

Hernando Beach 2010 Water Scene Photo Contest

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The Beachcomber

Hernando Beach Property Owners Association Newsletter ~ March 2017

MARCH 2017 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Gladys Moore

Our next HBPOA meeting will be March 2nd at the Coast Guard Station at 7pm. We hope all property owners in Hernando Beach will attend this meeting. Instead of a "guest speaker" we are inviting you as our guests to a "meet and greet" social meeting with coffee and desserts. Join us, after a short business meeting we will adjourn so that we can visit with each other get to know each other as neighbors.

The Hernando Beach Volunteer Fire Department has a new fire chief, Dan Chichester. Dan is back onboard after an 11 year absence. Dan was our fire chief many years ago, and had retired. He plans on working on the issues that have plagued our fire department with the goal of bringing it back as a full-service fire department

(Continued on page 3)

Our next meeting will be held **Thursday, March 2nd, at 7:00pm** at the **Coast Guard Auxiliary** on Shoal Line Blvd., doors open at 6:45pm.

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**The purpose of this organization is to unite the property owners of Hernando Beach for Civic purposes that lead to improved quality of life.**

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(Continued from page 1)

just as it used to be for the residents of Hernando Beach.

There was to be a workshop about the Hernando Beach Fire Department on February 14th in which the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners will discuss and decide on the future of our volunteer fire department. As of this writing it hasn't been held yet but I know that many, if not most, residents of Hernando Beach fully support our fire department and hope that it will not be disbanded. They have told me that they would like Dan Chichester to be given a chance to resolve the fire departments problems and bring it back to full service and staffing.

We have had many HBPOA members sign up for our various standing committees and two of them are full, Hospitality and Government Affairs. The Landscaping committee is in full swing and we are holding our first "weeding morning" on February 15th to tackle the many weeds at both the Triangle Park and the US Highway 19 sign. We hope to get them both in shape for some new plantings of flowering annuals in March. Donations of "Preen" would be gratefully accepted if you cannot help due to physical limitations or work hours. Preen is a pre-emergence weed killer, it stops the weed seeds from germinating and makes the landscaping committee's weeding task a lot easier. Cal Holland went to the Triangle Park on February 11th and trimmed up the Cassia trees which had become so overgrown and top heavy that two of them were leaning over. Thank you Cal, and thank you Margo McConnell for organizing our "weeding morning".

The construction of the new Dollar General store is well on its way. It is definitely the highest point in Hernando Beach due to the immense mound of fill dirt that was brought in for it to be built upon. For our out of town lot owners it is located on 5 adjoining lots on the canal just south of the boatlift and across Shoal Line from the hair salon.

We are now taking photos for our 2018 Hernando Beach Calendar. The theme will be "Hernando Beach Life" just as it was last year. This theme proved to be very popular with over 300 photos submitted for consideration. You can email your photos to [hbpoacalendar@gate.net](mailto:hbpoacalendar@gate.net) (include your name so I know who took the photo). They should be photos of Hernando Beach, the preserve or our Gulf waters, fishing, boating, snorkeling, scuba in the gulf, our wildlife, everything we do to enjoy our little piece of paradise. They should also be full size and good quality for commercial printing. We have some great amateur photographers in Hernando Beach.

# The Beachcomber

Published by Hernando Beach  
Property Owners Association

**Deadline for ads, articles, and news:**

**March 8th for publication  
in our April Issue.**

**Yearly advertising prices:**

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To ensure receipt of your email, please put Beachcomber in the subject.

See you at our next meeting, join us and meet your neighbors, find out what is happening in Hernando Beach.

## **MINUTES FROM HBPOA MONTHLY MEETING, COAST GUARD BUILDING, FEBRUARY 2, 2017**

Gladys Moore, President, called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kathy Frase, Vice President, took podium to introduce our Guest Speaker. Before the introduction Kathy asked if there were any new residents or anyone attending the meeting for the first time. George Davy, Kristie Dietz, Dolores and Donald Dietz stood. Also Jon Braden. All welcomed.

