

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

August 23, 2015

As we enter the third month of the 2015 Hurricane Season, as predicted, we are off to a slow start. The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30 with the peak period from early August through the end of October. The Atlanta basin includes the entire Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico. In July Tropical Storm Claudette became the third named storm of the Atlantic Hurricane season. On August 23, 2015, the latest information on Former Hurricane and Tropical Storm Danny shows that it has weakened to a tropical depression as it approaches the Leeward Islands. Also in the tropics, there is a low pressure system in the Atlantic about midway between Africa and the Windward Islands. A tropical depression could form today.

The last three weeks in July 2015, saw heavy flooding in parts of Pasco and Pinellas County. However, Belleair Beach was spared once again. As the flood waters recede in Pasco County, volunteer teams were deployed to help those residents who were impacted.

The next Sand Key Nourishment Project which includes Belleair Beach is tentatively scheduled to take place in 2017. The 8.7 – mile beach fill project in 2012 placed 1.25 million cubic yards of sand on 8.7 miles of shoreline and extended from just south of Sand Key to North Redington Beach. The University of South Florida has recently performed beach profiles to determine the amount of erosion that has occurred due to the several weeks of rain. A report will be distributed in a few weeks to Pinellas County Coastal Management and will be available to the beach communities. Nourishment is critical for both tourism and property protection purposes. Many of our repetitive loss properties are beachfront and nourishment of the beaches is a critical component in protecting these properties from additional losses.

The city continues to provide floodplain information to residents, potential homebuyers, insurance agents, realtors, builders and financial institutions. The Biggert-Waters Act caused a major concern to many of our residents who for years received subsidized rates on their flood insurance. On August 12, 2015 Senator Jeff Brandes issued a letter to Insurance Commissioner Kevin McCarty requesting that he review the rates of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) offered through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to determine if those rates are excessive, arbitrary, or unfairly discriminatory. This request follows continued rate increases of as high as 18% per year as a component of the federal Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014.

We continue to require Flood Elevation Certificates on all new construction as well as for all substantial improvements. We ask new owners of existing improved properties to provide us with a copy of their Elevation Certificate if a new one has been obtained, or for a copy of their survey if they have had one completed as part of the property purchase. Elevation Certificates for many properties in the City are available on the City's website www.cityofbelleairbeach.com.

We continue to maintain a map at city hall available to property owners, renters, and prospective property owners. It shows all pre- and post- FIRM buildings, repetitive loss properties, and known flood prone areas, as well as essential city infrastructure.

We maintain literature on floodplain management topics in the entry foyer and provide a listing of literature on our website. We further confirmed that information is provided at the Largo Library. We also provide the website addresses for FEMA and the County Emergency Management Office on our website, in addition to the FIRM maps for the city and other pertinent Flood Insurance Program information.

Ordinance 14-02, amending City Code Sections 10-32 through 10-93, Building and Building Regulations was adopted by City Council on June 21, 2014. Ordinance 14-03, amending City Code Sections 62-71 through 62-73, Utilities was adopted by City Council on September 8, 2014. Ordinance 14-07, amending City Code Sections 74-161 through 74-173, Flood Protection was adopted by City Council on August 4, 2014. These Ordinances will be submitted to Insurance Services Office, Inc., as part of the annual recertification of the City's Community Rating System.

The City will go through its five-year Community Rating System recertification early 2016. The City currently maintains its Class 7 certification which provides a 15% discount on flood insurance to residents. This discount will remain in effect until the 2016 CRS recertification process has been approved. Due to the revisions to the National Flood Insurance Program, the Community Rating System recertification points have significantly changed causing several cities to lose their current Class to a higher Class increasing the cost of flood insurance.