



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

There is only one raccoon species in Florida.



The Raccoon, *Procyon lotor* is found in areas with trees, including urban areas statewide. It is gray, brown, and black with a pale brown underside. Its face is lighter with a black mask. Its hind legs are longer than its forelegs. It is 30 to 35" long with a 9-12" banded tail and weighs 10 to 15 pounds.

It is omnivorous and opportunistic. Its diet includes fruits, nuts, seeds, vegetables, roots, amphibians, reptiles, fish, birds, and insects. It also forages in garbage and has displayed an uncanny ability to open coolers and other camping equipment. Food plants include sea grapes, beautyberry, grapes, pawpaws, *Crataegus* spp, *Rubus* spp, oaks, mulberries, cabbage palm, saw palmetto, persimmons, and cactus.

The raccoon typically sleeps in trees during the day, becoming active in the late afternoon. It has several den sites within its home range (1 mile in diameter for males, .75 for females).

Breeding usually occurs during December or January. The male wanders off in search of another male. A litter of 3 to 4 kits is born about 60 days later. The female is very protective of her offspring.

Predators include man, dogs, bobcats, panthers, and great horned owls. Raccoons are primary carriers of rabies in Florida and may also carry distemper and tuberculosis.

Here in Redington Beach, raccoons follow the inter-coastal waterways searching for food such as crabs, shell fish and even sea turtle eggs. It is not uncommon for them to make their nests and have their young in an attic. To prevent this, just make sure any openings in your eaves or soffits are kept closed up.

Since raccoons are typically nocturnal animals, you should be very cautious if you see them out and about in the midday hours. Keep your distance and do not disturb them. If they are wondering around in daylight hours they could be sick. Rabies are rare in Pinellas County, but it is better to be safe than sorry.

Don't leave your pets food outside overnight as this is an attraction for them to make your home theirs also. If you find raccoons are making themselves a nuisance, contact an animal rescue service. Remember they were here first and can adapt very easily to many environments.

Mayor's Message

The town will end its fiscal year on September 30th in good financial health. The current drop in property values did not affect Redington Beach as much as other beach municipalities due to our being mostly single family dwellings. Those towns with more condominiums saw a higher drop in property values.

Your commission strives to continue to be good stewards of the towns resources while maintaining the infrastructure. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our town staff for a job well done.

Nick Simons, Mayor

Town Wide Garage Sale: Friday/Saturday October 23 and 24

Wine Fest: November 7
Boat Parade: December 20

The Town of Redington Beach has order forms available at town hall for purchase of bricks for the Twin Towers Memorial. Call 391-3875 for more details.

A list of passed ordinances are listed on the back page of this newsletter. For a full description, call town hall or check out our Ordinances online @ municode.com.

2010 Census: 2010census.gov
2010 Census Jobs: 2010censusjobs.gov
Toll Free Jobs Line: 1-866-861-2010

Emergency Management

By: Mark Davis

In Florida, hurricane preparedness is a year round exercise. The hurricane season runs for six months, from June through November, and can produce more than a dozen named storms in any given year. While most hurricanes either fail to make landfall, hit other areas, or fail to gain significant destructive strength, the lessons learned from hurricanes in Florida show us that we must always be prepared.

Here are some things you can do today to prepare for the hurricane season:

- Locate where you live and your evacuation zone. Determine if and when you would have to evacuate. **REMEMBER: ALL MOBILE HOME RESIDENTS MUST EVACUATE, REGARDLESS OF LOCATION.**
- Decide **NOW** where you would go if ordered to evacuate (friend, relative, hotel, out of the region). Only use shelters as a last resort. If you choose to go to a hotel or travel out of the region, you must leave early.
- Check your preparedness checklist and obtain any items you may need.
- Keep your home in good repair. Tack down loose roofing and siding, and trim dead or broken branches from trees.
- Make the minor improvements needed to increase your home's safety. Contact a licensed engineer, licensed contractor or architect to inspect your home for structural integrity.
- Make plans and purchase materials to protect your home before the threat of a storm, (plywood, window protection, plastic sheeting, nails, etc).
- Purchase a battery powered weather alert radio.
- Inventory your property and store the list with insurance and title papers in a safe place, or send a copy to a relative out of the area. Using a video tape is an excellent way to inventory your home.
- Make sure your address is clearly marked on your home.

