



Palm Beach Shores News

Volume 27, Issue 3

JUNE / JULY 2014

JUNE

- 3 VFD Regular Meeting 7:30 pm
- 4 Development Review Committee 2 pm
- 5 Bookmobile 10—11 am
- 10 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 pm
- 12 Bookmobile 10—11 am
- 15 Happy Father's Day!
- 16 Regular Commission Meeting 7 pm
- 18 CESM 2 pm (tentative)
- 19 Bookmobile 10—11 am
- 22 ABC Safe Boating Class 8—6
- 24 Planning & Zoning Board Meeting 7 pm
- 26 Bookmobile 10—11 am

JULY

- 1 Non-resident Beach parking sales start
- 1 VFD Regular Meeting 7:30 pm
- 2 Development Review Committee 2 pm
- 3 Bookmobile 10—11 am
- 4 TOWN HALL CLOSED — 4TH OF JULY
- 10 Bookmobile 10—11 am
- 15 Bookmobile 10—11 am
- 16 CESM 2 pm (tentative)
- 20 ABC Safe Boating Class 8—6
- 21 Regular Commission Meeting 7 pm
- 22 Planning & Zoning Meeting 7 pm
- 24 Bookmobile 10—11 am
- 31 Bookmobile 10—11 am

Dear neighbors,

As summer quickly approaches on June 21, our seasonal neighbors have since retreated to cooler temps somewhere up north and our year round residents are hopefully under a cool umbrella somewhere along our beach.

Summer, however, is not a slow time for Town Hall. The pace actually picks up! Apart from the difficult and detailed work of preparing the town's budget for next year, it is also a time to catch up on larger projects around town. With the recent hire of Carlos Cano (see the Public Works article for an introduction to Carlos), our Public Works Department has returned to a full complement of staff and has a large number of town projects that it plans to complete before the Fall. One of these projects includes the relocation of our fire department's bunk house to our town hall complex. For some time, the Town has had the privilege of using one of the homes in town owned by the Sailfish Marina to house our volunteer fire fighters. The Sailfish Marina has been very generous to the town and has only asked for the annual property cost to be covered. We are grateful for the Sailfish Marina's kindness. This arrangement has allowed the town to increase its level of service and safety to you as a resident by having two certified firefighters in town 24/7.

In an effort to increase our response time to 911 fire/medical calls, the decision was made to relocate our fire-fighter housing to town hall. The building located on the back of our town hall property known as our "Police Annex" will be converted for use by our fire department. The building currently contains three small rooms, a common area, and restroom with a shower. This facility will house the fire chief's office, two "bunk" rooms, and a common area "day room." The former fire department day room and fire chief's office is being renovated for use by our police department. Again, this move and renovation will not only decrease annual fire expenses but greatly improve response time for our firefighters during evening and early morning hours.

Enjoy your summer! Stay cool and stay informed of town business throughout the summer via the town's website.

Sincerely,
John Workman, Mayor



BEWARE THE GREEN DOT SCAM

This con begins with a phone call from individuals who say that they represent a government agency or a utility company and then ask potential victims to make payments over the phone using a Green Dot card. A Green Dot card is a reloadable debit card, similar to a gift card.

Financial criminals use computer programs that override caller ID so the names of the utilities or government agencies that they falsely claim to represent appear on the caller ID of the victim.

The crook tells a victim that he or she owes money to an agency or company and if payment is not made immediately, additional fines or penalties will be assessed or services discontinued or a relative will be arrested or deported. Sometimes they claim an injured relative needs payment for medical treatment.

The victim then goes to the store and purchases a Green Dot card for a prearranged amount, calls the crook back and provides the criminal with the card number and PIN number from the Green Dot card. The perpetrator then uses the information to remove the money from the Green Dot card, defrauding the victim.

Don't be fooled. Remember that NO government agency or utility solicits payment in this manner. Should you receive a call, make a note of the number, hang up and call us at the Police Department.

Police Chief Duncan Young



Warmer weather brings with it thoughts of ocean breezes, napping in a hammock and sipping a tall glass of lemonade. Now hold on to that mental image and realize it is also time to be wary of dehydration: the lack of sufficient water in the body. Water is important to the body at all times, but especially in warm weather. It keeps the body from overheating. When you exercise, your muscles generate heat. To keep from burning you up, the body needs to get rid of that heat. The main way the body discards heat is through sweat. As sweat evaporates, it cools the tissue beneath. Lots of sweating reduces the body's water level, and this loss of fluid can result in dehydration.