Kathy then introduced Guest Speaker Sheriff Al Neinhuis. Sheriff asked if anyone knew who he reported to and several raised their hands. He told audience that he reported to the Citizens of Hernando County and his job was to keep peace in the county, serve civil processes, and to keep the judges safe while they were on the bench. He spoke of his deputies

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# Hernando Beach Property Owners Association

P. O. Box 3198, Spring Hill, FL 34611-3198

## 2017 Board of Directors

**President:** Gladys Moore - (352)597-2676  
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**Government Affairs—**Chuck Greenwell - (502)939-9809  
**Hospitality—**Fran Baird - (352)596-4407  
**Landscaping Committee—**Gladys Moore - (352)597-2676

Board Meetings held the Tuesday before Membership Meeting at 7pm.

## ***HERNANDO BEACH PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM***

HBPOA meetings are held the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month except July and August. Meetings are held at the Coast Guard Station on Calienta St, doors open at 6:45pm and meetings start at 7pm.

**Dues are \$25.00 annually and include the Beachcomber Newsletter mailed to you.**

**Annual dues become due and payable in January of every year and are NOT prorated.**

Members who join in November or December are considered paid up as members for the following year.

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*(Continued from page 3)*

and especially Lieutenant Anthony Piarulli who came along with him. Anthony had just transferred from District 1, just moved here a week or two ago and his responsibility is to manage the districts.

Sheriff talked of several programs in his department – one being Care Line which is a way for the department to know of any person, elderly or not, who lives alone. The service person calls them every morning to check in 6 to 10 AM with department. Should they not check in department checks the hospitals and if not listed there and still no response a deputy will go to the house to check on them.

Eye On The Street is another program offered. This is a program for anyone who has a surveillance camera to register that camera with the Sheriff Department. This is so important as if there is a crime in the area and someone has a camera registered the department will approach that person to view the tape. In so many ways this assists the department to not only see the crime happening if recorded but can also help them apprehend and arrest the individuals doing the crime. Encourages to pass the word and have folks sign up for.

Someone asked about the Citizens Academy. This is

an 8 week program which is one afternoon or night on Thursday each week, 3 or 4 hours each day. You will go through each department of the Sheriff's office, Swat Team, Internal Affairs, Forensic, etc. and the class is free. Highly recommended.

The subject of increase of crimes lately was brought up. We were informed that the department was looking at gangs from Orlando for the influx of crimes happening in Hernando County. Broken into cell phone stores, car dealerships, Target. There may be several hundred in these gangs and the department is working on arresting and having warrants on many of these but because of the number of the gangs it is taking time. It seems that these individuals are looking on Google Map, Picking out areas to hit that have nicer homes and nicer cars. They work with several in a car and go to the area, exit vehicle quickly, try cars to see if open and then commit the crime.

He told everyone that there are things that we, as residents, can do. Make sure you lock your cars, lock your houses, put up sensor lights, Don't leave any weapons in your cars. Take all them in the house, especially at night. You don't want to know that an officer was shot with your stolen weapon. If you get up in the middle of the night, go to restroom or whatever, take a look out your window and if you see a car

*(Continued on page 7)*



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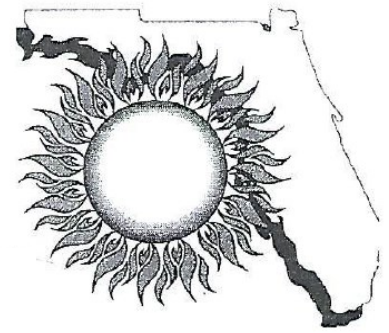
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*(Continued from page 5)*

parked or driving around that you are not familiar with call the Sheriff. If you see anything suspicious going on – day or night – call the Sheriff Department at 352-754-6830 or call 911 He said he won't be angry if you call and report a possible crime.

The Sheriff shared with the audience what all it takes to respond to a crime, especially a murder. It takes many hours to secure the area, forensics to take over, processing of DNA, etc. When you have a shortage of deputies and detectives this hurts the department. Sheriff Neinhuis spoke briefly of the budget and that he is pursuing this with not only the County but with the State to help him get more deputies. Right now he has 4 K9 deputies (actually 3 because one is out on maternity leave) and compared to areas like Pasco who have 20 this is a stress on the department.

