

1. Discussion Objective:

Work Session Date: Sep. 2, 2014

Town Newsletter

2. Submitter of Information:

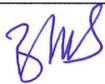
- Council
- Town Staff
- Town Attorney

3. Estimated Time for this item:

30 minutes

5. Background:

Town Council has expressed an interest in the production and distribution of a Town Newsletter. Town staff has produced a draft copy of the newsletter for Council review and discussion.

Town Manager	Town Attorney	Finance Director	Public Works Director	Community Development Director	Parks & Recreation Director	Town Clerk
						



NEWSLETTER

September 2014 Volume 1, Issue 1

RED DRIFT ALGAE ON FORT MYERS BEACH



Pictured above: Red Drift Algae on Fort Myers Beach on August 14, 2014

The Town of Fort Myers Beach works very hard to maintain a safe and clean environment for our residents and visitors alike. No matter how hard we work, some events are difficult to clean up after and manage. For example, our Public Works staff spends many hours every year cleaning up after people who leave trash all over the beach after celebrations like the 4th of July and New Year's Eve. Our Public Works staff is also the first to respond to unforeseen events such as storms and algae washing up onto our beach. Cleaning up after people is often easier since we can anticipate when and where the trash will be left on the beach and what we have to do to clean it up. Cleaning up after algae wash up events (called "strandings") is far more difficult since we have to balance many factors including tides, waves, beach stability, the type of algae, and environmental protection.

Fort Myers Beach and Sanibel are still feeling the effects of the rainy season from 2013. Last summer, extraordinary rains pushed enormous amounts of fresh water and nutrients from the Caloosahatchee River watershed and from Lake Okeechobee. Not all of these nutrients washed away with the tides and some lingers in our local waters.

Continued on page 2...

PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT UPDATES

There are many projects underway for the Town of Fort Myers Beach. Below is a list of current and future projects.

2014 Waterline Replacement Project

The reFRESH waterlines program is a replacement of existing water mains with a new, more efficient water main system. Construction will begin in the Bay Beach Lane and Laguna Shores Area in Summer 2014 upon council approval on August 18th 2014. Bay Beach Lane improvements include adding a 12-inch water main parallel to the existing 10-inch water main (Bay Beach Lane only) to improve area water pressure and circulation.



Continued on page 2...

IN THIS ISSUE:

Red Drift Algae	pgs. 1-2
Public Works Project Updates	pgs. 1-2
Sea Turtle Nesting	pg. 3
Community Development Leader	pg. 3
Town Council	pgs. 4-6
Town Manager	pg. 6
Public Records	pg. 7
Hurricane Season Preparedness	pg. 8

Special Points of Interest

Bay Oaks Recreation Center currently offers 7 classes at 19 different times to keep you

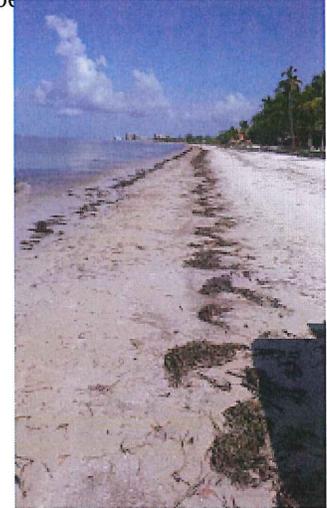
The Town has 11 public beach accesses to the Bay and 25 public beach accesses.

RED ALGAE ON FORT MYERS BEACH CONT.

These nutrients act like fertilizer and fuel algae growth (this is the reason local governments have very tight restrictions on fertilizer use). As this algae grows, it occasionally breaks off and moves with the tides and waves “drifting” along the bottom like a tumbleweed unless it reaches something that stops its progress like a beach. If the tides and waves don’t pull it back out to the Gulf, then it becomes a “stranding” event. Town staff monitors our beach daily and often on multiple tidal cycles and note when and where anything including wrack and trash wash up on the beach.