Signs of dehydration include:

- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Flushed skin
- Dry cough
- Heat intolerance
- Becoming light headed
- Dark colored urine

The best way to beat dehydration is to drink water before you get thirsty. If you wait until after you're thirsty, you're already dehydrated. Try to drink 16 to 20 ounces of water one to two hours before an outdoor activity. After that you should consume 6 to 12 ounces every 10 to 15 minutes that you are outside. And don't forget after the activity you should drink more water. To replace what you have lost at least have another 16 to 24 ounces.

Also, some beverages can pull water from the body and actually promote dehydration. Alcoholic and caffeinated beverages such as coffee, tea, and colas are not recommended for optimal hydration.

Some tips to keep your outdoor activities fun and inviting, without any negative effects.

Respectfully,
Randy Walker, Fire Chief

MEET CARLOS!

The Public Works Department is pleased to introduce the latest member of their team, Carlos Cano.



Carlos relocated to Florida from Georgia with his wife and five children, four boys and one girl. He has fifteen years of experience with building and grounds maintenance, along with all the necessary skills to be a wonderful addition to our staff.

Wishing him a long and happy career with the Town!

Thank you
Public Works Director Alan Welch

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Commission is seeking volunteers to serve on a Charter Review Committee to perform a comprehensive review of the Town Charter. The Town Charter was adopted in 1951 and is the basic document that defines the organization, powers, regulatory functions and essential procedures of the Town government; it is comparable to the Constitution of the United States or a state's constitution, therefore the most important document of the Town.

The Commission will appoint a five member committee to review the entire Charter and present progress reports to the Commission from time-to-time. The committee would prepare a draft report of proposed revisions and possible ballot questions, and present their recommendations to the Town Commission. Any change to the Town Charter requires a voter referendum which the Commission would anticipate placing on the November, 2015 ballot.

This is an extremely important responsibility and one which requires total objectivity in considering what changes, if any, should be made to the Town Charter. Please submit your letter of interest to Town Clerk Evyonne Browning no later than Monday, June 11th.

GET TO KNOW YOUR GOVERNMENT

This is the second article dedicated to providing information about how our government operates. I received feedback from several residents that said they found the first article about code enforcement very helpful, so hopefully you'll garner useful information from this article as well.

The Town **budget process** and timeline are dictated by outside governmental agencies, the most important of which is the Property Appraiser. Our fiscal year runs from October 1st through September 30th. Although we are working on various aspects of managing the budget all year, the real planning begins when we get our first glimpse of what our property values and corresponding revenue will be. Property taxes make up approximately 82% of our annual revenue. There are also many moving parts that we have to also wait on for other sources of our revenue, i.e. franchise fees, state revenue sharing, ½ cent sales tax, local option gas tax, communications tax, etc.

Over the years we have altered our budget process, mostly out of necessity because of the challenges we have faced for five years of declining revenue. When property values were high and rising, budgeting was easy...there were no worries about how we would fund operations and the task at hand was to prioritize capital needs to best allocate resources. Those were the easy times. The past five years have been totally different as we found ways to "slice and dice" our budget to the bare bones with the current year being the first significant allocation for capital projects that were **necessities**. Although most municipalities are seeing a significant increase in property values this year, we are lagging at the bottom as the very lowest estimated increase of 1.15% which equals approximately \$35,000 in a \$4 million budget (which has been our approximate total budget since 2008.)

Below I have listed the key elements that determine our budget timeline as dictated by outside agencies:

- End of April - First property value estimates distributed to Town/ City Managers
- June 1st – Letter from Property Appraiser with assessed values
- June to July – Budget workshops (broken down Revenue, Capital, Personnel & Operations)
- Late June – State Revenue estimates
- July 1st – Final assessed values from Property Appraiser
- End of July - Town sets tentative millage rate (this is not the final millage; it can be reduced but NOT raised)
- July to August – Workshops to adjust and finalize budget as necessary
- September – 2 Required Public Budget Hearings

All detailed information and discussions take place during the budget workshops; the public hearings in September are merely the formal adoption of the budget as required by law. The entire process takes place in public meetings which residents are ENCOURAGED to attend. If you are not able to attend (specifically the seasonal residents), all information can be found on the website prior to the meetings and you are encouraged to weigh in by contacting staff or commissioners throughout the process.

