lighting is an actual nuisance and in some instances are dangerous as they are blinding. When installing lighting or even adjusting, please think of your neighbors view of what you have installed.

Wildlife Nuisances: In most state, county, and local parks, it is illegal to feed the wildlife. Usually in most cases you would be causing more harm to the animals than good. Please refrain from making a habit of feeding raccoons, birds, etc. in our Town. By doing so they may become nuisance animals and have to be removed or worse. Enjoy these creatures from a distance and allow them to remain wild.

NPDES: NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM

All storm drains in the Town flow directly in Boca Ciega Bay. It is a crime to dispose of or to dump anything other than clean water into the Town's drainage system. If you are aware of any illicit discharges into the storm sewers, please contact Town Hall or Code Enforcement at 727.391.3875. We are all custodians of our environment, let's all do our part. Please do not contaminate our bay and surrounding waters of the Gulf of Mexico by putting chemicals, waste water, or anything else other than rain water into any of the storm drains. Illicit dumping affects marine life negatively, which in turn has a great impact on us humans as well. Any suspicious activity should be directed to Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Pinellas County Environmental Department, or Redington Beach Code Enforcement.

Hazardous Waste Disposal Resources:

Pinellas County Utilities, Household Electronics & Chemical Collection Center, 2990 110th Ave N, St. Petersburg, FL 33716, Phone: 727.464.7565, Fax: 727.464.7713

To report illegal disposal of hazardous materials or chemicals, call Florida Department of Environmental Protection at 813.744.6100, Tampa, 941.332.6975, For Meyers, or 407.894.7555 Orlando.

For information on local collections sites, for biomedical waste items, call your local county health department.

For information on local oil recycling sites, call 800.741.4337.

For information on safe handling or disposal of pesticides, call your local county cooperative extension service, Florida Pest Control Association at 800.426.4829, Florida Bureau of Entomology and Pest Control at 904.727.6590, or the National Pesticide Telecommunications Network at 800.858.7378.

If you are a regular reader of our Town's quarterly newsletters, you will have noticed in each issue, the section titled NPDES. As I have mentioned previously, the Town of Redington Beach is required by the EPA to educate our residents of the importance of not polluting our environment. Since Redington Beach is a water front, coastal community that directs storm water directly into a federal body of water (Boca Ciega Bay) it is crucial for everyone to take part in keeping our natural resources clean and healthy, not only for ourselves, but also for generations to come after us. If we are unable to live in harmony with nature, how can we continue to exist?

STORM WATER RUNOFF

Direct downspouts and gutters to drain onto the lawn, plant beds, or containment areas. Plant groundcover or use mulch on thinly vegetated areas to decrease erosion. Use mulch, bricks, flagstones, gravel or other porous surfaces on walkways, patios or drives. Collect and use rain water to irrigate plants. Create swales or terracing to catch and filter stormwater. Pick up after pets to reduce bacterial and nutrient pollution in storm drain systems. Clean up oil spills and leaks using cat litter on driveways. Sweep grass clippings, fertilizers, and soil from driveway onto lawn. Remove trash from street gutters.

ON THE WATERFRONT

Remove invasive exotic plants by cutting, pulling, or raking. Remove dead plant material from water after using herbicides to reduce pollution. Protect your mangroves. All pruning must be in compliance with existing laws. Establish a border of low maintenance plants between your lawn and shoreline/seawall to absorb nutrients and to improve wildlife habitat. Establish a 10-30 foot "no fertilizer" zone along your shoreline. Where feasible, plant native vegetation in the littoral zone in front of your seawall or along shoreline. Decrease wave action and increase habitat by placing clean, native limestone rock in front of your seawall.

NPDES NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM

Pinellas County in coordination with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) will begin a fertilizer education media campaign in April and May. Be on the lookout for the pink flamingo on billboards, print ads in the St. Petersburg Times, and digital ads on Bay News 9 and Reach Local. Visit www.befloridian.com for more information.

Interesting points from "Implementing & Monitoring a Fertilizer Education Campaign in Pinellas County" in a presentation by Nanette O'Hara, Outreach Coordinator for the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP)

Florida's Green Addition:

- More than 10,000 tons of lawn fertilizers were sold in Pinellas and our neighboring counties from July 2008 to June 2009.
- Floridians use 1 billion gallons of water every day just to water their lawns.
- St. Augustine, the most popular turf grass, is very difficult to maintain in Florida's humid, pest friendly climate.

