



# Bay Harbor Islands

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NewsWaves

## A Message from the Mayor

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It's a very insecure world these days. We think we have a handle on everything going the way it's always been, without any sacrifices, but that is not going to happen. The recession in many ways has shattered the world we thought we knew. And, depending upon how long the downturn lasts will affect the cost to us all in tax dollars and the services our Town government will be able to provide.

We must recognize the need to make changes in the way we do business to make sure every dollar we use is essential now as well as planning to handle the future unknowns that will face our community's future operations.

I thought it would be helpful to describe in some detail the process the Council and Staff uses to maximize on staff expertise, lessons learned and outside agency's insight to cope with the fiscal crisis we will be facing. Our Town Manager, Finance Director and all Departments have already begun the arduous task in meeting the demands of trimming this year's budget.

The process begins with our Finance Director's in depth assessment of our needs.

Achieving a balanced budget proposal this year was extremely challenging. In addition to declining taxable values, most other revenues such as investment earnings, shared state tax revenues, utility taxes, and permit fees are declining or flat due to the difficult economic environment. On the expenditure side, we are expecting a dramatic increase in the cost of health insurance, and Miami-Dade County intends to substantially increase the costs we confront for water and sewage disposal. The need to minimize taxes and fees on the Town's residents must be balanced against demands for the provision of essential services and maintaining the Town's fiscal integrity.

Department heads were instructed to plan for 5% reductions in their operating budget, exclusive of personnel costs which are projected and budgeted by the Finance Department. The Finance Department also estimates revenues for the coming year. Once all the departmental budgets are submitted, they are combined with the payroll projections and revenue estimates. Each department head meets with the Town Manager in order to scrutinize each item in the budget with the goal of realizing additional savings. At that point, the overall outlines of the budget situation begin to emerge and this year it was becoming apparent that further cuts would be needed. The hiring guidelines put in place last year – filling any position vacancy must be specifically approved by the Town Manager – proved invaluable as there were four vacant positions that could be cut from the budget without laying anyone off. There will most likely be no across-the-board salary increase for Town employees in the coming year. In addition, most vehicle replacements will have to be cancelled, travel and conferences eliminated, the Town's bus service may be reduced, and support for community organizations and events reduced or eliminated. The Town Council will be faced with the difficult task of reviewing the many difficult choices needed to present a balanced budget proposal.

The conclusion we will draw from these efforts may not be pleasing to all, but rest assured we



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## Mayor's Message - Continued from page 1

will study and make sure every projected use counts to minimize the impact to services currently being provided. Here is one example of a current challenge we will be facing. We have recently been advised by our water and sewage treatment providers that our rates will increase by at least 20% and we will have no recourse but to meet their demands. We will need to seek ways to compensate for these additional costs internally. We must be ready for other tax increases by other government entities over which we have no control that impact on our revenues and services that can affect our quality of life.

Wise planning and conservation remains critical given the economic extremes and challenges of balancing what can be spent for this year's budget. We must look ahead to plan for the next crisis and minimize the impact of what we are facing today. The Council and Town Staff are pledged to meet this challenge and the needs of our community.

-Ken

## IN MEMORIAM

### Resident Charlie Meyer dies at 106

Bay Harbor Islands is sad to announce that long-time resident Charles Meyer passed away June 7. He would have been 107 years old in November. Charlie, as most of us knew him, was a graduate of the College of the City of New York (Phi Beta Kappa). He received an M.A. from Columbia University, L.L.B. and J.D. from the New York Law School and was admitted to the New York Bar in 1928. He never practiced, but chose to be a public school principal. He retired after 50 years of service – never missing a day of work.



He moved to Bay Harbor Islands in 1972 and became a dedicated member of the Concerned Citizens of Bay Harbor, where he also served as Vice-President. For his service to the Town, the Mayor and Council presented him an award *In Recognition of his Civic Pride and Selfless Efforts on Behalf of the Code Enforcement Program*

*of the Town of Bay Harbor Islands.*

Those who knew him will remember him as “the walker” as he walked around the Island every day for over 30 years. He fell a few years ago on one of those morning walks and his once extraordinarily good health gradually diminished.

His gentle manner, integrity, warmth, compassion, devotion and extraordinary intelligence will be missed by those who knew and loved him.

## Check Your Seawall Before Storm Arrives



*Proper seawall maintenance can prevent loss of property.*

Summer weather brings hurricanes, tropical storms and strong thunderstorms. Owners of waterfront property are reminded that lack of good seawall maintenance can result in the loss of your seawall and portions of your property during storms. Often the cause is deteriorated tieback rods, which can be checked by digging and making a visual inspection.

**Seawalls are the responsibility of the property owner, not the Town. Replacement is expensive and usually is not covered by insurance. As the saying goes, *An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.*** Contact the Building Department at 305-993-1786 for more information.

## Help Update Our Mailing List and Add E-mail Address

If you are not receiving *NewsWaves* or if you receive duplicate copies of the newsletter, please contact Town Hall to correct our mailing list and save on postage. If you have a friend or neighbor that would like to receive the newsletter, contact Town Hall at 305-866-6241 to include his or her address on our mailing list.