It is important to realize that algae, shells, and other natural materials washing onto to our beach are normal and helpful to our beach and is called the wrack line. The wrack line contains nutrients that help dune vegetation grow and hold sand on the beach. The wrack line also has inorganic parts that break down and helps form and build the sugar white sand we treasure here on Fort Myers Beach. Wracks lines also form a unique ecological community on the beach. This community is important to migratory birds such as the Red Knot as feeding areas. Globally, Red Knot populations have plummeted more than 70% over the past 30 years and their annual migrations from Argentina to the Arctic Circle are partially fueled by these feeding stopovers in wrack lines.

When our staff monitors wrack lines and stranding events, we have to keep in mind that a normal wrack line is important, however, we also realize that too much wrack can be unsightly and well, smelly. If the wrack gets too thick and begins to become an aesthetic issue, then we begin to analyze the wrack. With input from research scientists at the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation and coordination with the City of Sanibel, we can often identify the type of algae and have a better understanding and where it came from and what to expect.



For example, the latest stranding occurred 2 weeks ago when red drift algae began to strand in the center of the island. This algae was most obvious at low tides when the receding water left it on the beach. This event was also characterized by two driving factors; waves and tides. There was very little wave action that week so the algae never really moved. We also had our very high and low “spring” tides which revealed more of the beach on low tides making the situation appear worse than it was. On high tides there was very little algae on the beach at all. We also found that the algae was spread very thin and if we had attempted to remove it we would have removed tons of sand. We don’t want to damage the beach which is our most important natural resource while attempting to clean algae. As it turns out the event from two weeks ago resolved itself naturally as waves push much of the algae offshore and what remained on the beach quickly bleached and broke down. However, if the algae had piled up, our Public Works Department would have acted to remove as much as possible in a manner that does not harm the beach.

We will continue to monitor beach conditions and will act whenever algae strandings reach excessive levels. When we do act it will be with the utmost care to maintain the natural beauty of our beaches. Protection of the environment, beaches, sea turtles, and shorebirds are a priority and we and our goal is to balance this protection with a beautiful, visitor friendly beach which is why we limit beach raking and always seek to protect our wrack line.

If you have questions about wrack, sea turtles, shorebirds, or management of our beaches please contact the Town’s Environmental Sciences Coordinator, Keith Laakkonen at 239-765-0202 ext. 136 or at Keith@FortMyersBeachFL.gov

PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT UPDATES CONTINUED

...Continued from page 1

Estero Boulevard Improvement Project

Two major goals of this project include improving safety for all users (motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians), and improving the drainage on Estero Boulevard. Future phases of the project will reconstruct Estero Boulevard in approximately one-mile segments continuing to the south as funding becomes available. Construction of the first segment is expected to begin in early 2015. For current updates on the project, please go to <http://www.leegov.com/gov/dept/dot/projects/Pages/EsteroBoulevard.aspx>

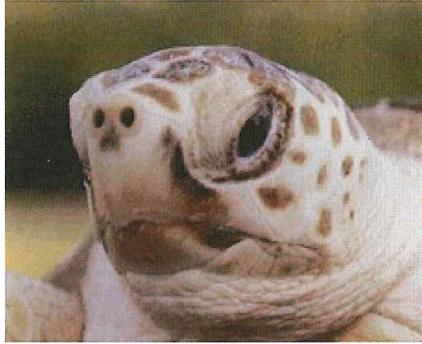
Delmar Proposed Passive Park

Public Works Director and Environmental Sciences Coordinator met with DEP to discuss mangrove trimming. The Environmental Sciences Coordinator has been meeting with neighbors of the Delmar area for their input on the project. Public Works has begun improving the Delmar area for the proposed Passive Park.

SEA TURTLE NESTING SEASON IS HERE!

On a natural beach, the lighter seaward horizon guides sea turtle hatchlings to the water. Artificial lights, however, confuse the hatchlings and they wander inland. Lost and disoriented, they soon die from dehydration, heat exhaustion or they are crushed on nearby streets. Lee County itself contains over 40 miles of beach habitat suitable for sea turtle nesting. In an effort to help this threatened species survive, The Town of Fort Myers Beach has adopted and does enforce Sea Turtle Conservation Codes.

