



# THE BELLEAIR BEACH BREEZE

September 2013

## City of Belleair Beach

### Mayor

Rob Baldwin

### Vice Mayor

Leslie Notaro

### Councilmembers

Jeril S. Cohen

David Dumville

Mitch Krach

Leslie Notaro

John Pietrowski

Wanda Schwerer

### City Manager

Nancy G. Gonzalez

### City Clerk

Patricia A. Gentry, CMC

### Finance Officer

Melanie Neumann

### City Attorney

Paul J. Marino

### Community Services

Allen Godfrey

### Administrative Assistant

Pamela J. Nightingale

### Community Services Staff

Howard Chavis, Supervisor  
Jana Mastilovic

### Community Improvement Officer

John Ouimette

### **Upcoming City Council Meetings**

#### **September 4**

4 pm Gulf Blvd. Safety & Beautification Committee

- 5:01 pm - 1st Public Hearing on Budget
- Regular Council Meeting to follow

City of Belleair Beach  
444 Causeway Boulevard  
Belleair Beach FL 33786

## The Beach

Residents may have noticed our own Public Works crew raking the beach. The City invested in a beach rake in April of this year.

City Hall has had resident requests on this matter and as stated by our Community Services Director, Allen Godfrey, "It just needed to be done."



Similar to this, without wheels

Did you know that raking has to be done by permit? The City receives this permit from the Department of Environmental Protection and we are limited as to how many times we can rake the beach. Aesthetics is not an acceptable reason.

Our permit only allows our staff to rake four (4) times a year and/or after a storm event. The propose is to clear the debris such as seaweed and trash from our shore.

## Get Rid Of It!

The City of Largo is hosting an electronic and chemical waste collection [Sunday September 8th](#) at the Largo Drop-off Recycling Center located 1551 Starkey Road.

This service is available free to all Pinellas County residents and will take place from 9 am until 2 pm. It will dispose of all household and business waste otherwise indisposable.

Any commercial business will be subject to a minimal fee.

For more information, please contact 727.586.7424.

How to package and transport your household chemicals.

- Do NOT mix chemicals together.
- Keep products in original labeled containers if possible.
- Place containers in cardboard boxes. Use crumpled newspaper to prevent breakage.
- Place leaky containers in clear plastic bags and transport in boxes with newspaper.
- Put boxes in the trunk or in the back of vehicle away from passenger.
- For batteries, please cover terminals with heavy tape or place individual batteries in separate plastic bags to prevent short-circuits.

# August City Council Highlights

The Council met on Monday, August 5, 2013.

Council passed an Ordinance to place language on the upcoming ballot, the ability of the City Council to appoint a Special Magistrate to hear Code Variance Requests under certain circumstances.

Mayor Rob Baldwin was appointed by the City Council as a voting delegate for the Florida League of Cities 87th Annual Conference.

Reappointments of Marvin Behm, James Corrigan, and Joan Williams were made to the Board of Adjustment. Allan Mintz was also reappointed to Park and Recreation Board.

The contract to use AshBritt as the primary debris management contractor was approved by Council. Also approved was a Memorandum of Understanding with the Florida Department of Transportation for Debris Removal Roles Coordination.

Allen Godfrey, Community Services Director, presented a report on the Emergency Management Manual.

Nancy Gonzalez, the City Manager stated she had receive part of the proposed Rule form Andy Squires, Pinellas County, regarding using bike racks at the beach accesses to meet parking requirement for public access eligibility. If that were done, it would still be a shortage of approximately 11 parking spaces. She and the Community Director Godfrey discusses pushing back the pavilion and restrooms at Morgan Park to achieve the required number of spaces.

Council's consensus was for City Manager Gonzalez and Community Services Director Godfrey to meet with Phil Graham of Pinellas County for a landscaping and bike rack placement plan.

City Manager Gonzales told Council that she and Councilmember Krach had been speaking with two attorney he works with on a regular basis, they both had formally worked for DEP.

