

SOUTH PALM BEACH NEWS



The official newsletter of the Town of South Palm Beach

Second Quarter 2016

Council Members Remain

Of the 1,139 registered voters in the Town of South Palm Beach, 554 (almost half) voted in the March 15, 2016 election for Council Members. The ballots cast were as follows:

Robert Gottlieb	337
Stella Jordan	285
Robert Gargano	156

On March 22, 2016 the two top candidates were sworn in for a two year term by The Honorable Daniel T. K. Hurley. The Council reappointed Joseph Flagello as Vice-Mayor. As such, the full Council remains as in the previous year.



Photos credit: Tim Stepien

In terms of political affiliation, South Palm Beach is much like the rest of the country. We have over 58% Democrats, 41% Republicans, and less than 1% registered Independent/Other. The United States as a whole is about 51%, 47%, and less than 2%, respectively.

MAYOR'S MEMO

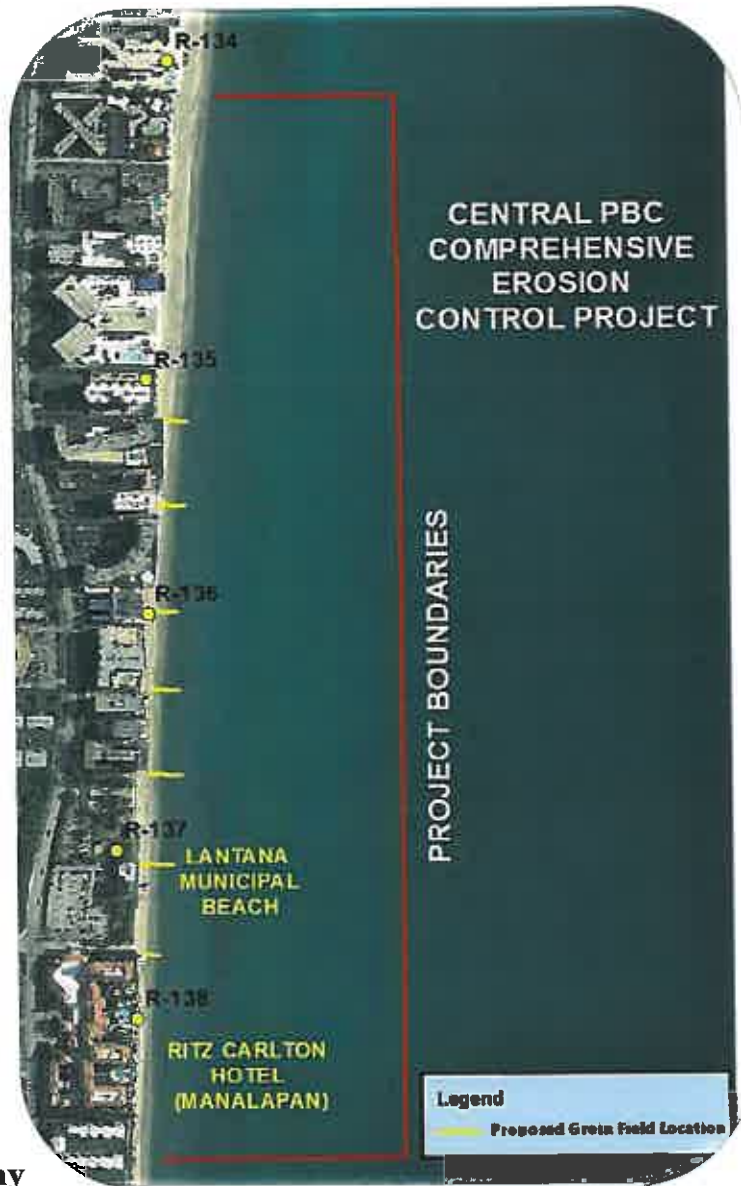
South Palm Beach Island's Comprehensive Shoreline Stabilization Project - Progressing



Bonnie Fischer

We have been busy the past four months working with the Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management to advance the shoreline stabilization project for our Town's beaches. The great benefits of the project are stopping the ongoing erosion, protecting the upland structures (seawalls), providing for the recreational needs of our residents and their guests, sustaining sea turtle nesting habitat, and most importantly protecting your property values.