While the strength of a hurricane is measured merely by the sustained wind speed, the dangers that hurricanes present include much more than wind damage. Hurricanes combine storm surge, high winds, heavy rains and tornadoes in a powerful and devastating combination.

Storm Surge

Storm surge is an abnormal rise in the sea level that can reach up to 100 miles wide. It sweeps along the coast near where the eye of a hurricane makes landfall. This increase in sea level, topped by waves is the greatest threat to life and property for those living on the coast. Remember, most hurricane related deaths are caused by drowning.

High Winds

Hurricane force winds can destroy buildings and create missiles from loose debris, and these winds can remain at hurricane force well inland. If you do not have to evacuate, remember to secure your home and cover your windows before the storm. **MOBILE HOMES ARE EXTREMELY VULNERABLE TO HIGH WINDS AND SHOULD BE EVACUATED REGARDLESS OF LOCATION WITHIN PINELLAS COUNTY.**

Heavy Rains

Torrential rains often in excess of 10 inches can cause destructive floods along the coast and well inland. It is important that you are aware of your flood zone. Remember, your flood zone is not the same as your evacuation zone. Evacuation zones are determined by susceptibility to storm surge. Flood zones are determined by susceptibility to inland flooding from rising groundwater. If your home or street has suffered from flooding in the past, there is a good chance that you are in a flood-prone area.

Category	Sustained Winds	Storm Surge	Damage
1	74 to 95 mph	5 to 7 feet	Minor
2	96 to 110 mph	7 to 12 feet	Moderate
3	111 to 130 mph	12 to 15 feet	Major
4	131 to 155 mph	15 to 20 feet	Severe
5	Above 155 mph	20 to 24 feet	Catastrophic

If you have special needs during a hurricane or storm, make sure you are signed up for the Special Needs Assistance Program. Forms are available at Town Hall. During an event such as an official storm or 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.

Evacuation Route: Redington Beach SOUTH on Gulf Blvd, Tom Stewart Causeway, Madeira Beach. It is recommended you make plans to stay in a home of a friend or relative, a hotel, or motel. If you must evacuate to a shelter, the closest shelter to Redington Beach is Bauder Elementary School, 12755 86th Avenue, Seminole. **NO PETS.**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONTINUED

For many of you, your pets are considered to be members of your family. DisasterPrepped.com focuses on helping you prepare those pets for potential emergencies or disasters. First the "PETS" preparedness section highlights many valuable tools and solutions at www.disasterprepped.com/pets.php.

Second, there are several articles now available at the website addressing this topic:

- Disaster Preparedness for Pets; www.disasterprepped.com/preparedness_pets.php
- Disaster Tips for Reptiles and Amphibians; www.disasterprepped.com/reptile.php
- Disaster Preparedness for Horses; www.disasterprepped.com/preparedness_horses.php
- What's Best for My Pets? Deciding to stay or go; www.disasterprepped.com/pets_evacs.php
- Animals in Public Evacuations Centers; www.disasterprepped.com/pet_shelters.php

Don't forget we still have three more months of tropical storm/hurricane season. Always be prepared. In the event we are faced with a storm this season, the town will have sand and sand bags available. Information will be posted on Town Information/Bulletin Boards for further information.

CLEARWATER GAS SYSTEM:

The managing director, C.S. Chuck Warrington sent a letter to the mayor and commissioners which stated the following:

As your local energy provider, Clearwater Gas System's (CGS) commitment to our customers involves keeping you advised/notified of our on-going educational efforts. The purpose of this letter is to provide key information to you and your community/residents to:

1. Inform you of the presence of a natural gas pipeline in your community,
2. Provide awareness of (CGS) safety efforts to ensure the safe operation of the natural gas system,
3. Enlist your support in assisting us in those efforts.

This communication is prompted by requirements of the Florida Public Service Commission, the Federal Department of Transportation, the Federal Office of Pipeline Safety and provisions of the Federal Pipeline Safety Improvement Act, which regulates the operating standards of all energy pipelines.

Natural gas is one of the safest and most environmentally friendly energy sources. A natural gas leak or natural gas fire is an extremely rare event. Yet, when they occur, they can pose a serious threat to life and property if not properly mitigated.

As your community energy partner, CGS is committed to maintaining the highest safety standards possible. We routinely inspect and maintain over 800 miles of gas lines in our service territory. Our team of trained professionals responds quickly and effectively to any gas emergency within our service territory.