City Attorney Marino stated he was more comfortable working with Vice Mayor Notaro while working with the Department of Environmental Protection.

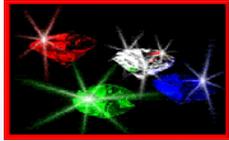
Corporal Euler, of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office stated the PCSO had purchased five Humvees for rescue operations.

## Help our water!

Many people do not associate the effects of their vehicle washing activities with local water quality and may be unaware that the discharges that enter storm drains are not treated at plants before being discharged into local waters. The following are tips for keeping our local waters free of chemical pollution.

- Using a commercial car wash.
- Washing cars on gravel, grass, or other permeable surfaces.
- Blocking off the storm drain during charity carwash events or using an insert to catch wash water.
- Pumping soapy water from car washes into a sanitary sewer drain.
- If pumping into a drain is not feasible, pumping car wash water onto grass or landscaping to provide filtration.
- Using hoses with nozzles that automatically turn off when left unattended.





## John's Gems

Community Improvement Officer—John Duimette

### Turtle Lighting



#### Sec. 6-83. - Standards for new beachfront lighting.

In order to provide the highest level of protection for nesting marine turtles and their hatchlings, the city adopts all of the following standards for artificial light sources on all new coastal construction:

Exterior artificial light fixtures shall be designed and positioned so that:

- a. The point source of light or any reflective surface of the light fixture is not directly visible from the beach;
- b. Areas seaward of the frontal dune are not directly or indirectly illuminated; and
- c. Areas seaward of any frontal dune, if applicable, are not cumulatively illuminated.

Exterior artificial light fixtures within direct line-of-sight of the beach are considered appropriately designed if:

- a. Completely shielded downlight, only fixtures or recessed fixtures having low wattage (i.e., 50 watts or less) bug-type bulbs and nonreflective interior surfaces are used.

For more on the Turtle Lighting Ordinance, please visit [www.municode.com](http://www.municode.com)

## Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012

From FEMA

In 2012, the U.S. Congress passed the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 which calls on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and other agencies, to make a number of changes to the way the NFIP is run. As the law is implemented, some of these changes have already occurred, and others will be implemented in the coming months. Key provisions of the legislation will require the NFIP to raise rates to reflect true flood risk, make the program more financially stable, and change how Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) updates impact policyholders. The changes will mean premium rate increases for some – but not all -- policyholders over time.

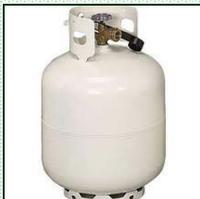
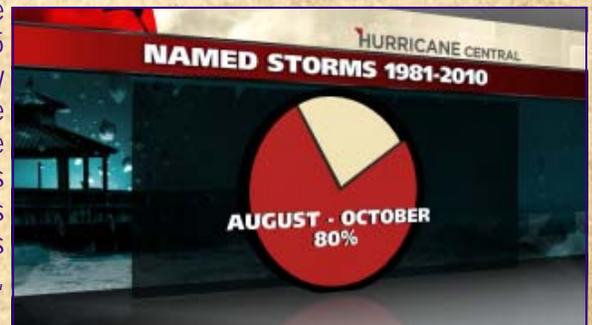
For more information, please visit [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

## NOAA Says It's NO Time to Let Your Guard Down

With the historical peak of the hurricane season here, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has released its updated forecast for the 2013 hurricane season. NOAA still expects an above average number of named storms this season and says the season has the potential to be "very active".

"Our confidence for an above-normal season is still high because the predicted atmospheric and oceanic conditions that are favorable for storm development have materialized," said Gerry Bell, Ph.D., lead seasonal hurricane forecaster at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, a division of the National Weather Service. "Also, two of the four named storms to-date formed in the deep tropical Atlantic, which historically is an indicator of an active season."