Informed audience that we also have 400 sex offenders and predators. They are kept track of at all times, and if a child goes missing these are the first individuals that are questioned.

A question was asked on having volunteers and Sheriff Neinhuis went through several opportunities they have. Public Service Technicians who can do anything a deputy can but do not carry a gun or a badge.

If these folks do a good job they then go on to the Police Academy. Right now he has 7 that will graduate in May. There is also the Reserve Deputies (right now 100 volunteers) who assist in Traffic Aid – help at a crash site. Public Service Aid who mainly pick up paperwork duties – pawn slips, etc. Auxiliary Deputies who need 320 hours of education, drive with a deputy, carry a gun and have partial arrest authority.

The Sheriff will be holding a press conference at 11 AM on Friday 2/3/17 with Pam Bondy regarding a situation of a package that came to Hernando. K9 were called out, along with Vice and they found 5,000 doses of heroin. This was a major situation to take this off of the street. What they have found is that there has been a lot of abuse of pain medications and with the help of Pam Bondy gotten support on making sure that anyone in need of this medication must have a prescription from a doctor to obtain. People on drugs have no initiative and with no initiative they steal.

Explained that Florida does not have perfect drivers. That Hernando County has 180,000 people and last year there were 30 to 40,000 traffic stops. That is one in every 4 or 5 people. This ties up resources going call to call. Need to encourage all to drive safer.

*(Continued on page 10)*

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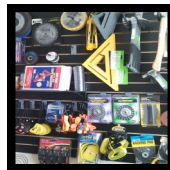
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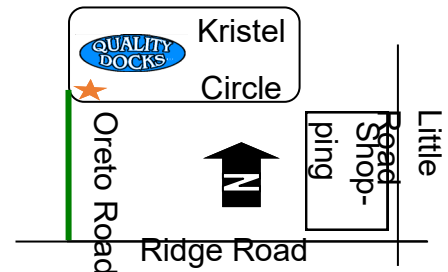
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## US COAST GUARD AUXILIARY (15-8) NEEDS VOLUNTEERS



The Hernando Beach USCGA is seeking volunteers to help with promotion of classes, special events, and more. There are also opportunities to help with the upkeep of the flotilla building and grounds. Please contact Dennis Skonecki at

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(Continued from page 7)

Sheriff ended his presentation with thanking the residents for what they do, even though the thanking usually goes to the department, and he appreciates that. Please continue to pray for them all and remember to stay safe and call if anything unusual.

Margo McConnell gave the Treasurer's Report, showing balance of \$12,405.72 in the general fund and \$6,656.84 in entranceway account as of 1/31/17. Report was accepted as factual and filed for audit.

Joy Martinez reported on 2016 Audit done by Joy Martinez, Kathy Jasper and Bill Jasper and read a letter of confirmation. Motion to accept by Cal Holland and seconded by Ben Martinez

Committee reports led by Gladys Moore for Landscaping. Sign up sheets were available on the table. No weeding has been done lately but a group of 8 volunteers will do this on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Have 4 signed up at this time but need 4 more. This will take only 2 hours. If anyone would like to volunteer contact Margo McConnell or Gladys Moore. Margo stated we are still pursuing the ROTC to volunteer and Sarge suggested contact someone in regards to getting those that have to do Community Service because of a judgement, these are not the prisoners. Margo will look into.

Hospitality Committee – Kathy Frase encouraged all to get neighbors or new residents to attend the meeting and then perhaps sign up for membership. A list is obtained from the realtors of new residents but this does not include the homes that are being built, so if anyone knows these folks to get their names and addresses to either Kathy or Fran Baird who are both on Next Door. Also mentioned many things being done by the committee, Welcome Bags to new residents, the ice Cream Social, Holiday party and a Meet and Greet hosted on March 2<sup>nd</sup> which Gladys will talk on.

