



THE BELLEAIR BEACH BREEZE

Winter 2014

City of Belleair Beach

Mayor

Rob Baldwin

Vice Mayor

Leslie Notaro

Councilmembers

Jeril S. Cohen

David Dumville

Mitch Krach

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

Date, Time

City of Belleair Beach
444 Causeway Boulevard
Belleair Beach FL 33786

727.595.4646

727.593.1409 FAX

Hours: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm M-F

www.cityofbelleairbeach.com

Happy Holidays!

Despite the economy and the state of the world, we all have many things to celebrate, to be thankful and grateful for this year. Most everyone has had challenges this year. But it's the Holiday Season. The challenges of the year are soon to be behind us and we should look forward to better days.

*The City Council and Staff would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very **Happy Holiday!** May your days and nights be filled with happiness, optimism, purpose, faith, courage, sensitivity, caring, and compassion.*

A New Face

City Council and Staff welcomed our new Community Improvement Officer, Jack White, in early November.

Jack had been in law enforcement for 23 years. First in Belleair then Belleair Bluffs before signing on with Pinellas County Sheriff's Office.

While working for the Sheriff's Office, he held the rank of Corporal. He was promoted to Detective and assigned to the Arson and Auto Theft Division. He also worked as Field Training Officer. It was at that time he met our own evening shift Deputy Scott Vaughn.

Jack retired from the Sheriff's Office October, 2013 and found he needed to do more than retirement offered. Looking for a new challenge, he came to our City.

"It's a fine City. Everyone has been very kind and welcoming".

Please join City Council and Staff in welcoming the newest member to our staff!

Jack White can be reached at City Hall, Monday through Friday from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at 727.595.4646 ext 133

September City Council Highlights

- The Council passed an Amendment which modified the stormwater drainage and discharge prohibited in the City.
- An amendment pertaining to setback for Swimming Pools was also approved.
- Ordinance 14-06, Section 70-5 was amended pertaining to Concurrency Evaluation.
- Council amended Section 74-161 of the City Code that deals with retaining walls, sidewalks and driveway in regulated floodways.
- A motion to amend Section 90-03 pertaining to Applicant Responsibility, and 90-102 dealing with lots and Section 90-135: installation of Utilities was approved.
- Council amended City Code amending Landscaping Requirement, landscaping permits and exceptions. Also addressed in the amendments were enforcement, violation and penalty to landscape requirements. Also passing was amendments to Code pertaining to fences, walls and hedges.
- City Manager, Nancy Gonzales provided Council with and update on Pedestrian Crosswalks.
- A motion was approved to allow the City Manager to enter into a revised Interlocal Agreement with the Pinellas Planning Council for Planning and Mapping Services.
- Mr. Frederick Schock was approved to serve on the Planning and Zoning Board.

October City Council Highlights

A presentation was made to City Manager Nancy Gonzalez in recognition of 25 years of service for significant contributions and achievements in the advancement of local government.

A motion passed proclaiming October 2014 as National Domestic Violence Month.

Council approved March 10, 2015 as the date of the General Election for the purpose of electing three Councilmembers.

A Resolution was passed recognizing City Government Week, October 19-15, 2014.

Approval was given to reappoint Mark Deighton to the governing board of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, beginning October 1, 2014.

November City Council Highlights

Council authorized the City Manager to enter into Professional Engineering Services Agreements with Multi-Lynx Companies Inc., Duel and Associates, Inc., and Cardno, Inc. to provide professional and technical services as may be required by the City.

The piggy-backing on the Hillsborough County Agreement with Ajax Paving Industries of Florida, LLC was approved for street resurfacing and concrete work.

Also approved was the enabling of the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Smith Landscaping Services, Inc. for the Pedestrian Island Project and Bicycle Rack Project as part of the Gulf Boulevard Beautification Project.

City Council amended the City of Belleair Beach Comprehensive Plan, accepting a new schedule for Capital Improvements.

Easy Ways to Winterize Your Florida Home

Did you know: colder winter days can have a significant effect on both your home and your wallet? By following a few quick, simple steps—and spending little to no money at all—you could ultimately knock hundreds of dollars off your utilities bills in the long run.