Started in 2007, the County completed a number of engineering studies to evaluate several long term erosion control techniques that included taking no action, routine beach renourishment, the placement of breakwaters and the construction of groins. Based on the analysis of these studies, they determined that the most environmentally acceptable and best method to preserve and protect the shoreline is to construct a series of seven low-profile, shore perpendicular groins including a moderate beach fill. That determination was made in January 2013 and since that time the project has undergone careful evaluation as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process as required by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. This step is required in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and commenced in August 2013 when the EIS public and permitting agency's scoping meetings were held to influence the final design and permitting of the project. We expect that the EIS process will be completed on schedule in late June or early July of this year.



In late January 2016, the Town and County reached out to all sixteen ocean front properties affected by the project to request that they consider the execution of Easement Agreements. These agreements, required in order to construct and maintain the groins over the next 50 years, address initially filling and then nourishing the beach approximately every three years as well as rebuilding the dune along the seawalls. The joint request took place on January 29th and since that time numerous meetings were held and are ongoing with each of the property ownerships. The easement area is located between the ocean and seawalls of each property and there is NO CROSS ACCESS between US AIA and the Atlantic Ocean. These properties include: Imperial House, Palm Beach Windmere, LaPensee, Dune Deck, 3600 South Ocean Condominium Association, Mayfair House, Horizon East, 3550 Holdings LLC, Tuscany, Concordia, Barclay, La Chateau Royal, Palmsea, Edward Napleton, Eliot Gittelmacher, and Dr. Thomas Rousch.

The project area also includes all of the Town of Lantana Municipal Beach Park and the Eau Palm Beach Resort and Spa (former Ritz Carlton) property. The length of the project area is .82 miles and will result in a beach that is 75 feet larger.



The present plan is to have all of the survey work for each of the properties completed by the end of April 2016 and the Easement Agreements executed by mid-May in order to have the County Board of Commissioners approve and execute the Agreements in June 2016. In hopes that all goes well with this process it is expected that the actual construction of the project will occur in the Fall of 2017 with completion by the beginning of Spring 2018. The total estimated cost for the project is \$5M and is funded by the State of Florida (50%), Palm Beach County (30%), and the Town (20%).



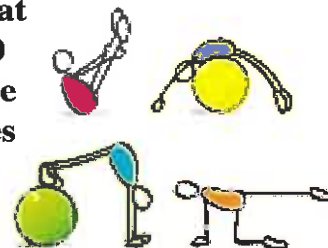
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD (CAAB)

We had a very exciting CAAB winter season this year highlighted by celebrating the Town's 60th Anniversary with a delicious dinner and terrific entertainment at Mario's Restaurant and the Antique Car Show, held at Plaza del Mar. CAAB members worked diligently with very successful results. (See further discussion and pictures in this newsletter).



The Town's 20th annual Lecture and Music Series held on alternate weeks during January, February and March was highly successful. The speakers were both interesting and very timely. The Music Series concerts provided new and varied selections of music that many found to be a delightful change of pace. There were many sold-out performances. (Don't forget to purchase your tickets early for the 2017 Lecture and Music Series. If you will not be in town during November 2016, please call the office at 561.588.8889, and give us your summer address so that we may mail you the Spotlight, which has the Lecture and Music Series ticket application.)

The newest features on our list of the Town's ongoing weekly events are the Yoga Classes led by Jessica Robertson (which meets every Saturday at 9:30 AM), the newly-added Yoga/Pilates Class (Sundays at 9:30 AM), and the Osteoporosis Exercise Program led by Nicole Wojno (every Wednesday at 9:00 AM). Each of these classes meet in Council Chambers and will continue through the summer months. There is no pre-registration required for these popular classes and the associated fee is only \$5.00 per person, per class.



Some of the many free events sponsored by CAAB include Art Shows, weekly Robert Welstein Quest for Knowledge Programs, Bethesda Hospitals Wellness Lectures, Book Discussion Group, and Ice Cream Socials held on the third Sundays of in season months. Other popular activities are bus trips and the AARP Safe Driving Class.

CAAB's monthly meetings also have been well-attended with stimulating discussions on planning future Town events. All Town residents (year-round or seasonal) are welcome to attend CAAB meetings where they can learn for themselves what's going on in Town, and offer their suggestions for future events. CAAB usually meets the third Thursday of each month, with a short break during the summer months

CAAB would love to hear from you regarding any special interests/new ideas you might have. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the Town's activities, please call Sandy at Town Hall 561.588.8889.

TURTLE TIDINGS

Last year we had a record high number of all sea turtle species that nest in our area. The official start of this year's Sea Turtle season was March 1, continuing through October.