While CGS continuously works to provide for the safe operation of our system, we need your help to ensure that the residents and the community are aware of how to respond to gas safety issues:

- If you or others plan to dig on your property, please call Sunshine State One call at 800-432-4770 or dial 8-1-1 at least two full days prior to digging so that utilities may mark any underground facilities. It's the Law!
- If you smell gas, call us immediately. An odorant is added to give natural gas a rotten egg smell to help detect leaks. If you smell gas or think you have come in contact with a buried gas line, please call the **CGS Emergency Service at 727-462-6633**. An emergency service dispatcher is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Never attempt to locate a gas leak without notifying a certified gas technician.
- For all other, non-emergency questions, please contact us at 727-562-4900 or visit our website at www.clearwatergas.com.

PUBLIC WORKS

By Mark A. Davis

The Park Board is hard at work as usual. The beautification master plan has picked up where it was left at a few months ago. Presently Public Works is working on completing the north side of the 161st Avenue Causeway. The sea grape beds and oleander beds are being removed to be replaced by similar vegetation that is currently on the south side. Reclaimed water permit applications have been completed and the necessary permits that are needed have been obtained.

New shell beds, irrigation, plant material and maybe some boulders are in the plans for this part of the beautification Master Plan.

Fire House Renovation

Lawson Contracting Inc. was awarded the contract for renovating the upstairs portion of the former fire house of \$81,282.00. The firehouse was condemned in 1998 for the use of living quarters for fire personnel but not for a storage facility. The downstairs is the public works department while the upstairs has been unused and vacant for nearly ten years. It was the consensus of the commission to renovate rather than losing an already existing facility which can be used for storage of the towns records and miscellaneous items.

Included in the contract price, a public restroom facility will be constructed downstairs, adjacent to the town park. The estimated time for completion is November.

SWIM BUOYS

Swim Buoys to be replaced 2nd time around.

All new swim buoys/markers were placed on their proper stations at each avenue back in June of this summer. Due to stormy weather conditions and rough seas, we lost a few as well as our neighbors to the north and south of us. Once again they have been installed at their proper coordinates in compliance with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission and

(Continued next column)

Continued:

Florida Administrative Code 68D-23.110 as a part of a newly enacted requirement of the state. Let's all keep our fingers crossed that this year's hurricane season is good to us. We still have approximately three months to go.

STORM WATER PROJECT UPDATE:

In the last newsletters, I mentioned that the multi phase storm water management project was coming to an end. Phases I, II, and III have been completed.

The final improvement, a new storm drain line, a drop inlet, and outfall has begun and is located at 15546 Redington Drive. This drain will alleviate any rain water, flooding, etc on that portion of Redington Drive and is a major outfall. By the time this newsletter reaches you, this project will probably have been completed or at least very close to completion. One again, I would like to thank everyone for being patient and for your cooperation during this stressful time. Although it will never be possible to eliminate all flooding in Redington Beach, the stormwater improvements that have taken place during these last construction phases, have significantly made a very large improvement.

As new technologies develop, Redington Beach officials and staff are forever looking at ways to improve your lives in your community.

Clearwater Gas System continued

Please review and share this information with your peers and the community to help increase awareness and to promote human and pipeline safety. CGS regularly conducts gas safety training with first responders of the various fire and public safety departments in our service area. We would welcome the opportunity to address any questions or concerns that you or your constituents may have.

Please direct your inquiries to Kristi Cheatham, Manager of External Affairs, at 727-562-4908, or at Kristi.cheatham@clearwatergas.com. Together, we can continue to ensure the safety of our community and to protect the environment. Thanks for assisting us in this effort.

Sincerely,

C.S. "Chuck" Warrington

Managing Director

NPDES: NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM

By:

Mark A. Davis

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?

I've included material you might be interested in taking part in, along with some important phone numbers and some unbelievable facts. (See pages 6, 7, and 8.) I hope everyone has a great summer and try to stay cool. Please Don't Pollute.

Pet waste causes a number of human diseases. Toxocariasis can cause blindness. Numerous parasites, bacteria, human hook worm and round worms to name a few. Round worms can infect soil for years. Even breathing pet urine has been linked to lung cancer. Please pick up after your pet. Section 4-7 Removal of animal excrement: Any person who, while walking with or escorting a dog on a leash, allows the dog to deposit excrement on public or private property other than the property of the dog's owner or the property of the person walking or escorting the dog on a leash shall immediately remove such excrement.