1. Turn down your water heater

Lowering the temperature of your water heater can reduce your water heating costs by up to 10 percent. Most conventional water heaters are set by installers to 140 degrees Fahrenheit, but lowering the temperature to 120 degrees Fahrenheit would still work appropriately.

2. Make a draft snake

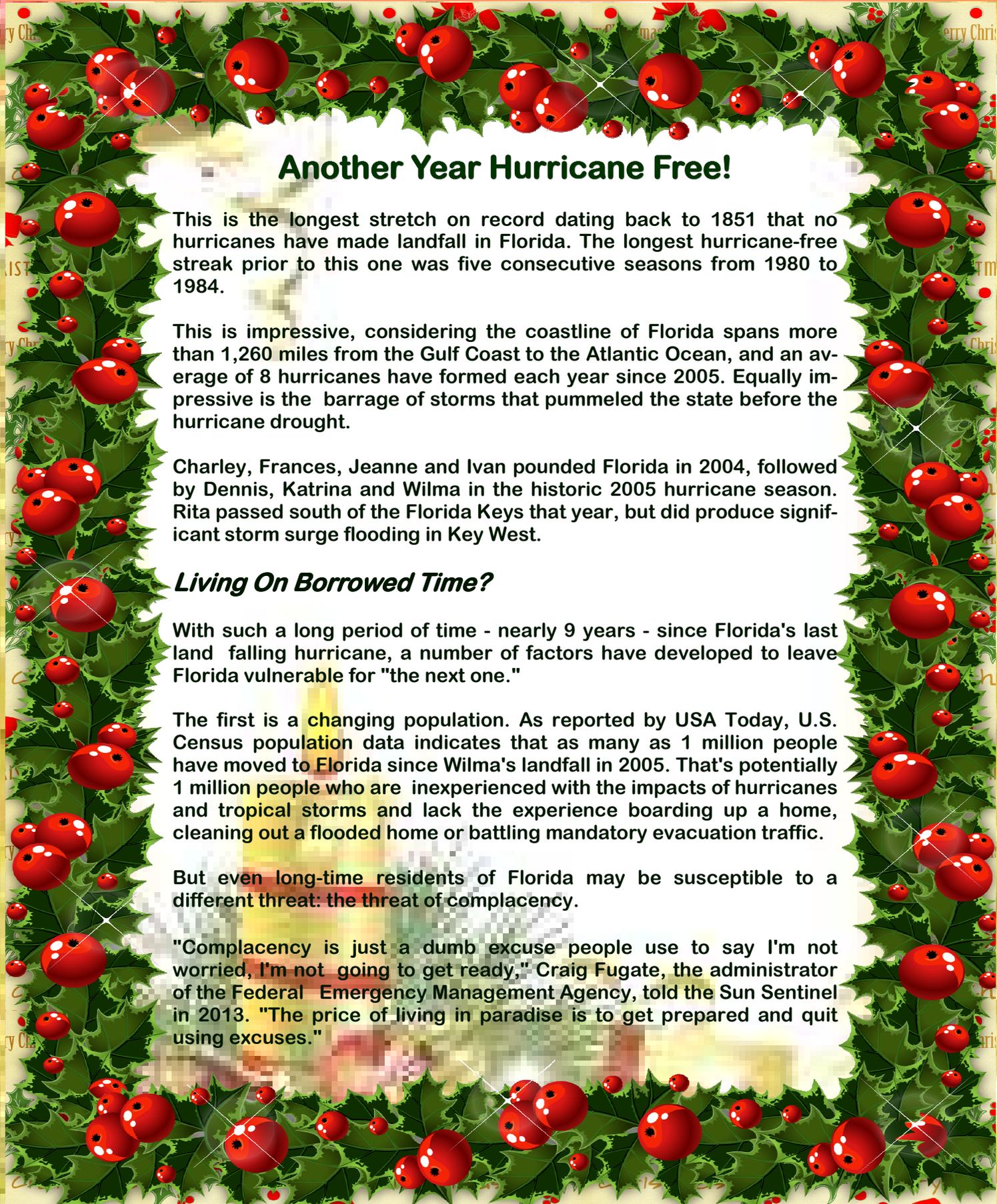
According to the U.S. Department of Energy, incoming drafts can waste up to 30 percent of your energy use! To make a draft snake, simply place a rolled bath towel (or a similar material) under a drafty door to keep the cool air from coming in. This will help both you and your home stay warm.