You might spot our survey monitors (see photo below) in the early mornings and evenings performing many different tasks. We ask that you please help us protect our magnificent sea turtles by remembering a few simple things:

- 🐢 It is against the law to touch, disturb, or approach nesting adult sea turtles, the hatchlings (babies) or their nests. Sea turtles are federally protected by the Endangered Species Act and the Florida Marine Turtle Protection Act. Please stay several feet away from marked nests.
- 🐢 Do not hand rake any areas of the beach before 8:00 AM. We need to assess the beach every morning in terms of activities that happened the night before.
- 🐢 Do not leave any type of sand pits, sand castles, beach chairs, boats, and trash overnight.
- 🐢 Every night turn off outside patio lights or shield indoor lights, by closing blinds and drapes to keep light from shining directly onto the beach at night. This also applies to residences on a high floor. Lights disturb nesting turtles and hatchlings.
- 🐢 Avoid using flash lights, or flash photography while on the beach at night. This includes all cell phone devices. The light cannot only spook adult females coming into nest but it can disorient and damage the hatchlings' sight.
- 🐢 If you see an injured or dead sea turtle, or any unauthorized person disturbing the nests and the turtles, please call ASAP South Palm Beach Police at 561.540.5757, South Florida Sea Turtle Monitors at 561.856.7110, or Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 888.404.3922

For other injured wildlife such as birds, foxes, possums, raccoons etc., call the monitors and/or South Florida Wildlife Center at 954.524.4302.



If you would like to know more about sea turtles, please check the Town's web site, channel 99, or visit Town Hall for free literature.

Thank you so much for your support and help by doing your part.

TOWN'S 60TH ANNIVE

Dinner

The fabulous 60th Anniversary dinner was held on the evening of Monday, February 1, 2016 at Mario's Restaurant in Lantana.

WOW!! The bright, colorful balloons greeting everyone upon arrival was so welcoming, and the table decorations added to the festivities. The menu choices were delicious and enjoyed by all.

It was a night of visiting with old friends and meeting new ones. Many guests were up dancing and swaying to the tunes of the past and present, thanks to the terrific entertainment provided by Mario's. Makes you want to come to the next Town party.

Happy 60th to the Town of South Palm Beach and thanks to CAAB for all their efforts in making this celebration so successful!!



ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Car Show

The Antique Car Show was held on a bright sunny Saturday, February 27, 2016, at the Plaza del Mar in Manalapan.

Many of the nearly 1,000 attendees were filled with a sense of nostalgia wandering through the 100 plus antique and classic automobiles.

The 50's music in the background added to the day's event. There were also children's activities provided including face painting and tattoos.

A special thanks to Plaza del Mar and the Town of Manalapan for their assistance in making this show so special!



SOUTHGATE SANITARY SEWER LINE AND MANHOLE PROJECT

In October of 2015 the Town entered into two agreements to address a significant restricted sanitary flow problem in the US A1A right of way in front of the Southgate Condominium at 3605 South Ocean Boulevard. The problem was caused by a Florida Power and Light Company (FPL) concrete vault that had been placed on top of the Town's sewer feed line many years ago. Over time the box settled, damaging the line and necessitating relocation of the feed line..

The first agreement the Town entered into was a Release of Property Damage Claims voluntary agreement with FPL whereby FPL settled the claim for \$16,350 to correct the problem believed to be caused by their vault. The second agreement reached by the Town was a Letter of Understanding with Southgate Condominium Association, Inc., wherein the Town agreed to pay Southgate the \$16,350 and an additional \$7,700 from the Sewer Fund for elements of the project located within the Florida Department of Transportation's right of way. The project commenced on October 6, 2015 and was successfully completed on March 1, 2016.



FPL's concrete connector vault/ box



Southgate frontage upon completion of feed line relocation

3550 SOUTH OCEAN BOULEVARD – DEMOLITION PHASE

During the past four months exciting progress has been achieved by the developers, 3550 Holdings LLC, as they advance their new 30 unit luxury condominium development project. Between November 2015 and February 2016, the original seawall was demolished and a new seawall was constructed in accordance with the demolishment and construction permit. Both the Town of South Palm Beach's Building Department and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection oversaw every step of this project to ensure that it was done in full compliance with the local ordinances, building codes, and State rules and regulations.



Palm Beach Hawaiian Ocean Inn – Back in the Day



New Seawall

Following the seawall project, building demolition commenced on the property and was completed in March 2016. This included the demolition along with site restoration of the entire property in preparation for marketing, sales, and future construction of the building.