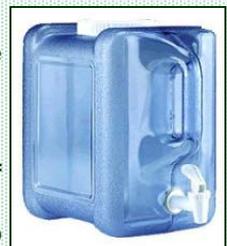
NOAA is forecasting a 70 percent chance of 13 to 19 named storms, 6 to 9 of which would become hurricanes and 3 to 5 major hurricanes (Category 3 or higher on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale). This includes the four named storms we've seen so far this Oseason: Andrea, Barry, Chantal and Dorian.



### Simply Practical

Although the lists are endless and very informative for hurricane preparation, here are a couple easy to remember things you can do now, before you need them.

- Be sure to have propane gas for your gas grill. You can bet it will be useful when the power goes out.
- If you have an ice-maker, use zip-locks to store up what you can. Ice will be a premium commodity.
- Make sure you have an ample supply of small bills. No ATM's will be working.
- Keep your vehicle filled with gasoline for a hasty get away should the need arise. Lines will be very long if any station is able to open.
- Fill up those water containers. Buy the cases of water in advance. Think of everything you use it for. Do you really want to be without?



## Brain Games

### Do they really improve your cognitive thinking?

**In short...no.**

A very large scientific study conducted through the BBC that was published in Nature had very convincing findings.

Participants in the research study thought the game was helping them and were surprised by the results. The people's self-report of how they thought they did when they played the games and their surprise when they saw the scientific evidence later was dramatically different.

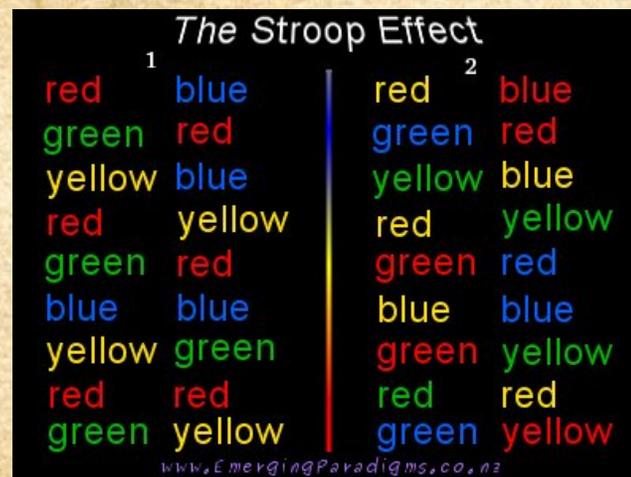
The results showed that the apparent cognitive gains on tasks that people were trained on did not transfer to cognitive tasks they were not trained on. This is referred to as the testing effect. This looks like a big NO for brain games being "good."

Imagine you took an I.Q. test and scored a 110. You were able to retake the test several times until your score was 115. Did you get smarter? This is called the practice effect.

Doctors and scientists have been exploring ways to improve cognitive memory or brain function for a long time.

For example the Stroop Test has been around since John Ridley Stroop first published his paper on the Stroop Effect in 1935.

Take a look at the graphic below and as quickly as possible, say out loud the COLORS on left hand side and then the COLORS (not the words) on the right hand side.



Psychologists count how many errors people make in naming the colors on the right hand side. They also measure how much longer it takes people to name the colors on the right compared to the left hand side. This information gives them an idea of how well someone can focus their attention, process information and inhibit unwanted responses. People who don't do so well on this task compared to other people might also have difficulties in the real world staying focused on boring tasks.

Though the research is spotty, the studies that support the use of brain games are from manufacturers like Luminosity.