Beachcomber – Jen Brown informed that deadline was February 10<sup>th</sup> and to send any articles to her by this date. Her information is on inside of Beachcomber. Also starting photo contest – deadline August 15<sup>th</sup>. Presentation will be at the ice cream social in September. Contest entries must be from association members.

Gladys Moore mentioned theme suggested to remain same "Hernando Beach life". All agreed

Government Affairs Committee – Chuck Greenwell stated GAC meeting will be Tuesday February 7<sup>th</sup> at the Hernando Beach Club at 6 PM for committee members. Sheriff Budget will be topic at BOCC on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Workshop for Fire Volunteer Depart-

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ment will be on Tuesday February 14<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM after BOCC meeting. There were no complaints on vessels on Marlin or Tarpin Canals. No wake and speed limits have been better. No reports from the Marine Committee. Wanted to compliment Joy Martinez for giving him information on History which he will look over. Need to reactivate committees as we go forward. Encourage many to attend the BOCC meetings.

Crime Watch – meeting is second Wednesday of the month according to the VFW and needs to be changed on BeachComber as it is stated as second Tuesday of the month. Jen Brown will take care of.

Old Business: Dues for membership are now due. Mailing list for the BeachComber has to go out mid February to the printer.

HBPOA meeting for March is the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March. There will be no speaker for that meeting as we have decided to have a Meet and Greet after the meeting. A brief meeting will be held and then the Meet and Greet after. Encouraged to invite all your neighbors. Board will be bringing dessert – cookies, brownies and coffee provided.

Linda Prescott mentioned Pancake Breakfast on April  
(Continued on page 12)

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## HERNANDO BEACH CRIME WATCH NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Hernando Beach Crime Watch Committee is looking for some volunteers to help drive around our area. All you need is to have a few hours a week available to drive around with a buddy. Sometimes just the extra presence seen in a community is a deterrent for crime. All Hernando Beach Residents are invited to their monthly meetings, the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm at HB VFW. We hope you will join us even if you do not have time to drive/ride in our crime watch car.

## HERNANDO BEACH FIRE DEPT NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Hernando Beach Fire Dept. is looking for volunteers if you are interested please stop by the fire dept. on Tuesday nights after 6:30pm or on Saturday mornings and speak with the Chief.

**Hernando Beach Fire Department**  
**3451 Shoal Line Blvd—Hernando Beach**  
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1<sup>st</sup> at the Applebees. Tickets are \$5 each and proceeds go to Rotary Club who do many things with all the money – that stays in the County, Provide dictionaries to students and for some this is the only book they have. Also do gifts for them at Xmas. Anyone who can't or doesn't want to attend can purchase a ticket and donate it. These will be given to needy to attend breakfast on your behalf.

Boat Lift – Gladys Moore said boat lift is under design. The structure is over 35 years old and damaged. Board directors will be re-elected at the March meeting and if anyone is interested see Gladys.

Sarge Dendy spoke of cradle. Cradle no longer floats. 100 lb weights were replaced with new and fastened to cradle to stop floating,

Port Authority – Kelly Reeve gave report on meeting her and John Paul attended. Several topics – Kayak permits in Army corp request finished by March 19<sup>th</sup>. (DIDN'T GET A LOT OF THIS, TALKED FAST AND QUIETLY)

Fran Baird spoke of ugly paper boxes and has reported this to the County and they will be picked up. She  
(Continued on page 13)



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(Continued from page 12)

also stated that the Tourist Council was making new maps (Marsh up to Bayport – West) and she will get these and distribute.

Fran also mentioned that with the Hurricane there were a lot of folks who had stuff to get rid of. She wanted to suggest having a Yard Sale on same day as Hernando South – in March. You would have it at your house but we would do it as a whole community. People agreed on Saturday March 4<sup>th</sup>, suggested putting a balloon on your mailbox. She will put something out on Next Door. All agreed.

Meeting was adjourned.

### **HERNANDO BEACH YARD SALE – SATURDAY, MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup> - 8 AM TO 4 PM**

At the HBPOA meeting on Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> it was suggested and agreed upon that it would be a good time to hold a Yard Sale to declutter our homes. We all know that Spring brings a time to clean out the closets, garages, attics and find all those things that you bought a long time ago and now look at them and say "why?". At least I know I do. So why throw them out when you can make a little money right?

