



# Bay Harbor Islands

JULY 2010 • VOLUME 55 NUMBER 7

NewsWaves

## A Message from the Mayor

Save Our Bay  
Waters  
- Page 2

Letter from the  
Police Chief  
- Page 2

Driving Class  
for Seniors  
- Page 3

Business  
Spotlight  
- Page 3

Recycle Items  
at Town Hall  
-Page 3

I thought it would be helpful to all of Bay Harbor Islands property owners to give some insight on what lays ahead in preparing the forthcoming budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. We have met several times with the Town Manager and Finance Director to lay out a strategy that will best meet the financial needs of our community and minimize the impact on the services that have been provided in the past. Key to these discussions was the Miami-Dade County Property Appraiser's announcement of a 20% decline in the tax base for our Islands. These discussions led to an attempt to more clearly define how this impacts our Town. I've taken the liberty, with the permission of the Finance Director and our Manager to relate their insights on this issue.

"The recent announcement from the Miami-Dade County Property Appraiser that the tax base of Bay Harbor Islands had declined more than 20% since last year was a most unwelcome surprise. What this means is that if the last year's tax rate (\$4.412 per thousand dollars of taxable value) is unchanged, the hypothetical "average" taxpayer would see a decline in taxes of just over 20%. Of course, it also means the Town would see a 20% decline in the tax receipts used to fund the services it provides – approximately \$690,000.

The Town's administration will continue to minimize costs and expenses in order to mitigate the effects of declines on revenues on the delivery of essential services. A revenue decline of \$690,000 represents over 10% of the total general fund budget. Given that the past two or three difficult budget years have already resulted in the elimination of anything not absolutely essential, residents should be aware that coping with a \$690,000 shortfall will necessitate an increase in the millage or reductions in the level of service delivered by Town employees and contractors, or most likely some combination of those.

Although the Appraiser has told us that taxable values have declined 20.4% overall, individual taxpayers may see greater or lesser declines. Some taxpayers will even see an increase in their assessment. Residents who have been in the same homesteaded residence for many years and who enjoyed assessments well below market value (along with taxes lower than more recent home buyers) will see their assessment increase each year (this year by 2.7%), even though the property's market value is declining, until the rising assessment and declining market value 'meet in the middle.'"

We contacted the Property Appraiser to investigate the dramatic decline and we were assured that the data would be reviewed for accuracy prior to the completion of the assessment cycle on July 1, but that we should not expect major changes.

We are fully committed to doing everything possible to minimize the impact of the Miami-Dade Property Appraiser's announcement. Our Staff and the Council will be making every effort to best meet the financial needs and the services we can provide.



-Ken

# Do Your Part to Preserve Our Bay Waters



The rainy season is here and residents must be careful that pollutants are not washed into the vulnerable Bay waters around us. A common misconception is that water running off streets, rooftops and lawns (referred to as stormwater) goes into a sewage treatment plant. ***It does not!*** In fact, stormwater receives no treatment and water that runs off our lawns,

streets and parking lots flows directly into the Bay.

***Nonpoint Source Pollution*** is pollution that cannot be traced to a specific origin or starting point. It comes from our homes, yards and streets. For example, substances such as detergents, pesticides, oil, ***lawn clippings***, and soil erosion from lawns and construction sites pollute our waterways. Every time it rains these substances run off the land and flow through our storm drainage system directly into the Bay waters. This process causes more than one-half of all pollution in our surrounding bodies of water.

## ***What Can You Do?***

### **Shop Wisely**

Buy products labeled biodegradable, non-toxic, non-phosphorous, or water-soluble. These products readily decompose and will not pollute surface or ground waters.

### **Store Products Carefully**

Keep toxic products in original containers, closed and clearly marked, since spillage can easily occur.

### **Keep Irrigation Water On the Lawn**

Divert irrigation heads away from paved areas.

### **Compost Grass and Shrub Clippings**

Use clippings as mulch for fertilizer and **do not blow grass and leaves into streets, gutters and waterways.**

There are tremendous marine resources in our surrounding waters and frequent schools of dolphins, stingray and manatees. Remember pollutants can harm fish, foul drinking water and make our beaches unsafe and unpleasant. Let's work together to keep our islands beautiful and our waters in pristine condition.

