



Bay Harbor Islands

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NewsWaves

A Message from the Mayor

I am proud to report, as a result of the joint efforts of our Council and Staff, we have balanced our forthcoming budget with no increase in Town taxes or appreciable reductions in the services our Town provided last year. To bring you up to speed on how this was accomplished, let me share with you some of the highlights of that effort.

Our cost saving efforts through intense discussion among the Staff and Council allowed us to reduce the budget by \$600,000 through:

- All equipment and vehicle purchases were suspended except emergencies
- All travel, conferences and non critical memberships were eliminated
- Tuition reimbursement for advanced education for staff was eliminated
- Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) raises were eliminated
- Four staff positions, currently vacant, were eliminated

We still came up short, approximately \$75,000. We thought some of the following programs would have to be reduced or entirely eliminated in order to balance the budget:

- Storytime at the Park
- Outdoor Movies
- PAL Program
- Community Picnic
- Annual 5K Race
- Ruth K. Broad Bay Harbor K-8 Center After School Program Donation (RKB)
- BHI Bus Schedule to be reduced to three days

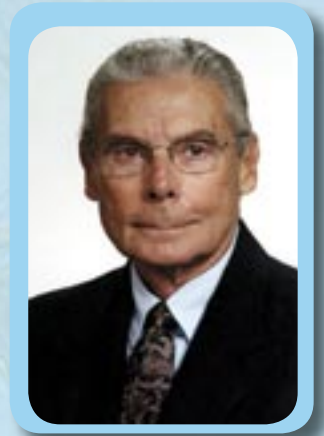
The good news was that we were able to restore most of these programs with the exception of the annual 5K race, which we hope to fund through private donations. The RKB After School Program was just too expensive to continue. We hope the PAL Program will be able to absorb some of that program's activities. These modifications to our services will essentially mean no Town taxes will be increased and we would be able to continue just about all regular activities in the Town we enjoyed last year.

I am confident this proposed balanced budget will meet the needs of our community. We will continue to work during the fiscal year on innovative strategies to meet the challenges facing us in these tough economic times. We will build on our success to ensure they are sustainable in the long run, managed properly and with transparency.

On a disappointing note, we your Council and Staff, cannot control the increase in your tax bill created by County and State agencies, although we will make every effort to minimize the impact on our citizens through sound management of the funds we do control.

If the budget is adopted we will have achieved our objective of a balanced budget, no increase in Town taxes and no significant reductions in the Town's services. I salute the Town Council and Staff for the work they have done to accomplish this feat. They have done with their actions what few communities in South Florida will be able to achieve: a continuing strong financial base without increasing the debt for next year.

I am proud to be a part of our Town government whose Council and Staff will go "above and beyond" to make our community the best place to live, grow and spend our senior years.



- Ken

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Volunteer Needed!

Serve BHI on Planning and Zoning Board

The Town is looking for a volunteer to fill a vacancy on the Planning and Zoning Board. The Board reviews and approves new construction, exterior renovations, additions, signage, plan revisions, etc.

If you have been a resident of the Town for a minimum of one year, are interested in participating and feel qualified to give your input, please submit a letter of interest and a copy of your resume to Town Clerk Marlene Marante at Town Hall. If you don't have a resume, please list your life experiences or special qualifications in your letter. You may also fax to, 305-866-4863, or e-mail to, mmarante@bayharborislands.net. The Town Council will review the submittals from the applicants and appoint the new member at an upcoming Council meeting. For more information, contact Marlene Marante at 305-866-6241.

Business Spotlight SPLATTER

For the Child in All of Us

Splatter, a ceramics studio that recently opened in Bay Harbor Islands at 1017 Kane Concourse, is more than a place to do arts and crafts. Owner Melissa Manas, 41, wanted to create a gathering place for the community where people of all ages use their imaginations and socialize with friends and neighbors.

Melissa grew up in South Florida and always had a creative flair. Although she graduated from law school and briefly practiced law, her love was always in the creative world. It only made sense to open a business where she could use her creative energy and allow children to experience the arts.

Customers can select from a wide variety of ceramic pieces, apply paint and have Melissa fire and glaze it. Or customers can opt for a hand building clay project or any other of the arts and crafts projects at the store. Melissa provides guidance to make sure that the end product is something you would feel proud to display in your home.