With Hernando Beach South holding their yearly sale it seems like a good idea to not only have it there but throughout all neighborhoods of Hernando Beach. So start putting aside those items, price them and let's have a fun day selling and buying!

**Date is Saturday, March 4th from 8 AM to 4 PM.** If you are taking part in this make sure you put a balloon on your mailbox so folks know to come by for some great bargains. Be aware that many shoppers will show up early in hopes of getting the best bargains first, so you may have a few early birds lined up outside your driveway.

You know what they say "one's man trash is another man's treasure"!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

### **WHAT IS CRIME WATCH?**

A neighborhood watch, also called a crime watch, is an organized group of civilians devoted to crime and vandalism prevention within a neighborhood, according to Wikipedia. In other words, crime watch is a crime prevention organization under which civilians agree together to keep an eye on one another's properties, patrol the street, and report suspi-

(Continued on page 14)

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Board Certified in Orthopaedic Surgery

*"Throughout my surgical experience Dr. Higgins continued to be compassionate and patient oriented. While in the pre-op waiting room he visited with me and my husband. He put us at ease assuring my husband that he would come into the waiting room to speak to him as soon as the procedure was complete. He was at my side in the operating room as the anesthesiologist put me to sleep. I stayed in the hospital four days. Dr. Higgins came to check on my progress every day." – Kristin J.S.*

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**Medical School** at College of Osteopathic Medicine at Nova Southeastern University, North Miami Beach, Florida



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(Continued from page 13)

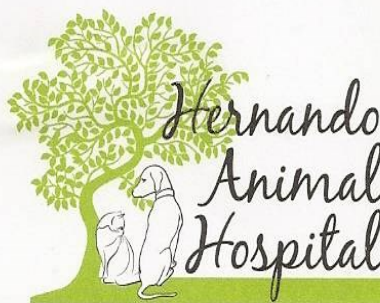
cious incidents to law enforcement.

The aim of crime watch includes educating residents of a community on security and safety and achieving safe and secure neighborhoods. Our Crime Watch is organized as its community association, with Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

**Neighborhood watches are not vigilante organizations. When suspecting criminal activities, members are encouraged to contact authorities and not to intervene.**

The current American system of neighborhood watches began developing in the late 1960s as a response to the rape and murder of Kitty Genovese in Queens, New York. Some local civilians formed groups to watch over their neighborhoods and to look out for any suspicious activity in their areas. Shortly thereafter, the National Sheriffs' Association began a concerted effort in 1972 to revitalize the "watch group" effort nationwide.<sup>[1]</sup>

The neighborhood watch system gained intense media attention after the February, 2012, fatal shooting of teenager, Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Florida by  
(Continued on page 15)



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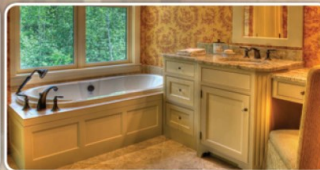
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(Continued from page 14)

George Zimmerman, an appointed neighborhood watch coordinator.<sup>[2]</sup> His actions on the night of the shooting generated controversy as he exited his vehicle and was carrying a gun, both of which go against neighborhood watch recommendations.<sup>[3]</sup>

A June 2012 *New York Times* article reported that neighborhood watches in the New York City area are growing again after decades of decrease due to lower crime rates. Robert McCrie, professor of security management at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City would support background checks for volunteers.<sup>[4]</sup>

A background check, by the Hernando County Sher-

iff's Office, has been conducted for each volunteer in the Hernando Beach Crime Watch. In addition, the driving record of each driver has been submitted to the vehicle insurance company and cleared for insurability.

The Hernando Beach Crime Watch maintains and operates its own patrol vehicle exclusively with funds that are donated by members of our community. It organizes a monthly Community Breakfast at a restaurant in our community and participates in other community events throughout the year.

Donations are appreciated by mail at HBCW, PO Box 3140, Spring Hill FL 34611-3140 or online at <http://HBCW.info>.