Cindy Lindskoog, Town Manager

NEWS FROM YOUR TOWN CLERK!

I cannot believe how time has flown! June 6th will mark 6 months for me as your Town Clerk! I feel truly blessed every day when I come across the bridge to work and realize I get to spend my day here! Heck, who needs Wall Street or Time Square!

As a quick note, the sewer service bills have been mailed, all 511 of them! The payments have been coming in, so thank you to those who have already paid. Please let this be a reminder to those who have not sent in your payment to do so as soon as possible. Also, if for some reason you have not received your bill, please call Town Hall at 561-844-3457 so we can assist you with a duplicate!

The Town Manager and I are starting a process for several different initiatives to help make life in the Town run more efficiently. The first initiative is to ensure everyone is compliant with the Town's code concerning house numbers. The Code states under **Building and Building Regulations, Sec. 14-107. Numerical street addresses required; single-family residential and other. (a) Numerical street address required – Single-family residential:**

“Single-family residential dwellings shall display address numerals at least three (3) to six (6) inches high of a color contrasting with the background (ex. black and white); which numerals shall be placed directly above or beside the principal entrance into the dwelling. The entrance must be easily visible from the street. If the entrance is not visible from the street, numerals shall be displayed either on a placard or mailbox near the access road to the property (driveway) in a manner which is visible in both directions.”

A “friendly” letter is being drafted to those dwellings not currently in compliance with the code. The purpose of the code is for Town personnel to easily and quickly identify your residence in case of an emergency. As you know, seconds count in emergency situations so it is crucial that your address is quickly identifiable. If you receive a letter to this effect, please bring your residence into compliance as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please give me a call at Town Hall. This will be an on-going process, until we have assessed all residences.

As always, I am here to help you in any way I can! To those of you who are leaving, or have left for the summer, enjoy your time away! But, be sure to think of us down here in the beautiful sunshine in Palm Beach Shores, and we will look forward to seeing you when you return!

Most Sincerely,
Evyonne Browning, Town Clerk

The PBS St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee is pleased to announce that through your continued support we were able to contribute to the following organizations:

PBS Volunteer Fire Dept / PBS Ladies Auxiliary
PBS Mayor's Youth Council / PBS Seasideers
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Dept

☘ Amara Shrine Temple / Lake Park VFW Post 9610 ☘
Hospice of Palm Beach County

The PBS St. Patrick's Day Committee thanks the many dedicated volunteers who made this 25th Annual parade so successful. We are always in need of additional volunteers. If you are interested in participating, look for more information in the fall newsletter.

WRITE: If you have any concerns you can write your Commission at the following email addresses:

Mayor John M. Workman
jworkman@pbstownhall.org
Vice Mayor Myra Koutzen
mkoutzen@pbstownhall.org
Commissioner Lisa A. Tropepe
ltropepe@pbstownhall.org
Commissioner Roby DeReuil
rdereuil@pbstownhall.org
Commissioner Thomas R. Sullivan
tsullivan@pbstownhall.org

You can also write or call:

247 Edwards Lane, 844-3457 or
e-mail to: townhall@pbstownhall.org
or visit our website at:
palmbeachshoresfl.us



SEASIDERS NEWS

It has been a wonderful season for the Seasideers. We have had many interesting trips and programs and they have been fun times for all.

On the serious side we have raised more than \$15,000 dollars for area charities. That is really impressive!

If you are interested in making new friends as well as in joining in all these activities call Joan Reilly at 863-3474. You'll be glad that you did. Have a wonderful summer and all you Snow Birds hurry back. You are missed.

TOWN OF PALM BEACH SHORES FLOOD FACTS

It is important for all residents to know that they can pick up a pamphlet at Town Hall with important info regarding the risk of floods in Palm Beach Shores, or go to:

FloodSmart.gov

Hello from your POA President

Our final event of the season was a big success. Every year we hire a boat to take some of our members over to watch the Sunfest fireworks from the water. The fireworks were spectacular this year and everyone had a great time.

We are busy planning next year's schedule. Our first Community meeting will be on Monday, November 10. If you have an idea for a speaker who you think will be of interest to our members, please email me at MKoutzen@gmail.com. Wishing you all a happy and healthy summer.

Myra Koutzen



Town of Palm Beach Shores
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