The Town of Fort Myers Beach and the State of Florida regulate lighting on the beach during turtle nesting season. The Environmental Sciences staff at Town Hall is available to meet on-site to discuss lighting problems and how to correct them or help select new turtle friendly fixtures. Also contact us for additional sea turtle brochures and other education material for your own information and to give to your guests.



**May 1 through October 31,
residents and property
owners must shield all
lights that can be seen from
the beach from 9pm to 7am.**



How Can You Help?

Lights may not directly or indirectly illuminate the beach. Even reflected light can disorient sea turtles. Interior lights can also illuminate the beach. Please close curtains or blinds after 9pm.

Lights visible from the beach alters the critical nocturnal behavior of sea turtles: how female sea turtles choose their nesting sites, how they return to the sea after nesting, and how the newly emerged hatchlings find their way to the ocean.

Motorized vehicles and open fires are not allowed on the beach during the sea turtle nesting season.

For information about Town regulations, please contact Environmental Sciences at 239-765-0202, ext 136.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LEADER ANNOUNCED

The Community Development Department administers and enforces zoning and land development regulations, building regulations, coastal and flood regulations, and local environmental standards, to encourage and promote in accordance with present and future needs the safety, health, order, convenience, prosperity, and general welfare of the citizens of the Town of Fort Myers Beach, and to recognize and promote real property rights.

The Department also provides staff support to the Town Council for land development regulation matters and other matters as assigned, and to the Local Planning Agency and Historic Preservation Board.

Belinda Smith has been designated as the lead person for community development. Belinda is a seasoned manager with a broad understanding of community development issues.

The lead position means that she has assumed the duties and responsibilities of the community development director.



YOUR TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor Anita Cereceda



Phone: (239) 765-0202 ext. 122
Anita@Fortmyersbeachfl.gov

A native southwest Floridian, Anita Cereceda was the inaugural Mayor for the Town of Ft. Myers Beach. She served on council from 1995-2000 and was elected to council again on March 11, 2014.

Anita studied Philosophy and Theatre at the Florida State University and returned to Ft. Myers Beach in 1988 to help her parents with the family business. Anita is the owner of The Pier Peddler and Local Color in Times Square at the north end of the island.

Anita's involvement in the community most recently has been through the Fort Myers Beach Community Foundation, a volunteer not for profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life on Ft. Myers Beach and surrounding areas.

Anita will represent the Town as a member of the Southwest Regional Planning Organization and as liaison to CELCAB, an advisory committee to the council focusing on the Mound House and Newton Park.

Vice Mayor Dan Andre



Phone: (239) 765-0202 ext. 120
Andre@Fortmyersbeachfl.gov

Dan and his wife Tree moved to Fort Myers Beach in 2008 from Alexandria, Virginia and opened the Mango Street Inn.

He has served as the Vice Chairman of the Marine Resources Task Force and recently a member of the Local Planning Agency. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Friends of Matanzas Pass Preserve.

Dan has spent his entire career in the hospitality business. He has designed and built many restaurants in Florida, Georgia, Tennessee and Virginia. He and Tree have also owned and operated restaurants in Virginia, Tennessee and on Ambergris Caye, Belize.

Education includes Environmental Marine Biology, University of West Florida and Business Administration, Tampa College. Dan is also a licensed fishing charter captain.

YOUR TOWN COUNCIL

Councilmember Summer Stockton



Phone: (239) 765-0202 ext. 124
Summer@Fortmyersbeachfl.gov

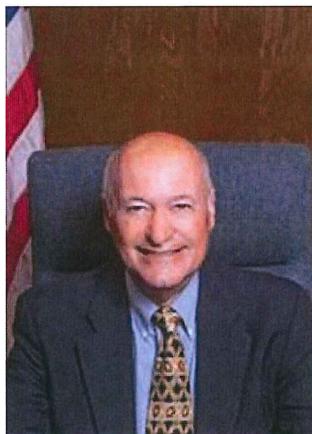
Summer Stockton, born in California, was raised here on Fort Myers Beach since she was five years old. She is a local business owner and a homeowner here on the beach.