## - POLICE BEAT -

### A Letter from the Chief of Police

Residents of Bay Harbor Islands:

Recently there has been much discourse over sexual offenders and where they may reside. Miami-Dade County recently enacted legislation restricting sexual offenders from residing 2500 feet from any school and established "child safe zones."

What can you do to help your community and keep Bay Harbor Islands safe? If you are considering leasing or renting a unit or are a property manager who leases/rents apartments, I am asking that before you lease or rent a unit, please consult the sexual offender database on the Florida Department of Law Enforcement website, [www.offender.fdle.state.fl.us/offender/search/jsp](http://www.offender.fdle.state.fl.us/offender/search/jsp) to determine if a potential new tenant is in the database as a sexual offender. If you have no computer access, you may call 1-888-FL PREDATOR (888-357-7332), Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. If your property is within the exclusion zone and a potential tenant is registered as a sexual offender, that individual may not occupy the property.

The men and women of the Bay Harbor Islands Police Department work diligently every day to provide a professional level of law enforcement services to this community. Your assistance in this endeavor will greatly aid the community.

Sincerely,

*Duncan W. Young, Chief of Police*

### It's the Law: Trim Trees Before Storms

During past tropical storms, many power lines were brought down by overgrown trees. To prevent this, the Town Council passed an ordinance requiring property owners to keep trees and vegetation trimmed and away from power lines. Please be proactive and considerate of your neighbors and try to minimize damage by keeping your trees trimmed and all limbs away from power lines. Visit Florida Power and Light's website, [www.fpl.com](http://www.fpl.com), for more information and look for their publication entitled *Guide to Trees and Power Lines*. If you don't have internet access, pick one up at Town Hall.

For a copy of the ordinance or additional information, please contact the Town Clerk, Marlene Marante, at 305-866-6241 or the Code Compliance Department at 305-993-1786.



Don't Toss Out Those Old Batteries, Bring them to Town Hall

Residents are encouraged to drop off their old household batteries at Town Hall for recycling.

## AARP Offering Driving Class for Seniors

The American Association for Retired Persons (AARP) will offer a classroom refresher course for drivers 50 years and older on Monday August 16 from noon to 6 p.m. in the Bay Harbor Islands Town Council Chambers, 9665 Bay Harbor Terrace.

The cost is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-members. You must pre-register and can receive a three-year insurance discount if eligible. For more information and to register, call 305-382-5331.

## Box Tops For School Fundraiser

Ruth K. Broad Bay Harbor K-8 Center is hoping to raise \$1,400 during next year's school year through a Box Tops collection program. Residents are urged to bring in your Box Tops found on the tops of many packaged grocery items (the labels can be cut out). Please bring them to Town Hall and drop them in a collection box.

The money raised goes to help supplement school programs, ever more important in a time of severe budget cuts. For more information, contact Nadine, Box Tops Coordinator, at [bhelementary@gmail.com](mailto:bhelementary@gmail.com).



## Animal Control Information

If uninvited opossums, iguanas and rodents are creating a nuisance at your property, residents may contact Critter Control. This company is insured and meets the requirements of the State of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. They will remove destructive or nuisance wildlife from private property. They trap them live for release back into the wild whenever possible. You can contact them at 1-800-critter (800-274-8837) or Pesky Critters at 305-255-7926.

The Town also has traps for rent for \$10, with a \$70 refundable deposit. Traps must be returned clean. Call 305-866-6241, for more information.



## Recycling of Cartridges and Cell Phones

Bay Harbor Islands will recycle your used inkjet and laser printer cartridges as well as used cell phones. There are over 400 million cartridges being thrown away each year and recycling will keep them out of landfills.

Unused cell phones may also be brought to Town Hall and are donated to Women In Distress, a program that raises \$30,000 annually through the collection and recycling of used cell phones. The recycled phones also assist victims of domestic violence and helps the environment, Please bring your ink cartridges and cell phones to Town Hall or call 305-866-6241, for more information.