SCOOP IT, BAG IT, TRASH IT!**NPDES: NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM****"ADOPT-A-STREET" Registration Form**

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

HELP KEEP YOU COMMUNITY BEAUTIFUL

NPDES: NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM
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Yard Certification Checklist

Does your yard measure up?

Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FY&N) honors model landscapes as certified Florida-Friendly Yards.

To be certified as Florida Yard, your landscape must:

Collect at least 36 inches on this Yardstick Checklist

Receive full points for practices marked with 2 asterisks**

Receive partial credit for practices marked with 1 asterisk*

Comply with all existing codes and laws

Water Efficiently

Mow lawns high to encourage a deeper, more drought and pest tolerant root system. ** 2"

Irrigate lawn and landscape only when they wilt. Apply << 3/4 inches water per application. 3"

For a yard that uses an irrigation system (in-ground or hose-end sprinklers):

Calibrate irrigation/sprinkler system to apply << 3/4 inches of water. ** 3"

Put a rain gauge in your yard to track irrigation amounts. ** 2"

Install a rain shut-off device for in-ground irrigation systems. ** 2"

Make sure irrigation system waters lawn areas separately from plant beds. 2"

Use drip or micro-irrigation in plant and flower beds. 2"

For a yard that does not use an irrigation system:

Design and maintain a landscape that exists predominantly on rainfall once plants are established. 6"

Mulch

Maintain a 2-3" layer of organic mulch over tree roots, shrubs and plant beds, leaving a 2 inch space between the plant base and the mulch. * 2"

Create self-mulching areas under trees where leaves can remain as they fall. 1"

Use by-product mulches such as pine bark, melaleuca or recycled mulches. 1"

Replenish mulch once or twice a year to maintain 2-3" depth. 1"

Recycle

Whenever possible, recycle grass clippings by allowing them to remain on the lawn. ** 2"

Use leaves and pine needles found in your yard as mulch. 2"

Create and maintain a compost pile with yard clippings, leaves, kitchen scraps, etc. 3"

Wildlife

Plant vines, shrubs, and trees that provide cover, nesting areas or food sources for birds, butterflies and other wildlife. 3"

Provide a water source, such as a bird bath or a small pond for wildlife. 1"

Provide wildlife shelters such as a bat house, bird house, 1"

Identify five kinds of wildlife (insects, reptile, birds, etc.) that live in your yard. 2"

Yard Pests

Treat only affected plants or lawn areas with pesticide applications. Avoid indiscriminate spraying. ** 3"

Check your landscape every 1-2 weeks for signs of problems. 2"

Learn to identify 5 beneficial insects that provide natural control of harmful pests. 2"

Use environmentally friendly pesticides such as horticultural oils and insecticidal soaps. 2"

Use non-chemical approaches to pest control, such as pruning off affected areas, hand removing insects, etc., whenever possible. 3"

Right Plant - Right Place

Ensure that your landscape does not contain plants identified by legal code as invasive exotics, such as Brazilian Pepper, Melaleuca, Australian Pine, and Chinese Tallow.**	2"
Replace problem-prone plants with low maintenance native or non-native species.	2"
Group plants according to their water and maintenance needs.	2"
Determine how much grass you need for children, pets, and recreation. Replace the rest with low maintenance ground covers, shrubs, mulch, or other porous surfaces.	3"
Use trees and shrubs to shade eastern and western walls of home and air conditioner compressor.	1"
Use deciduous trees on southern exposures to allow the sun to passively heat your home in winter.	1"
Reduce yard waste by choosing plants that will not require frequent pruning at maturity.	1"
Preserve native plants when building on a new site. Maintain a protective "do not disturb" barrier under the dripline of trees.	3"

Fertilizing

Fertilize as needed to maintain quality of lawns and landscape plants. *	2"
Use natural organic or other slow release fertilizers. *	2"
Use iron instead of nitrogen to make your lawn green during the summer.	1"

Stormwater Runoff

Direct downspouts and gutters to drain onto the lawn, plant beds, or containment areas. *	1"
Plant groundcovers or use mulch on thinly vegetated areas to decrease erosion. *	2"
Use mulch, bricks, flagstones, gravel, or other porous surfaces on walkways, patios or drives.	1"
Collect and use rainwater to irrigate plants.	2"
Create swales or terracing to catch and filter stormwater.	3"
Pick up after pets to reduce bacterial and nutrient pollution in stormdrain systems.	1"
Clean up oil spills and leaks using cat litter on driveways.	2"
Sweep grass clippings, fertilizer, and soil from driveway onto lawn. Remove trash from street gutters.	2"