She is a team player and has participated in competitive sports and community activities her entire life. Summer graduated Summa Cum Laude at Florida Gulf Coast University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Forensic Studies. Shortly thereafter, she was hired by the State of Florida Department of Juvenile Justice as a Juvenile Probation Officer and remained there until 2007 when she decided to focus more on her business.

As a Town Councilwoman, she says her primary mission is to sensibly handle necessary changes without compromising our small town character. She believes, what has made this town so unique in the past is what will keep this town alive and thriving in the future. Prior to serving on Town Council she volunteered as a member of Bay Oaks Recreation Campus Advisory Board (BORCAB). She is strongly supportive of meeting the needs of our children and has a high interest in enriching the lives of our senior citizens through the Bay Oaks Social Seniors group.

For relaxation, Summer spends quality time with her dogs and working in her garden. She is also an avid runner and trains for 5k, 10k and half marathons. In 2012, she came in first place for her age group during the Shrimp Festival run. Additionally, she enjoys spending time on the water: boating, kayaking, and paddle boarding.

Councilmember Alan Mandel



Phone: (239) 765-0202 ext. 121
Alan@Fortmyersbeachfl.gov

Alan Mandel has a Master's in Business Administration degree from Columbia University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Alfred University. At Jacobson Stores, Alan had 27 years of management experience. As Vice President and Group Manager of Stores, Alan was responsible for strategic and tactical planning; developing and meeting operating budgets; and managing 10 direct reports and 1500 associates. Alan served on the Board of Jacobson Stores Realty Corporation. Alan was previously at Corning Glass Works for seven years in various sales and marketing positions.

Alan's concern for and commitment to the present and future Fort Myers Beach quality of life was demonstrated by his service on the Land Planning Agency, the Management and Planning committee, and as Chair of both the Ad Hoc Water Utility and Fertilizer Ordinance committees. Alan and his wife Carla purchased their condo on Fort Myers Beach in 1982 and became year round residents in 2000. Alan and Carla enjoy boating, jogging, tennis and walking the beach

YOUR TOWN COUNCIL

Councilmember Rexann Hosafros



Rexann Hosafros is a former high school teacher who decided to attend law school. She practiced law and was a family court Magistrate in Ohio. Besides serving on council, she also works at the Fort Myers Beach Library. Rexann enjoys reading and kayaking in her spare time.

Phone: (239) 765-0202 ext. 123
Rexann@Fortmyersbeachfl.gov

THE TOWN MANAGER

What is the role of the Town Manager?

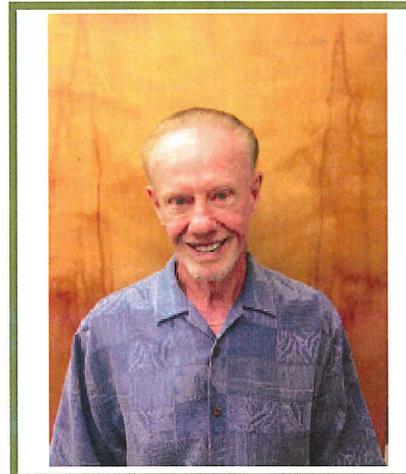
The Town Manager, as appointed by the Town Council, is responsible for:

- The implementation and enforcement of policies and ordinances adopted by the Town Council
- Developing a Town government that represents the needs of the community and provides quality, cost-effective services to the public
- Acting as a conduit for individuals and groups to access the Town Council
- Recruitment and selection of Town employees
- The development of personnel policies
- Town compensation plan

Working closely with Department Directors, the Town Manager:

- Coordinates the provision of services to residents
- Works to improve intergovernmental relationships
- Asserts a leadership role in the community

“I’m excited to be here!”