# Out 'n About



# Theater

Murder at the Howard Johnson  
South Pacific  
Artie Lang

Early Bird Dinner Theatre  
Largo Cultural Center  
Mahaffey Theater

Sept. 4 - Oct. 27, 2013  
Sept. 6 - 22, 2013  
Sept. 28, 2013 - 8 pm

# Concerts



Diana Ross,  
Joe Satriani  
Engelbert Humperdinck  
Pet Shop Boys  
Rick Springfield  
Steely Dan  
An Evening with Colin Hay  
Brian Wilson with Jeff Beck

Mahaffey Theater  
Ruth Eckerd Hall  
Mahaffey Theater  
Mahaffey Theater  
Ruth Eckerd Hall  
Ruth Eckerd Hall  
Ruth Eckerd Hall  
Largo Cultural Center  
Ruth Eckerd Hall

Sept. 10, 2013 - 7:30 pm  
Sept. 11, 2013 - 8 pm  
Sept. 11, 2013 - 7 pm  
Sept. 13, 2013 - 8 pm  
Sept. 13, 2013 - 8 pm  
Sept. 14, 2013 - 8 pm  
Sept. 24, 2013 - 7:30 pm  
Sept. 28, 2013 - 8 pm



# Events/Crafts/Exhibits

Kid's Night at the Museum  
International Food Festival  
Miles For Hope  
Super Boat National Championship  
Tangerine Blues Fest

Safety Harbor Museum and Cultural Center  
Madeira Beach., Madeira Way  
Clearwater, Drew Street  
Clearwater, Coachman Park  
Tangerine Greenway, Gulfport

Sept. 13m 2013 - 6 pm - 10 pm  
Sept. 14 & 15, 2013 - 10 am  
Sept. 21, 2013 - 6 am  
Sept. 27-29, 2013 - Noon Friday  
Sept 28., 2013 - 4 pm - 10 pm

# Are You Safe? Construction Zones



No where in the county is road construction more apparent than in Pinellas County. Some roads for years at a time.

Accidental deaths in highway construction zones across the United States averaged 850 per year between 2006 and 2008. Injuries in these work zones have been estimated at 40,000 per year. Never are these statistics more important to consider than during major driving holidays such as Labor Day when construction projects and the number of motorists on the road are both at their peaks.

**Myth #1:** Construction workers have the highest risk of serious injury in highway work areas.

**Myth #2:** The most prevalent cause of injury in construction zones is vehicular traffic.

Close to 85 percent of highway construction zone fatalities are those of motorists and/or their passengers. Worker fatalities comprise the remaining 15 percent, and less than a quarter of those deaths are due to pedestrian workers being struck by highway traffic.

The prevalent traffic accident in highway construction zones is the rear-end collision, typically caused by sudden changes in the routing of vehicles and immediate reductions in speed. Lanes are narrowed, shifted and merged --- often with minimal warning to drivers.

The two most important factors to traffic safety, more so than speed, are attentive drivers and smooth traffic flow. The importance of those factors is further amplified in construction zones. Drivers certainly need to have a heightened awareness of the physical changes to the routing of traffic when approaching and passing through highway work areas, and of the actions/reactions of fellow motorists.

**Be Alert-**Not everyone is well versed in construction zone driving etiquette, so pay extra attention to your surroundings while in these areas. Continuously scan the roadway for rubberneck drivers, moving equipment, vehicles and workers. For increased concentration, avoid distractions such as eating and talking on a cell phone.

**Plan Ahead-**When making travel plans, take time to research where construction zones will be and use an alternate route if possible. Construction zones can cause delays, so give yourself extra time if you know you have to drive through a work zone. Maintain adequate fuel to ensure you don't run out of gas, and bring drinks and snacks to keep you and your passengers satisfied as well.

**Remain Calm-**Never allow speeding and impatient drivers to modify the way you drive. Keeping cool in heavy slowdowns will make your drive safer and help keep traffic flowing. Be aware of tailgaters and motorists creating their own lane on the shoulder, but calmly focus on your driving, always leaving yourself enough space between you and the vehicles around you.



**Give Trucks Room-**Because of the length and weight of trucks, they need more room to stop or change lanes, especially in the narrow lanes construction zones often render. If a truck has its turn signal on, assist the driver by moving over or slowing down. While you should increase following distance for all vehicles when driving through a construction zone, remember trucks need nearly twice the time and room to stop as cars.