## Upcoming Town Meetings

The Town Council welcomes your attendance at meetings. All meetings, unless regarding topics specifically exempt by state law, are open to the public and held in the Council Chambers, 9665 Bay Harbor Terrace. **Meeting dates and times are subject to change.** Residents are encouraged to confirm all meeting dates and times. Please contact the Town Clerk's Office at 305-866-6241 or check the Town website, [www.bayharborislands.org](http://www.bayharborislands.org).

- Offices Closed on Monday, July 5 - Independence Day
- Planning & Zoning Board - Tuesday, July 6 at 7 p.m.
- Regular Council Meeting - Monday, July 12 at 7 p.m.
- Planning & Zoning Board - Tuesday, July 20 at 7 p.m.

The following future meeting dates are tentative and subject to change. Therefore, as the dates draw near, please contact the Town Clerk's Office or visit the Town website [www.bayharborislands.org](http://www.bayharborislands.org).

- Regular Council Meetings: Aug. 9, Sept. 13 & Oct. 11
- Planning and Zoning Board Meetings: Aug. 3 & 17, Sept. 7 & 21 and Oct. 5 & 19
- The following committee meeting dates to be announced: Charter & Ordinance Review, Disaster Preparedness and Environmental Impact

**ALL MEETINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

## Business Spotlight

### Ruth Regina Wins Industry Wig Making Award

Wig maker Ruth Regina, who has had a shop on Kane Concourse for many years, recently received an Innovation Award from the Intercoiffure (ICA) at their annual meeting in Miami Beach. The Intercoiffure is a worldwide hairdressing organization and Ms. Regina received the award for her longstanding career in the beauty, hair and makeup industry and for her work with entertainment icons.

For the past 50 years, Ruth Regina has been actively involved in the film and television industry. She has worked with movie stars, top fashion models and even past U.S. Presidents. She has also worked on the set of the Miss Universe Pageant for 14 years and has received credits in numerous movies for her work as a make-up artist.



*Ruth Regina (with microphone) and President of the Intercoiffure Lois Christie.*

|                                         |                                           |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Kenneth Weinstein<br><i>Mayor</i>       | Ronald J. Wasson<br><i>Town Manager</i>   |
| Ileene S. Wallace<br><i>Vice Mayor</i>  | Marlene Marante<br><i>Town Clerk</i>      |
| Stephanie Bruder<br><i>Councilwoman</i> | Craig B. Sherman<br><i>Town Attorney</i>  |
| Jordan W. Leonard<br><i>Councilman</i>  | Duncan W. Young<br><i>Chief of Police</i> |
| Alberto Ruder<br><i>Councilman</i>      | Alan Short<br><i>Finance Director</i>     |
| Isaac Salver<br><i>Councilman</i>       |                                           |
| Robert H. Yaffe<br><i>Councilman</i>    |                                           |



9665 Bay Harbor Terrace  
Bay Harbor Islands, FL 33154

**PRESORT  
STANDARD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
MIAMI, FL  
PERMIT NO. 2001**

**For information or emergencies:**

Town Hall: (305) 866-6241

Building Department: (305) 993-1786

Police: (305) 866-6242

**Emergency: 911**

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

## Highlights of the June 14 Council Meeting

- Approved on second reading Ordinance #900 amending Chapter 18, Section 18-7 of the Town Code related to on-street parking in Town owned right of way.
- Approved on first reading a proposed Ordinance amending Chapter 5 of the Town Code related to Buildings and Construction; Section 5-19 use of colors and window tints and creating Section 5-19.1.1 for provisions for windows and door openings.
- Approved on first reading a proposed Ordinance amending Chapter 16, Retirement System, with requested changes to comply with requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States.
- Approved on first reading a proposed Ordinance amending Article II, Chapter 19, Traffic, by creating Article III, Broad Causeway.
- Accepted the 2009 Annual Report of the Broad Causeway as prepared by Hardesty and Hanover, LLC.

## Anticipated Discussion Items for July 12 Council Meeting

*(At the time of publication. All items are subject to change.)*

- Second reading of a proposed ordinance amending Chapter 5 of the Town Code, Section 5-19, regarding windows and door openings.
- Second reading of a proposed ordinance amending Chapter 16 of the Town Code, regarding the Retirement System.
- Second reading of a proposed ordinance amending Article II of Chapter 19, regarding Traffic.