(Continued on page 16)

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David E. Brann  
HBCW President  
(561)202-4729

## HERNANDO BEACH PHOTO CONTEST

Theme: **"Hernando Beach Life"**

Due by: **August 15th**

Email to: [mjajbrown@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:mjajbrown@tampabay.rr.com)

Subject: **HB Photo Contest**

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## PORT AUTHORITY MEETING 1/18/2017

The Agenda Included;

Kayak Trails - Permits are in - signs and posts will be installed - The Army Corp requires them to be finished by March 18. There will be a map showing all kayak trails.

Reef Project - Feb 1 going out for bids. This is the third time the project has went out for bids. They are trying to simplify the packet going out to the contractors. This project will be a benefit for our whole community.

New Dock Guideline have been put into place.  
Marine Contraction Code - Piers are engineered so piers do not end up on your porch.

Hernando Beach does not have a maintenance dredge implemented.

You can dredge behind your house, as a property owner, with a simple permit.

Oyster Reef - Location, design plan - Permits in limbo 2.8 acres designated to plant march grass.  
There is a Boat Ramp master plan throughout the county to determine ways to improve.

At the boat ramp here there has been a parking fee. There is not a launch fee. Where do you pay the fee? There is a new structure by the bath house. When paying, keep your receipt. Your receipt is your only proof of payment. There is a \$150.00 fine when the Sheriff writes you a ticket. The sheriffs' office gets \$3.00 of that fine with the rest going to Parks and Recreation.

There are Speed Zone changes which are waiting on the signs. Sea Grass signs going in. Be aware and look out for these changes. Remember all areas touching the Gulf have been changed to NO WAKE. Boats are merging together and you need to slow

(Continued on page 18)



# HERNANDO BAR 5K

and 1 MILE RUN/WALK



*Funding College Scholarships for Hernando County Students*



The Weeki Wachee Preserve, 2345 Osowaw Blvd, Spring Hill, FL 34607

## Saturday, March 25, 2017

New! Race 2 of a 6 race series

Race start 8:00am, Registration 7:00am

@ [RunTheParks.com](http://RunTheParks.com)

Individual \$25 (\$20 early reg, ends Jan 25)

Student under 20 **only \$15**

1 mile fun run - FREE

\$30 day of event

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Medals in 5 year age groups

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**pre-registered runners and volunteers.**

Come out and enjoy one of Hernando County's most beautiful nature trails while supporting a great cause. Free one mile fun run on a paved trail.

RunSignUp.com or Active.com "Hernando Bar 5K" - email: [HernandoBar5K@aol.com](mailto:HernandoBar5K@aol.com)

Mail in to Hernando County Bar 5K, 5438 Spring Hill Dr, Spring Hill, FL 34606.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: M F  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ size: S M L XL  
DOB: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Age race day: \_\_\_\_\_ Distance: 5K 1M Both None-volunteer