On the Waterfront

Remove invasive exotic aquatic plants by cutting, pulling, or raking. Remove dead plant material from water after using herbicides to reduce pollution.	2"
Protect your mangroves. All pruning must be in compliance with existing laws. **	2"
Establish a border of low maintenance plants between your lawn and shoreline/seawall to absorb nutrients and to provide wildlife habitat.	2"
Establish a 10-30foot "no fertilizer" zone along your shoreline.	2"
Where feasible, plant native vegetation in the littoral zone in front of your seawall or along shoreline.	4"
Decrease wave action and increase habitat by placing clean, native limestone rock in front of your seawall.	3"

TOTAL INCHES _____

If your yard measures up, call your local Cooperative Extension Service and ask for a Florida Yard Adviser.

The Double Tree Beach Resort will be hosting a Blood Drive on Wednesday August 16th from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Donors will be eligible in drawings. Do Not need to be present to WIN!!

Also, Congratulations to the Double Tree Beach Resort for the Pride Award for Quality for the 2nd consecutive year. Everyone in the community benefits from recycling.

NPDES NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM CONTINUED

Are YOU a responsible user?

Answer honestly and find out:

- Do pests even exist?
- Do you try non-toxic solutions first?
- Do you use the least amount of the correct product?
- Do you read and follow all label instructions?
- Do you protect yourself, family, neighbors, and pets?
- Do you understand the dangers to pregnant women and young children?
- Do you understand the connection between applying pesticides and contaminating air, soil or water?
- Do you know where to dispose of unused pesticides safely?
- Do you know the signs of pesticide poisoning?
- Do you know when and where others use pesticides?



It's unbelievable that...

- 3 times more pesticides are applied per acre to home lawns and gardens than are applied to agricultural crops.
- Homeowners apply an estimated 66 million pounds of herbicides and insecticides per year to their homes, gardens, and lawns. This does NOT include applications made to these areas by pest control or lawn care professionals.
- 86,880 pesticide exposure cases were reported to the national network of Poison Control Centers in 2000. More than half of these poisoning cases involved children under the age of six.
- It is estimated that 72 million birds die each year as a result of direct exposure to pesticides on agricultural lands alone. Lawn pesticides cause the death of an estimated additional 7 million.
- Home lawns blanket at least 21 million acres – that's an area larger than Maryland, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire COMBINED.
- Non-native weeds consume 4600 acres of wildlife habitat *per day* on public land in the U.S.

Learn more about pesticides

- National Pesticide Information Center (npic.orst.edu/index.html) or call 1-800-858-7378
- US EPA Office of Pesticide Programs (www.epa.gov/pesticides/)
- Pesticide Action Network Pesticide Database (www.pesticideinfo.org)
- National Coalition Against Misuse of Pesticides (www.beyondpesticides.org)
- EXTOTOXNET – Extension Toxicology Network (pmep.cce.cornell.edu/profiles/extoxnet/)

Learn more about how to reduce the use of pesticides, find alternatives, and create a healthy backyard

- National Audubon Society Audubon At Home (www.audubon.org/bird/at_home)
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service Backyard Conservation (www.nhqrncs.usda.gov/CCS/Backyard.html)
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Native Plant Information Network (www.wildflower.org/npin/index.html)
- Brooklyn Botanic Garden Gardening for Wildlife (www.bbg.org/gar2/topics/wildlife/)



Audubon

Hang this chart near your garden supplies as a reminder to make kinder choices.

HELPFUL HINTS: PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

Although personal watercraft have significantly less impact on the environment than many other powerboats, we all must do our part to protect our bountiful natural resources. Take a moment to learn what the environmental concerns are in your riding area. And observe the helpful boating tips listed below.