**Town Manager
Mr. Donald D.
Stilwell**

Phone: (239) 765-0202 ext. 101
Email: don@fortmyersbeachfl.gov

FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE

Public Records

The State of Florida believes in openness and transparency in government; it is the policy of this state that all state, county, and municipal records are open for personal inspection and copying by any person. Access to public records is every Floridian's right and privilege. In 1909, the state legislature passed Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes known as "The Public Records Law". This law provides that any record made or received pursuant to law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business be open for inspection unless specifically exempt by law. Over the years, the definition of a public record has been refined to include all documents, papers, letters, maps, books, tapes, photographs, films, sound recordings, data procession software, or other material, regardless of the physical form, characteristics, or means of transmission.

By definition, voice mail, VoIP recordings, text and instant messages are public records if made or received in accordance with the law or with the official business of a public agency. Please note that a record is a public record if it is in accordance with the official business of the Town, so records of a personal nature, even though created or filed at Town Hall, are not subject to disclosure under the public records laws.

It is the job of the municipal clerk to manage the Town's records and permit the records to be inspected and copied by any person desiring to do so, at any reasonable time and under reasonable conditions. To request any public records, a person need only ask. Requests can be submitted by phone, fax, by e-mail, USMail, or in person.

You do not need to identify yourself, your reason for wanting the record or any other information. You are not required to submit your request in writing. All public records requests shall be acknowledged promptly and in good faith. You have the right to view the record(s) and are not required to purchase copies. If you do request copies, Florida statutes govern how much an agency may charge for records. Maximum Fees for copying public records are fifteen cents per one-sided legal size or smaller; twenty cents per two-sided legal or smaller; and one dollar per certified copy. For all other copies, agencies may charge the actual cost to the agency for duplicating the record. Depending on the nature of the request or the

record, responding to the request may require extensive research, retrieval or copying time. You may be charged an extensive use fee which is restricted to labor hours multiplied by the hourly wage of the person who normally would make copies, including any necessary supervisory assistance. The public has the right to receive an itemized invoice of proposed fees or fees charged.

Some public records contain confidential and exempt information. Agencies may not release information that is confidential by statute and are required to redact from a copy of the record that portion of the record to which an exemption has been asserted and validly applies. The remainder of the record shall then be produced for inspection and copying. Some examples of confidential and exempt information includes: social security numbers; bank account and credit card numbers; autopsy photographs; information identifying the person reporting abuse, abandonment, or neglect of a child; street addresses and telephone numbers of winners of the Florida lottery; grand jury proceedings, deliberation, or votes. Detailed information about statutory exemptions may be found under Florida Statute 119.071.

There are a variety of organizations and agencies that can assist both the public and government with public records issues or disputes. The First Amendment Foundation is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to protect and advance the public's constitutional right to open government by providing education and training, legal aid and information services. The Foundation operates a hotline for questions relate to public records and meetings. They can be reached at (800) 337-3518. The Brechner Center answers queries about media law from journalists, attorneys, and other members of the public. <http://www.brechner.org> You may contact the Brechner Center by calling (352) 392-2273. The Florida Attorney General's Office provides a mediation program to solve disputes between the public and government before they reach the courtroom. <http://myfloridalegal.com/sunshine>

**"YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO SUBMIT YOUR
REQUEST IN WRITING."**



Michelle D. Mayher Town Clerk

BE PREPARED FOR HURRICANE SEASON

Atlantic Hurricane Season Runs From June 1st To November 30th.

Tips from the Town's 'Hurricane Preparedness Guide for Our Citizens and Visitors'

Before A Storm:

1. Your Household Should Prepare An Emergency Plan- This plan should answer questions such as where to go in case of an evacuation, how you will get there, who will you notify. It should also contain a To-Do List of what needs to be done in order to protect yourself, your family & pets, your home, and your belongings.
2. Prepare a Disaster Kit- Whether you decide to stay in your home or evacuate, a disaster kit is always a good thing to have in case of emergencies. The kit should include water, food, a first aid kit, tools & other supplies, and clothing & bedding. You should also make a personalized list of special items you made need such as medications, items for children, and a whistle/air horn.
3. Make sure to have a plan and checklist for your pets!