Parties for kids and adults are very popular at the studio. Melissa arranges the décor, food and a choice of crafts for guests. A children's night is also planned in which parents can drop off their children.

"I want to provide a community service by making Splatter a social haven where you see friends, be creative and have a great time," Melissa said. For more information, call 305-866-PAINT (305-867-2486).



Proposed Budget to be Reviewed

Residents are encouraged to attend hearings to review the 2009-10 Bay Harbor Islands budget in the Town Council Chambers on Monday, September 14, at 7 p.m. and Tuesday, September 22, at 7 p.m.

The proposed property tax millage is 4.4120 mills. While the millage is higher than last year, due to lower taxable values it will generate the same amount of revenue for the Town as last year. To avoid raising taxes, it was necessary to reduce or eliminate most discretionary items from the budget. Also, hiring is frozen except when specifically approved by the Town Manager.

Message from the Manager

Citizens of Bay Harbor Islands will see water and sewer rates increase 20% and 21% due to increases from the Miami Dade Water and Sewer Department (MDWASD). Bay Harbor Islands purchases its water from MDWASD and pays the City of Miami Beach (who in turn pays Miami-Dade) to treat its sewage. We have no choice but to raise our rates when they are raised by the County. The reasons for the increased charges are federally-mandated infrastructure improvements, enhanced security, water loss prevention and the eventual discontinuation of releasing treated waste water into local waters and ocean. Unfortunately, operating costs are not reduced when we conserve water. Most local municipalities, us included, are using less water. However, MDWASD still must operate and maintain the water delivery system to provide safe, potable water.

Depending on water consumption, residents can expect an average increase of \$6-\$10 for water and \$10-\$15 for sewer rates. Condo and Co-op residents can expect a combined rate increase of \$8-\$14 per month.

BHI Businessman Recognized



Jason Loeb (C), a BHI resident and businessman, received special recognition by the Town Council after recently being honored by the Miami-Dade Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce as "Business Person of the Year." Presenting the award are Mayor Kenneth Weinstein (L) and Councilman Isaac Salver.

Floodplain Insurance Regulations

Because it is located in a floodplain, Bay Harbor Islands is required to have floodplain management ordinances. The Town adopted the necessary ordinances in 1993, and has been accepted in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Participation in the NFIP enables property owners to obtain flood insurance. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has determined that incorporated municipalities in Miami-Dade County should be considered separately to insure better compliance with NFIP regulations. In addition to joining the NFIP, the Town has applied for and received classification in the NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS). Because of the Town's participation in the CRS and its efforts to achieve higher ratings, residents may be able to see a discount in flood insurance premiums. You can help our standing in this program by providing the Town's Building Department with a flood elevation certificate for your property. **The following information is provided to you because the entire Town is in a flood hazard area and you need to know what to do to minimize flood damage.**

Because we are located on islands surrounded by Biscayne Bay, a storm surge may flood the entire Town. Any flooding experienced here will most likely come from a hurricane or tropical storm.

Due to this threat, heed all hurricane and tropical storm warnings. These warnings can be heard on all local television and radio stations such as WFOR-Channel 4, WTVJ-Channel 6, WSVN-Channel 7, WPLG-Channel 10, WLTV-Channel 23 (Spanish) on TV, as well as WIOD-610 AM, WQAM-560 AM, WINZ-940 AM, WQBA-1140 AM (Spanish) and WAQI-710 AM (Spanish) on the radio.

If an evacuation is ordered, proceed immediately to your pre-arranged point of safety. Those with special needs can register with Miami-Dade County Office of Emergency Management by calling (305) 468-5400. You must register prior to hurricane season to receive assistance. Before you leave, remember to turn off your electricity and gas and close all windows and doors. If time allows, you may wish to move valuables or furniture to a non-flood prone area.

Before the next hurricane, consider purchasing flood insurance. Flood damage is not covered by regular homeowners insurance. Flood insurance through the NFIP is available by contacting a licensed property and casualty broker. Flood insurance must be in place at least 30 days prior to the storm. The Town minimizes flood damage by regular street sweeping and cleaning catch basins at least twice a year. It is illegal to dump trash or garbage into the storm drainage system.