1. Refuel on land to reduce any chances of spilling oil or gas into the water.
2. Slow down when filling the tank, do not overfill, catch any accidental spills with an absorbent pad, and dispose of it properly.
3. Check and clean your engine well away from shorelines. Oil can harm the water's delicate micro-organisms and the animals that feed on them.
4. Do not operate in waters less than two feet in depth.
5. Ride in main channels, and limit riding in shallow water.
6. When it is necessary to ride in shallow water, keep watercraft at an idle speed. This will help reduce turbidity (the stirring up of bottom sediments which limits light penetration and depletes oxygen, affecting fish and bird feeding).
7. In coastal areas, be aware of the low tide. The waters may be substantially more shallow at these times, exposing valuable fish nurseries such as sea grass beds and other delicate vegetation. Ingestion of these into your craft may cause engine or pump problems and reduce performance.
8. Birds feeding in shallow areas or on the shoreline should not be disturbed.
9. If you are riding near coral, do not use an anchor, and be careful when diving to avoid coming in contact with these delicate organisms.
10. Stay away from kelp forests. Found close to shore, the kelp canopy covers the surface of the water and extends down, supporting a lush underwater community of fish, invertebrates, sea urchins and sea otters.
11. Avoid grass marches found in salt or fresh water coastal areas or rivers. Hidden in the thickets are nesting birds, frogs, turtles, snakes and possibly alligators.
12. Observe posted no wake zones near shore. Excessive boat wakes may contribute to shoreline erosion, which can affect the habitats of plants and animals.
13. Be a courteous boat operator. Be aware that noise and movements of boats may disturb the local residents including waterfront homeowners, birds, marine mammals and other wildlife.
14. Ride at controlled speeds so you can see any animals ahead of you.
15. Avoid areas of high animal population.
16. If you see an animal hit by a boat, note the location and report it immediately to your local wildlife commission.
17. When docking or beaching, look for evidence of turtles, birds, alligators and other animals along shore.
18. Avoid docking or beaching where plants such as reeds, grasses and mangroves are located. These essential plants control erosion and provide a nursery ground for many small animals and fish.
19. Be aware of the endangered species that are found in your riding area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for listing the hundreds of species in decline.
20. Wash off your boat after you use it to prevent the spread of exotic plants to other lakes and rivers. Exotics have no natural enemies and spread easily, killing off native species and decreasing important plant and animal diversity.

Code Enforcement: Issues & Updates

By Mark A. Davis

For Code Enforcement Questions, contact Mark Davis, Code Enforcement Officer and/or Terry Dillon, Assistant Code Enforcement Officer at Town Hall – 727-391-3875.

Code Enforcement Mission Statement: To insure a safe, healthful environment consistent with the community needs and Town codes while striving for voluntary compliance and public awareness.



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

Most Code Violations are related to vehicles and overgrown property, to name a few. Code enforcement is an integral part of community policing as it protects local property values and helps to build cleaner, safer communities. The Code Enforcement Division is dedicated to improving the quality of life of our residents by enforcing ordinances and laws of the community and state.

SHORT TERM RENTALS continue to exist in Redington Beach, even with all the attention it has been getting this past year. Enforcing the Town's short term rental zoning ordinance is keeping Code Enforcement very busy these days. It seems more and more property owners that do rent, claim to allow family and friends to occupy their homes at no charge, therefore they are not renting and violating the zoning ordinance. This is not the case.

A "rental" is an agreement between an owner or landlord, and a tenant(s) who are not only paying renters, but also family, friends, and guests. Therefore, the town considers short term rentals to family, friends, and guests who do not exchange anything of value to receive a right of use or access to the property to be an impermissible transient use, and therefore a zoning ordinance violation under the Town of Redington Beach Codes.

Reminder:

- Lawns and weeds exceeding 12" in height on residential properties are considered excessive growth. This is applicable to all residential and commercial properties, developed and non developed.
- All boats and or recreational vehicles may not be parked on any residential street or right of ways.
- Utility trailers and commercial vehicles are prohibited from parking in Redington Beach, unless they are parked in an enclosed carport or garage, completely out of the view of the public.
- All vehicles must be operable and have a valid tag and registration that is current.
- Don't forget the Department of Environmental Protection has made it mandatory to de-chlorinize any swimming pool water prior to discharging it into the environment. This can be accomplished by not adding any chemicals for at least 48 hours or by adding a neutralizer such as sodium thiosulfate, which can be purchased at your local pool supply store if you need to drain your pool in a hurry, or can't wait the 48 hours required for neutralization.
- Landscaping debris, leaves, grass clippings, and sediment **MUST** be recycled, composted, or disposed of properly. They should **NOT** be hosed, swept or blown into a storm water drain for disposal. This is an ordinance of the Town as well as state and federal "Clean Water Act" regulations.

