



Bay Harbor Islands

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Due to the economic conditions we are currently facing in our country, the turmoil in the job market and the downward trend in the sale of condominiums we are seeing a rising financial impact on condominium owners that is getting worse and as the problem increases we can all become victims of these tragic developments.

There are over 20,000 condominiums comprising 1,000,000 units in the State of Florida. The voting power of Florida owners of these units is obvious. This voting power could force the needed attention now to correct the current bank foreclosure procedures and collection restraints on Condo Associations. These limitations make it difficult or almost impossible to collect from delinquent unit owners who have abandoned their units or rented them to unsuspecting people not aware of the owner's obligation to pay these fees. Part of it is a combination of a lack of information and apathy by the residents of these units.

You are probably thinking, why get involved, it's none of our business. Not so, this condo problem could affect us all. It has the potential of increasing our taxes and affecting the overall appearance of these buildings, which are unable to maintain their code required building standards. It also hurts the dwellings in the surrounding area by degrading the whole areas appearance.

The remedy starts with the Condo owners. They should take the necessary steps to get involved in their condo by voting, attending meetings, finding out if water, sewer and other bills are past due, and participating any way they can in the business of the Association. Failure to recognize these obligations is tantamount to letting someone else use your assets without your input.

I recently attended, with our Town Manager, an informational briefing sponsored by our District Representative in the State Legislature Richard Steinberg. He acknowledged to me that last year nothing was done in the forum to ease the inequities in the bank foreclosure procedures or add ways to help the Condo Association leadership with rules that could help now not when the unit is sold again.

When maintenance/assessment fees are not being paid by the bank, the renters or the absentee owner, everyone suffers. Associations that cannot pay their water bills, sewage and ground maintenance allow the burden to be placed on the remaining owners. The Town becomes the "Bad Guy" by having no alternative but to turn the water off, administer fines or liens, which is not a satisfactory solution to the dilemma for the Town or the Condo.

The Town's government is working very hard to minimize the problem. You can help, act now contact your State Legislature Representative Richard Steinberg by mail at 767 Arthur Godfrey Road, Miami Beach, FL 33140 or by phone at 305-535-5445. Let him know we need help now.



Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season,

Ken

MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

Parking Will Improve in BHI With New Garage

We are pleased to announce that the new Bay Harbor Islands parking garage located between West Bay Harbor Drive and Bay Harbor Terrace will be open to the public on January 1, 2010. I know that this has been a very strenuous year when it comes to parking, but now with the opening of our garage we are confident that it will help alleviate our lack of parking and enhance our growing Business District.

In January, the new parking garage will only be open to patrons who purchase monthly parking decals at a cost of \$60 a month. Meter parking will be available beginning February 1 at a rate of \$1 an hour.

In January, we will also start selling decals for the newly designated Brown Lot located at 97th Street and West Bay Harbor Drive at a cost of \$50 a month. This parking lot will be by parking decal only.

We would like to thank you for your support and understanding in the past year and hope to continue working together in the future.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Regine Choute at (305) 866-6241.

Storytime at the Park

Storytime at the Park returns in January to entertain children and families at the Bay Harbor Islands' Tot Lot located at West Broadview Drive and 96th Street. Admission is free and the program will be held twice monthly on Fridays at 4 p.m. through May of 2010.

For more information, contact Town Hall at 305-866-6241 or visit www.bayharborislands.org.

- January 8: Magic and Stories with Merlina
- January 22: Carol's Puppets



BHI Finance Officer Recognized for Excellence



Alan Short

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the Town of Bay Harbor Islands Finance Officer, Alan K. Short. The award was presented by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada and recognized the the Town's comprehensive annual financial report.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

Seniors on the Go

Plan now to attend the following *Seniors on the Go* trips:

- Tuesday, January 5, 2010
Morikami Museum & Japanese Gardens, \$28
Includes tour and lunch.
- Wednesday, February 24, 2010
39 Steps at the Broward Center, \$42

For reservations, please contact Ruth Woods, 305-864-9580; Martha Astrella, 305-864-2086 or Bernice McKenney, 305-864-5854.

Super Clean-up Planned for Causeway



Bay Harbor Islands will be participating in the Miami-Dade Super Cleanup Day in preparation for Super Bowl visitors. This is a volunteer effort to assist in the north and south shoreline clean-up of trash and debris washed up on the Broad Causeway Island -- the "Gateway" to our community.