Though the developers have no specific date selected to start construction, they plan to open a sales office at the Plaza del Mar this spring to attract prospective buyers to invest in our community.



Demolition Completed

Congratulations on their progress to date!

BUILDING DEPARTMENT



Summertime is almost here and homeowners will be gearing up for remodels to their condos, as has been the case historically.

BUILDING PERMITS FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF THIS AND LAST FISCAL YEARS

FY2014-15					
	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15
Issued	46	36	35	49	47
Value	\$357,086.53	\$272,873.75	\$307,087.01	\$254,004.34	\$501,927.90
Fees	\$10,267.12	\$7,979.11	\$8,671.01	\$8,049.65	\$13,700.96
FY 2015-16					
	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16
Issued	47	42	46	32	62
Value	\$1,082,801.96	\$321,673.23	\$242,568.38	\$133,595.53	\$325,565.89
Fees	\$23,976.13	\$8,830.12	\$7,703.76	\$4,498.58	\$10,580.01

Be sure to check with your building for any restrictions they may impose on construction.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call the Building Department at 561.588.8889.

TOWN RULES AND REGULATIONS

On January 26, 2016, the Town Council passed Resolution No. 01-2106. This Resolution supports and encourages efforts by the Town of Lake Clarke Shores and neighboring municipalities to proceed with improvements to the Chain of Lakes, the Ocean to Trails initiative, and development of a boatlift at the C51 Canal S155 Control Structure.

Also on January 26, 2016, Ordinance No. 283 was adopted by the Town Council. This Ordinance amends the Town’s Code of Ordinances at Chapter 10, Buildings and Building Regulations, by repealing Article IV, Building Codes and readopting it to update references to the most recent edition of the Florida Building Code 5th Edition (2014), along with associated technical codes and to adopt local amendments to Chapter 1 of the Florida Building Code at Town Code Section 10-91. This new ordinance will allow our Building Code to conform to the 2014 Florida Building Code and update references to wind speed regulations.

OUR STREET LIGHTS ARE GOING GREEN

The Town of South Palm Beach is proud to announce that in late December 2015 we took our first major steps to becoming a more eco-friendly community. All of the Town's twenty-one decorative street lights were rewired and retrofitted with new LED lighting to protect them from groundwater problems. As a direct result, the new lights operate more efficiently and (by placing a lesser demand on power consumption) will reduce the Town's future monthly electric bills.

These lights are also considered more turtle friendly than the traditional street lamps. This capital improvement project was approved and funded within the Town's current annual budget.



TOWN HALL UPDATED

Town Hall has been enhanced with new equipment and security upgrades. A security door to the police department has been installed and the lobby has been closed in, including a new door to provide a secure work environment for our administrative staff. New porcelain tile floors were installed throughout the work area in the Police and Administration areas to replace the building's original flooring. Energy efficient LED lights and ceiling fans were installed in the police parking garage. To increase building security, a number of high tech security cameras have been installed on the interior and exterior of the building. This system records all movement inside Town Hall and the surrounding area 24/7/365. And lastly, new television equipment was installed in the Town Council Chambers to provide the audience with visual presentation materials at Council meetings and special events.



Police Department's Security Door



Administrative Area/Enclosed Lobby

NEW EMPLOYEES

Police Department Hires Part-Time Police Officer



On November 16, 2015, Richard Scott Stevens was sworn in as a part-time Officer in the Town's Police Department after Commander Rizzotto completed a background investigation.

Prior to his being hired by our Department, Officer Stevens worked for the NYPD from 1992 to 2012. He retired as a Sergeant assigned to the Highway Patrol Division at NYPD. Officer Stevens graduated from Kingsborough Community College in Brooklyn, NY, with an Associates in Business Administration in 1989.



Town Hires New Town Clerk

Maylee De Jesús was sworn in as the new Town Clerk/Assistant to the Town Manager at the January 25, 2016 Town Council Meeting.

Maylee worked in the Clerk's Department in the Village of Palm Springs for almost nine years prior to starting here. She is a Certified Municipal Clerk, and is now working on her Master Municipal Clerk Designation. She is also working on her Bachelors in Public Administration at FAU.

Maylee is currently the Vice President of the Palm Beach County Municipal Clerks Association. She is also active in many associations as well as committees within those organizations.



Thank you Elvadianne Culbertson for your volunteerism in producing our Town newsletter.