If you would like to receive the Town's newsletter by e-mail, please send us your e-mail address. We will be sending out the newsletters each month to residents who wish to receive it by e-mail. The file will be sent in portable document format (PDF) which is opened with Adobe Acrobat Reader, a free program that can be downloaded from [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com). Please contact Town Hall with your name, e-mail address and phone number to be included on the e-mail list. If you would like to be removed from the mailing list please let us know.

By eliminating the hard copy we will be able to get you the newsletter earlier and save money on postage and printing. The newsletter is also available for download on the Town's website at [www.bayharborislands.org](http://www.bayharborislands.org). By providing your email address to the Town, it becomes a public record and is subject to disclosure to anyone that requests it.

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## Resident Recognized for Book on BHI Architecture



Teri D'Amico receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Mayor Kenneth Weinstein.

Resident Teri D'Amico recently published a book on Bay Harbor Islands' Miami Modern architecture, known as "MiMo."



## Save Dollars By Saving Water



*Did you know the most common cause of high water bills are leaky faucets and toilets?*

Take a quick survey of your home faucets and toilets to ensure you are not wasting water while your dollars are going down the drain.

## Volunteer Needed for Education Committee

The Town is looking for a volunteer to fill a vacancy on the Education Committee. If you are interested in volunteering to serve, please submit a letter of interest and resume to the Town Clerk at [mmarante@bayharborislands.net](mailto:mmarante@bayharborislands.net). **Deadline to submit is August 24.** For more information contact Town Hall at 305-866-6241.

## 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, Aug. 4 at 7 p.m.
- Regular Council Meeting - Monday, Aug. 10 at 7 p.m.
- Planning and Zoning - Tuesday, Aug. 18 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 - Monday, Aug. 3 at 6:45 p.m.
- Parks & Recreation - Wednesday, Aug. 12 at 7 p.m.
- Education - Wednesday, Aug. 19 at 6:30 p.m.
- Charter & Ordinance Review - Monday, Aug. 24 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](http://www.bayharborislands.org).

- Regular Council Meetings: September 14, October 12 & November 9
- Planning and Zoning Board Meetings: September 1 & 15; October 6 & 20 and November 3 & 17
- Environmental Impact Committee - 1st Monday
- Parks & Recreation Committee - 2nd Wednesday
- 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 Council Meeting on **Monday, Aug. 10, 2009**. All items are subject to change.

- Second reading of a proposed Ordinance amending Section 17-20 of the Town Code with regard to the Sign Codes.
- Second reading of a proposed Ordinance amending Chapter 6 "Elections" of the Town Code to conform the existing Town Code provisions to applicable laws and recently adopted Charter amendments.
- Second reading of a proposed Ordinance amending Section 7 1/2 of the Town Code by expanding the definition of the term flood to include rising tidal or coastal water that is caused by severe storms.
- Discussion and possible action regarding the installation of new eight (8) inch water mains to be placed in the roadways in front of the interior dry lots in the north side of the West Island in connection to the Community Enhancements Phase II.

## Town Council

Kenneth Weinstein  
*Mayor*

Ileene S. Wallace  
*Vice Mayor*

Stephanie Bruder  
*Councilwoman*

Jordan W. Leonard  
*Councilman*

Alberto Ruder  
*Councilman*

Isaac Salver  
*Councilman*

Robert H. Yaffe  
*Councilman*

## Town Officials

Ronald J. Wasson  
*Town Manager*

Marlene Marante  
*Town Clerk*

Craig B. Sherman  
*Town Attorney*

Duncan W. Young  
*Chief of Police*

Alan Short  
*Finance Director*



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### For information or emergencies:

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Building Department: (305) 993-1786

Police: (305) 866-6242

**Emergency: 911**

[www.bayharborislands.org](http://www.bayharborislands.org)

## Highlights of the July 13 Council Meeting

- Approved payment of an emergency expense in the amount of \$20,419.00 for the purchase and installation of two coin sensors and two mini boards for lanes 2 and 5 at the Toll Plaza.
- Approved on first reading a proposed Ordinance amending Section 17-20 of the Town Code with regard to the Sign Codes.
- Approved on first reading a proposed Ordinance amending Chapter 6 "Elections" of the Town Code to conform the existing Town Code provisions to applicable laws and recently adopted Charter amendments.
- Approved on first reading a proposed Ordinance amending Section 7 ½ of the Town Code by expanding the definition of the term flood to include rising tidal or coastal water that is caused by severe storms.
- Award of a contract for Project BHI-128, Repairs to Sewer Laterals Clay Hubs, in an amount not to exceed \$70,000 to LMK Pipe Renewal, Inc.
- Approved Change Order #11 and #12, Installation of Enhanced Thresholds and Steel Expansion Joint Covers, and Interior Low Profile Ladder, in the amount of \$12,609.85 to Dooley Mack Constructors of South Florida, LCC.
- Approved Change Order #14, Parking Garage Elevator Vestibules and Fire Door Installation, in the amount of \$62,987 to Dooley Mack Constructors of South Florida, LLC.
- Consensus to proceed with the installation of new eight (8) inch water mains to be placed in the roadways in front of the interior dry lots in the north side of the West Island in connection to the Community Enhancements Phase II.
- Approval of additional engineering services in the amount of \$56,750 to Calvin Giordano and Associates for a new cross street water main installation on the Community Enhancements Phase II Project (north side of West Island).