3. Be aware of your thermostat

For every degree that you lower your thermostat during heating season, you'll save up to 3 percent on your heating bill. While it's easy to just set it and forget it, turning the heat down when you leave your home is one of the easiest ways to save money. In remembering to do so, the average family can save up to \$180 per year in the winter months!

4. Use caulking and weather stripping

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, finding ways to avoid simple leaks can reduce a home's energy efficiency by about 30 percent each year. To caulk or weather strip properly, take a close look at places where two different building materials meet (think: corners, along foundations and where pipes and wires exit) and seal where necessary.



Another Year Hurricane Free!

This is the longest stretch on record dating back to 1851 that no hurricanes have made landfall in Florida. The longest hurricane-free streak prior to this one was five consecutive seasons from 1980 to 1984.

This is impressive, considering the coastline of Florida spans more than 1,260 miles from the Gulf Coast to the Atlantic Ocean, and an average of 8 hurricanes have formed each year since 2005. Equally impressive is the barrage of storms that pummeled the state before the hurricane drought.

Charley, Frances, Jeanne and Ivan pounded Florida in 2004, followed by Dennis, Katrina and Wilma in the historic 2005 hurricane season. Rita passed south of the Florida Keys that year, but did produce significant storm surge flooding in Key West.

Living On Borrowed Time?

With such a long period of time - nearly 9 years - since Florida's last land falling hurricane, a number of factors have developed to leave Florida vulnerable for "the next one."

The first is a changing population. As reported by USA Today, U.S. Census population data indicates that as many as 1 million people have moved to Florida since Wilma's landfall in 2005. That's potentially 1 million people who are inexperienced with the impacts of hurricanes and tropical storms and lack the experience boarding up a home, cleaning out a flooded home or battling mandatory evacuation traffic.

But even long-time residents of Florida may be susceptible to a different threat: the threat of complacency.

"Complacency is just a dumb excuse people use to say I'm not worried, I'm not going to get ready," Craig Fugate, the administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, told the Sun Sentinel in 2013. "The price of living in paradise is to get prepared and quit using excuses."

No Trash Pick-Up

There will be NO trash collection on Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25th and no collection on New Year's Day, Thursday January 1st.



Trash will be picked up on your next scheduled pick up day.

World's Strangest New Year's Traditions

It's not only the festive mood and the delightful cheer that marks the New Year but one can also see some interesting rituals and customs being performed on this day. Over time, different beliefs and notions across the world have come to give birth to strange traditions being observed. Find out about the world's strangest New Year traditions that are followed dutifully by people in different parts of the world.

- Philippines - Wear Polka Dots Or Eat Round Fruits To Invite Luck
- Germany And Austria - Pouring Lead Into Water to Know About Future
- Mexico - Wearing Colorful Underwear to Bring Luck
- Chile - People Celebrate New Year With a Visit to The Graveyard
- Bolivia - Change Your Underwear At Midnight
- Denmark - Throwing Dishes Considered to Be Good Luck
- Spain - Eating Grapes at midnight
- Japan - 108 Rings of the Bells
- Switzerland - Dropping Icecream on the Floor
- France - Eat Pancakes
- Columbia - Carry a Suitcase Around All Day
- Denmark - Jump as High as Possible from a Chair



Ecuador - Burning Scarecrow

What IS Stormwater Runoff?

What is polluted runoff?

Water from rain either seeps into the ground or "runs off" to lower areas, making its way into the bay and other water bodies. On its way, runoff water can pick up and carry many substances that pollute water.