A "Growing" Problem:

- Seventy nine percent of nitrogen carried in groundwater to Lake Tarpons comes from fertilizers (Pinellas study).
- Recent TBEP study in Old Tampa Bay clearly identifies fertilizers used on surrounding urban lands as the cause of "mystery muck" in the upper part of Tampa Bay.
- Costs to remove nitrogen from stormwater = \$40,000 to \$100,000 per ton.

Please be on the lookout for aquamarine blue colored ponds and lakes. If you see any ponds and lakes which have a strange blue-green or emerald blue color, please contact us at the following e-mails or phone numbers"

Chip Heintz, cheintz@pinellascounty.org,

Bill Sova, wsova@pinellascounty.org

727.464.4425 or 727.464.5060

For more information on stormwater and Pinellas County water quality, visit the water atlas at www.pinellas.wateratlas.usf.edu/stormwaterEd

For Illicit Discharge Training Video go to: <http://vstreamint.co.pinellas.fl.us:8080/ramgen/illegaldischarges.rm>

**NPDES: NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE
ELIMINATION SYSTEM****"ADOPT-A-STREET" Registration Form**

Volunteer's Name: _____
Address: _____
Home Phone: _____
Cell Phone: _____
E-mail Address: _____

HELP KEEP YOUR COMMUNITY BEAUTIFUL

FREE coloring books are available at Town Hall. Let us know how many you need for your group and the name of your organization.

If you would like to participate in the Adopt a Street Program, gloves and trash bags will be provided. Drop off locations will be assigned where to leave the removed litter.

NPDES CONTINUED

Fertilizer Applicator Training Requirement: Information for Landscape Fertilizer Applicators in Pinellas County

Any person or company providing fertilizer application services within Pinellas County must complete a state approved training course such as Green Industries Best Management Practices (GI-BMP), obtain the FDACS Limited Commercial Fertilizer Applicator License, and the Pinellas County vehicle decal by January 19, 2011. Complete the steps below to avoid violation of the Pinellas County Fertilizer Ordinance.

Pinellas County is issuing extensions to allow applicators to complete the training and license requirements without incurring a fine. If you do not have your Pinellas County vehicle decal when you receive this notice, please call Anamarie Rivera at 727.464.4425 option # 6 to request an extension.

Step 1: Attend and complete a state approved training course such as the Green Industries Best Management Practices (GI-BMP) from a University of Florida County Extension office (every County offers the GI-BMP course). The course can be taken at the Pinellas County Extension classroom by calling 727.582.2100 or by registering online at www.pinellascountyextension.org. The course is also available as an online self paced course through the GI-BMP Program website: <https://gibmp.ifas.ufl.edu>. Note: there are no Pesticide CEU's for the online course.

Step 2: Complete the application for the FDACS LTD Commercial Fertilizer Applicator license, <http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/onestop/forms/13677.pdf> and submit with required documents and photo to FDACS. Processing time is 4 to 6 weeks. Each applicator must have this license regardless of any other FDACS licenses held.

Step 3: Receive your vehicle decal by contacting the Watershed Management Division 727.464.4425, option 6. Copies of the certificate/license received from steps 1 and 2 are required to receive a decal.

Landscape Maintenance Training Requirement: Information for Landscape Maintenance Staff in Pinellas County

Any person or company providing landscape services, (mowing, edging, pruning, debris management, etc) not including fertilizer application must be certified in Pinellas County Landscape Maintenance Best Management Practices (BMPs) according to Pinellas County's fertilizer ordinance, Article XIII, Chapter 58, by July 18, 2011. Complete the steps below to avoid violation of the Pinellas County Fertilizer Ordinance.

Step 1: Attend and complete the Pinellas County Landscape Maintenance Best Management Practices 2 hour training. The course can be taken at the Pinellas County Extension by calling 727.582.2100 Option # 2 or by registering online at www.pinellascountyextension.org. Go to online registration and select Commercial CEU for the list of professional classes.

Step 2: Upon course completion, Pinellas County will issue a certificate, wallet card, and vehicle decal as notification that the landscaper is certified in Landscape Maintenance BMPs.

Classes are offered at two locations:

Pinellas County Extension, 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo

Brooker Education Center, 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs

Lawn/Landscape Maintenance 2 hours class offered at 9:00 am and 2:00 pm. Offered in English and Spanish.