Please help us make Bay Harbor Islands beautiful by volunteering your time on Saturday, January 23, 2010. Call Douglas Armstrong, Assistant Public Works Director, at 305-866-6241 for details.

Mark Your Calendar!
Bay Harbor Islands 5K Run
SUNDAY, JAN. 10, 2010
Register online at active.com



Outdoor Movie Series
Returns in 2010

The Town of Bay Harbor Islands proudly presents the first film of the Town's Outdoor Movie Night, *Singing in the Rain*. The classic musical will be shown on Saturday, January 9 at 7 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. The films are shown at the open lot at 1177 Kane Concourse. Free parking is available. Here is the 2010 schedule:

- January 9: *Singing in the Rain*
- February 20: *Shrek*
- March 20: *Back to the Future*
- April 17: *March of the Penguins*
- May 22: *Funny Girl*

For information throughout the season contact Town Hall at 305-866-6241 or visit www.bayharborislands.org.



Movie night during last year's series.

Upcoming Town Meetings

The Town Council welcomes your attendance at meetings. To confirm all meeting dates and times, please contact the Town Clerk's Office at 305-866-6241. All meetings, unless regarding topics specifically exempt by state law, are open to the public.

- Planning and Zoning - Tuesday, Jan. 5 at 7 p.m.
- 4th Annual Bay Harbor Islands Run/Walk - Sunday, Jan. 10 at 8 a.m.
- Offices Closed - Monday Jan. 18 for Martin Luther King Day
- Regular Council Meeting - Monday, Jan. 11 at 7 p.m.
- Planning and Zoning - Tuesday, Jan. 19 at 7 p.m.

The following meeting dates are scheduled for various Committees and are open to the public. **Dates are subject to change**, therefore, please contact the Town Clerk's Office at 305-866-6241 for confirmation of the meeting date and time.

- Environmental Impact - TBA
- Parks & Recreation - Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m.
- Education - TBA
- Charter & Ordinance Review - Monday, Jan. 25 at 7 p.m.

The following future meeting dates are subject to change. Closer to the date, please contact the Town Clerk's Office or check the Town's website www.bayharborislands.org.

- Regular Council Meetings: February 8, March 8 and April 12
- Planning and Zoning Board Meetings: February 2 & 16, March 2 & 16 and April 6 (One meeting only due to Town election)
- Environmental Impact Committee - 1st Monday
- Parks & Recreation Committee - 2nd Tuesday
- Education Committee - 3rd Wednesday
- Charter & Ordinance Review Committee - 4th Monday
- Disaster Preparedness Committee - TBA

MEETING DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

At the time of printing of this newsletter, the topics listed below are anticipated for discussion or possible action at the Regular Town Council meeting of **January 11, 2010**. All items are subject to change.

- **Second** reading of a proposed ordinance changing the date of the 2010 Municipal Election and the qualifying dates.
- **Discussion** regarding proposed changes to Chapter 23, definitions, height of docks, and height, design, and construction method requirements for seawalls.

Kenneth Weinstein
Mayor

Ronald J. Wasson
Town Manager

Ileene S. Wallace
Vice Mayor

Marlene Marante
Town Clerk

Stephanie Bruder
Councilwoman

Craig B. Sherman
Town Attorney

Jordan W. Leonard
Councilman

Duncan W. Young
Chief of Police

Alberto Ruder
Councilman

Alan Short
Finance Director

Isaac Salver
Councilman

Robert H. Yaffe
Councilman



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For information or emergencies:

Town Hall: (305) 866-6241

Building Department: (305) 993-1786

Police: (305) 866-6242

Emergency: 911

www.bayharborislands.org

Highlights of the December 14 Council Meeting

- **Approved on second** reading Ordinance #894 amending Chapter 5 3/4 of the Town Code “Code Enforcement” to “Code Compliance” and making changes to comply with State law.
- **Approved on first** reading an ordinance changing the date of the 2010 Municipal Election and the qualifying dates.
- **Approved** Resolution #1103 opposing the proposed FPL increase.
- **Approved** Resolution #1104 banning Town employees from texting while driving Town vehicles.
- **Award** of contract for Project BHI-143, 92nd Street Park, to Tran Construction in the amount of \$326,357.20 including a \$50,000 contingency.
- **Approval** of Change Orders 26, 27, 28, and 29 totaling \$15,098.78 for the parking garage project.