After A Storm:

1. Keep listening to your local radio/television stations for information.
2. Drive only if it is absolutely necessary & avoid flooded areas.
3. Beware of downed power lines.
4. Don't drink or prepare food with tap water until you are certain it is not contaminated.
5. Have a plan in place to cope with power outages, no water, and no sewage.

*This guide can be found on the town's website. It should be printed and used to help prepare.

The Town of Fort Myers Beach uses the CODE RED notification system to warn residents, business owners, and property owners of emergencies, like hurricane evacuations or boil water notices. Emergency notifications will be sent three different ways: via a recorded message to a phone line, a text message to a cell phone, and/or a message to an email address. Residents, business owners, and property owners are encouraged to sign up with a home phone number, a cell phone number, and/or an email address.

To sign up for the Town of Fort Myers Beach Emergency Notification System, please following link located on the town's website and fill out the registration form.

CODE RED™
Emergency Communication Made Easy.



Fort Myers Beach issues Hurricane Re-Entry Passes to islanders and to island businesses. The purpose of these passes is to expedite re-entry to Estero Island once a mandatory evacuation order has been lifted. This service is provided to islanders free of charge, however registration and annual renewal is required. For more information, please contact town hall or the link below.

<http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov/index.aspx?nid=75>.



2523 Estero Boulevard
 Fort Myers Beach, Florida 33931
 Tel: 239-765-0202
 Fax: 239-765-0909
 E-mail: Evelyn@FortMyersBeachFL.gov

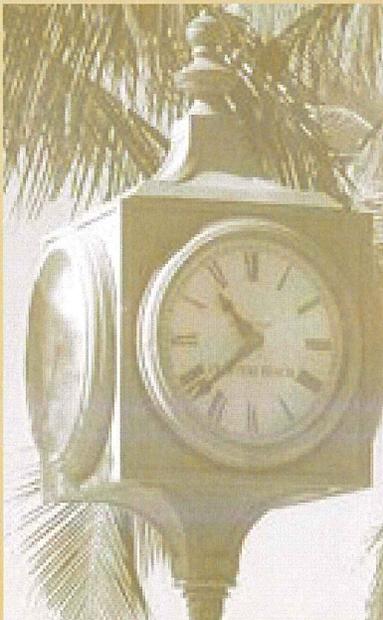
PLEASE AFFIX
 POSTAGE
 HERE

TOWN HALL

2523 ESTERO BOULEVARD

FORT MYERS BEACH, FL 33931

Visit us at
www.FortmyersbeachFL.gov



FORT MYERS BEACH FARMER'S MARKET

Fort Myers Beach Farmers Market has begun to prepare for another great season. Callers have been inquiring about the market opening date; the market will open November 7th, 2014 through April 25, 2015 from 7:30 am to 11:30 am. Local growers will have a display of fresh fruits and vegetables, pure honey, friendly faces, fresh bakeries and hot coffee to start your morning off. If that's not enough try some mouthwatering barbeque or fresh squeezed lemonade. So come out and join us in a friendly atmosphere you will be glad you did.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Bay Oaks Hours of Operation

Sunday: Closed
 Monday: 8am-9pm
 Tuesday: 8am-9pm
 Wednesday: 8am-9pm
 Thursday: 8am-9pm
 Friday: 8am-9pm
 Saturday: 8am-9pm

Beach Pool Hours of Operation

Sunday: 12pm-6pm
 Monday: 10am-6pm
 Tuesday: Closed
 Wednesday: 10am-6pm
 Thursday: Closed
 Friday: 10am-6pm
 Saturday: 10am-6pm

Mound House Tours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday: 9am-12pm
 *Last tour begins at 11:30am