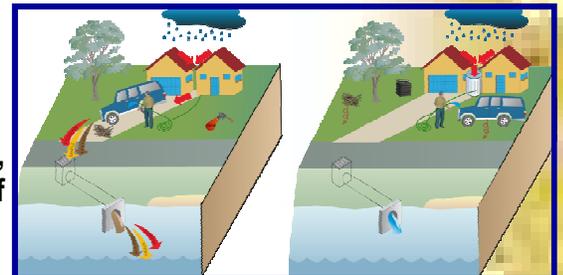
Some - like pesticides, fertilizers, oil and soap - are harmful in any quantity. Others - like sediment from construction, bare soil, or agricultural land, or pet waste, grass clippings and leaves - can harm the bay in sufficient quantities.

In addition to rain, various human activities like watering, car washing, and malfunctioning septic tank can also put water onto the land surface. Here, it can also create runoff that carries pollutants to the bay.

Polluted runoff generally happens anywhere people use or alter the land. For example, in developed areas, none of the water that falls on hard surfaces like roofs, driveways, parking lots or roads can seep into the ground.

These impervious surfaces create large amounts of runoff that picks up pollutants. The runoff flows from gutters and storm drains into the nearby water.

Polluted water hurts the wildlife in creeks, streams, rivers and lakes and the bay. Dirt from erosion, also called sediment, covers up fish habitats and fertilizers can cause too much algae to grow, which also hurts wildlife by using up the oxygen they need to survive. Soaps hurt fish gills and fish skin, and other chemicals damage plants and animals when they enter the water.



Are You Safe?

From the Desk of Sheriff Bob Gualtieri

From behind the closed door in the Pinellas County Jail are sounds of sewing machines, the chatter of women discussing which fabric would go with another, and the smooth sounds of melodic music playing from the CD player on the bookshelf. This is a place where female inmates are given the opportunity to bond, learn, and create. These women are encouraged to meet with mentors and grow in a positive way. Known as the Red Tent Project, this program plays an important role in connecting citizens with programs and services that help keep them on their feet and out of our jails.

The Red Tent Project was created by family and marriage counselor Barbara Rhode and was introduced to incarcerated women at the Pinellas County Jail in 2012. The program has since served more than 400 female inmates. Ten years ago, Barbara worked in the community with women, teaching them life skills. Through her years of work, she came to the realization that women go through various trials and tribulations in life without a community support group to depend on. This is why she created the Red Tent Project. The Red Tent Project is a safe activity that is offered to women while they are incarcerated and continues when they are released into the community setting. Through the program, female inmates learn that there is a positive support system for them in and out of jail, and they can reach out to the program founder and teachers for continued support when they are released.

Barbara and two teachers, Polly and Noko, run the program. The group meets with 15 female inmates twice a week for four hours. At the beginning of each class, the inmates and teachers participate in a roundtable discussion to talk about events, milestones, goals, and troubles. They share laughs, tears of joy, and at times, sadness. Each meeting differs from the next. One day, the group will celebrate the upcoming release of a fellow inmate and encourage her to continue with her positive choices when she is out of jail. The next day, they will listen to a fellow inmate read her original poetry or comfort another inmate as she cries because she hasn't seen her children since her incarceration.

During their time together, the women also craft. Polly helps them create pillow shams, purses, bags, wall hangings, and prayer flags from donated materials. Needles, thread, and two sewing machines are available, as well. While the women are busy creating, Noko leads them in discussions about various topics including anger management, substance abuse, and codependency.

The Red Tent Project is partially funded by revenue generated from the Commissary Inmate Welfare Program, which comes from the commissary items that inmates purchase. The program is open to female inmates who have been sentenced to county jail and have no open or pending charges. Fifteen female inmates are allowed to participate in the program at a time. There is currently a wait list, since many participants advertise the program's benefits to their fellow inmates. During their time in the Pinellas County Jail, many people look for ways to cope with their confinement and the charges they face. This group serves as an outlet for them — a few hours in a different mindset. Crafts and open discussion replace drugs and alcohol as their coping methods. For women whose hope was lost when they arrived at the jail, the Red Tent Project tends to their needs and allows them to see they can have a second chance. This new support system is a light at the end of the tunnel that prevents many of its participants from re-offending. To learn more about the Red Tent Project, visit its website at www.redtentproject.com.