WHAT DOES A CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER DO?

DID YOU KNOW:

Many times I have been asked "What does a code enforcement officer do?" Code enforcement personnel enforce local laws and ordinances and some state and federal regulations as well. We enforce property use regulations, zoning regulations, state statutes, and other community regulations that preserve the quality of life, property values, and overall economic viability of our community for those who live here, play here, and visit here. We enforce these regulations to protect the community from health, safety, and welfare issues, we enforce those codes and ordinances that reflect the personality and goals of our community from blight and we strive to serve our community

professionally with empathy and unwavering dedication even though we are verbally abused and put ourselves in harms way many times. To many, we are looked at as the enemy, while in reality we are doing a job that is necessary but very few respect. We must be experts in the interpretation of ordinances and their intent. Code enforcement officers must be able to educate citizens, to motivate them so that they understand and comply. We must be able to give guidance and to direct. We are required to deal with touchy, hot buttons issues that require tact, firmness, and resoluteness as a sworn code enforcement officer. It's a demanding position by reason of the fact that residents do not like to be told that they are not in compliance with the town's laws. At times we act as social workers while helping with solutions. When all else fails, we must be "the bad guy" and issue citations, fines, and mandatory court appearances, so that action is finally taken in achieving compliance. We go through a myriad of documents, researching and examining our cases, assembling them and having them ready for examination, review and presentation while giving testimony under oath at a trial or hearing when contested and challenged.

Our training is never done. We are required to train in fundamentals of code enforcement, administrative aspects, legal issues, and officer safety. We must take examinations and be able to pass them in order to become a fully certified officer. We also must obtain continued education in order to keep our certifications that we have worked so hard to accomplish. We must also track down missing property owners, have liens placed on properties the town has had to maintain, and consult with various attorneys.

The tasks that we perform are too many to explain in this quarterly newsletter, but I hope I have at least educated a few.

I have always heard that stress is good for you, but I sometimes have to wonder just how much.

Mark A. Davis, DPW

Certified Senior Code Enforcement Officer.



Work has started on the Firehouse?

SEA TURTLE NESTING SEASON

As many of you are already aware, sea turtle nesting season is here, through October. Each year, beginning in May, loggerhead sea turtles make their way back to the original beaches where they began their lives to lay their eggs. Due to the loss of habitat and development, these magnificent creatures struggle to maintain their existence. Without a helping hand from us humans, another animal species would more than likely vanish forever. Laws have been put in place to help with their survival and continued existence. Below are some guidelines to familiarize yourself with which are also Town ordinance if you live on the gulf.

- Existing artificial light sources shall be repositioned, modified, or replaced with modern alternatives so that only deflected light may be visible at ground level from the beach and/or does not directly illuminate areas seaward of the seawall.
- Publicly owned lighting: Street lights and lighting at publicly owned beach access areas shall comply with the following: 1. Whenever possible, street lights shall be located so that they will not illuminate the beach; and 2. Lights at public beach access points shall be shielded.

VIOLATIONS: Violations of the article shall be punishable as provided in Section 2001-01 of this code. Further, in addition to criminal penalties provided, the town commission is hereby authorized to institute any appropriate action or proceeding, including a suit for injunctive relief, in order to prevent or abate violations or abate violations of this section.

The following are new ordinances the Town Commission has passed in 2009. They are available on the Town's website at www.townofredingtonbeach.com or at municode.com

Ordinance 09-01:	Amending Chapter 12, Nuisances, Abandoned Property
Ordinance 09-02:	Amending Chapter 21, Section 21-33 Resident Parking
Ordinance 09-03:	Amending Chapter 6, Section 6-281
Ordinance 09-04:	Amending Chapter 5, Boats, Docks & Waterways
Ordinance 09-05:	Amending Chapter 18, Solid Waste Collection
Ordinance 09-06:	Amending Chapter 6, Swimming Pools
Ordinance 09-07:	Amending Chapter 12, Nuisances

Basic Services:

Police: Pinellas County Sheriff	Electric: Progress Energy	727-443-2641
Non Emergency.....727-582-6200	Pinellas County Water & Sewer	727-464-4000
Fire: Non Emergency.....727-391-3400	Cable: Brighthouse	727-329-5020
	Clearwater Gas:	727-699-1958
Police & Fire EMERGENCY ONLY: 911	Garbage: Waste Services	727-572-6800

E-Mail Addresses

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