Flood damage is minimized by new buildings and additions adhering to the current Base Flood Elevation. The Town has areas in which the first livable floor is required to be either 8 feet, 9 feet or 10 feet above mean sea level. For a small fee, you can obtain from Town Hall a flood map that will indicate the exact Base Flood Elevation required for your property and elevation certificates.

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, Sept. 1 at 7 p.m.
- Budget Public Hearing - Monday, Sept. 14 at 7 p.m.
- Regular Council Meeting - Immediately following hearing
- Planning and Zoning - Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 7 p.m.
- Second Budget Public Hearing - Tuesday, Sept. 22 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, Sept. 21 at 6:45 p.m.
- Parks & Recreation - TBD
- Education - Wednesday, Sept. 16 at 6:30 p.m.
- Charter & Ordinance Review - Monday, Sept. 28 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: October 12, November 9 & December 14
- Planning and Zoning Board Meetings: October 6 & 20; November 3 & 17 and December 1 & 15
- Environmental Impact Committee - 1st Monday
- Parks & Recreation Committee - TBD
- Education Committee - 3rd Wednesday
- Charter & Ordinance Review Committee - 4th Monday
- Disaster Preparedness Committee - TBD

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 Public Hearing and Regular Council Meeting on **Monday, Sept. 14, 2009**. All items are subject to change.

- Discussion and approval of the proposed Town budget for the 2009-10 year.
- Discussion on second reading a proposed Ordinance amending Section 20-8 and 20-9 of the Town Code increasing the monthly base and flow charges for sewer service.
- Discussion on second reading a proposed Ordinance amending Sections 20-5 and 20-6 increasing the monthly charge for water service to \$4.19 per one thousand gallons and increasing the minimum monthly service charges per meter to \$19.54.
- Discussion on second reading a proposed Ordinance adding Section 24-17 of the Town Code adding regulations for abandoned personal property and requiring the registration and maintenance of abandoned (foreclosures) real property.

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:

Town Hall: (305) 866-6241

Building Department: (305) 993-1786

Police: (305) 866-6242

Emergency: 911

www.bayharborislands.org

Highlights of the August 10 Council Meeting

- Approved a variance request from Sections 17-20(a)(1) and 17-20(a)(4) from the Town Code to allow a primary sign to be placed at the Dermatology and Cosmetology Center located at 1045 - 95 Street.
- Withdrawal of the variance application from resident John Corral, 9660 West Bay Harbor Drive.
- Approved on second reading Ordinance #883 amending Section 17-20 of the Town Code with regard to the Sign Codes.
- Approved on second reading Ordinance #884 amending Chapter 6 "Elections" of the Town Code.
- Approved on second reading Ordinance #885 amending Chapter 7 ½ "Flood Damage Prevention" 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.
- Approved on first reading a proposed Ordinance amending Section 20-8 and 20-9 of the Town Code increasing the monthly base and flow charges for sewer service.
- Approved on first reading a proposed Ordinance amending Sections 20-5 and 20-6 increasing the monthly charge for water service to \$4.19 per one thousand gallons and increasing the minimum monthly service charges per meter to \$19.54.
- Approved on first reading a proposed Ordinance adding Section 24-17 of the Town Code adding regulations for abandoned personal property and requiring the registration and maintenance of abandoned (foreclosures) real property.
- Approved a request for a retail alcoholic beverage license from 2500 Biscayne, LLC, "Mario the Baker" located at 1067 - 95 Street.
- Approved the Local Agency Program (LAP) agreement with FDOT for the planned sidewalk replacement project on Kane Concourse. The Town was awarded \$116,000 for this project.
- Approved a Change Order for the replacement of water mains as part of the Community Enhancements Phase II in the amount of \$200,000 to Tran Construction. This pricing is based on the area covering a portion of the north side of the West Island, 103rd Street to 101st Street.
- Approved Change Orders totaling \$21,310.28 for the 95th Street Parking Garage with regard to additional sanitary lines, ventilation to the vestibules, change in a door to allow future servicing of A/C equipment, installation of 30 additional alarm horns and strobe lights, and an additional sprinkler in the ramp area.
- Appointed Mercedes Garcia to fill the vacant position on the Education Committee.
- Approved the purchase of a Chevrolet Cobalt for Code Enforcement from Classic Chevrolet, the Sheriffs Association bid dealer, for a total cost of \$13,993 to replace the existing car.