**WAIVER: WE ARE LAWYERS AFTER ALL...** In consideration of the acceptance of my application for this entry, I, the undersigned intending to be legally bound, hereby, for myself and anyone acting on my behalf, release any and all claims for damages I may have against the event organizers, Hernando County Bar Association, the event supporters, directors, volunteers, Hernando County, Southwest Water Management District, Finish Line Sports, Run The Parks, and any sponsors and their representatives, successors and assigns for any and all injuries and death suffered by me in said event. I attest and verify that I know that an athletic event can be a potentially hazardous activity. I acknowledge that participating in this event is inherently dangerous. I fully realize the dangers of participating in this event, and fully assume the risk associated with such participation, including but not limited to the following dangers: dehydration, hyperthermia, hypothermia, hyponatremia, collision with pedestrians, vehicles, and other event participants and fixed or moving objects, dangers arising from other surface hazards, equipment failure, inadequate safety equipment, weather conditions, animals, the possibility of serious physical and/or mental trauma and injury, including death. However, I have sufficiently trained for the completion of this event and know that I am participating at my own risk. I understand that there are more hazards than are enumerated here, and that there are unknown and unforeseeable hazards. I engage in the activity of this event with knowledge of the inherent risks of injury. I understand the risks involved in this event and I have carefully read, understand and voluntarily accept the terms of this waiver and release agreement. In addition, I agree to abide by the rules and conditions laid down for the event and to follow instructions issued by event officials. I understand that circumstances beyond the control of the event director may cause the event to be modified, postponed or relocated. I accept that the organizers reserve the right to refuse entry from persons considered to have insufficient experience or disqualify those who fail to follow the rules and conditions; ignorance is no excuse. I agree that my name, voice or picture may be used by Hernando County Bar Association, Red Mule Runners and race sponsors for promotional purposes. I affirm that the details written about me on this entry form are true. I agree it is my sole responsibility to be familiar with the course, the rules of the sanctioning body, and the special regulations of the event. I understand that there is an 1 hour 30 minute time limit for completing this race, after which I will not expect the race organizers to remain at the finish area. I agree to notify the race organizers if I should decide to withdraw from this event prior to reaching the finish line. I have no physical or mental condition which, to my knowledge, would endanger myself or others if I participate in this event, or would interfere with my ability to participate in this event. I have read this waiver of liability and accept the risks and responsibility associated with entering this event. I further acknowledge that I may be required to sign an Acknowledgement, Waiver & Release from Liability (AWRL) during the registration process prior to starting the ride on the day of the event. I hereby grant permission for the free use of my name and picture in any broadcast brochure, website, or account of this event. I understand that by not pre-registering by the cut-off date listed online, I may not be able to get a souvenir from this event. I have personally read this waiver of liability and accept the risks and responsibility associated with entering this event.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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*(Continued from page 16)*

down.

The largest group of people attending were residents of Pine Island.

Due to sand brought in for the beach their waterways are being filled in. Residents expressed concerns on the water quality. This is a big issue and many people are working on this from the county, state, and federal levels.

Frank Santo did a very informative presentation and will be heading this project

Residents of Hernando Beach and Pine Island are concerned about the water quality. The 1996 Mangrove Trimming & Preservation Act, 403.9322 Legislative finds that mangroves play an important ecological role as habitat for various species of marine and estuarine vertebrates, invertebrates, and other wildlife, including mammals, birds, and reptiles; as shoreline stabilization and storm protection; and for water quality protection and maintenance and as food-web support.

My recommendation is; hopefully in the future, our HBPOA's, can educate the community to help im-

prove the water quality of our canals concerning how we deal with our yard, boat, and car care. What we do today will be our future.

## HERNANDO BEACH CRIME WATCH HAS A NEW PATROL VEHICLE



**2007 Kia Spectra EX**

After repeated requests for donations to purchase a new patrol vehicle, the Hernando Beach Crime Watch received a generous donation of a vehicle from Mr. and Mrs. Brian Pierce of Camelia Drive donated this California vehicle to perform regularly scheduled patrols of our community. Mr. Pierce is the founder of a product used to replace crushed rubber under imitation grass on sports fields, under the name of ZeoFill. The Pierces have lived in Hernando Beach since 2014 and look forward to retiring here full time.

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HBCW is grateful and appreciates the Pierce's generosity and commitment to crime prevention. The new vehicle will save in fuel cost and repairs over the previous police interceptor. Scheduled patrol times, in 5 hour blocks, are available 24/7 and volunteers commit 1-2 hours per week patrolling our streets for unusual criminal activity that can be reported to the Sheriff's dispatcher.

Come join us at our monthly Crime Watch meeting on the second Wednesday of each month, 7PM at the VFW on Shoal Line Blvd., followed immediately by a social hour. Donations are accepted online at [www.HBCW.hbcw.info](http://www.HBCW.hbcw.info) or by mail at HBCW, Box 3140 Spring Hill, FL 34611. You can contact HBCW at 561-202-4729.

**LIKE IT – HIDE IT – LOCK IT**

## **OUR NATURE COAST**

By: Benny Martinez

The Nature Coast is our wonderful playground. I have spent most of my life hunting and fishing our coastline. I will be presenting pictures and articles that represent a lifetime of pleasure associated with my experiences.



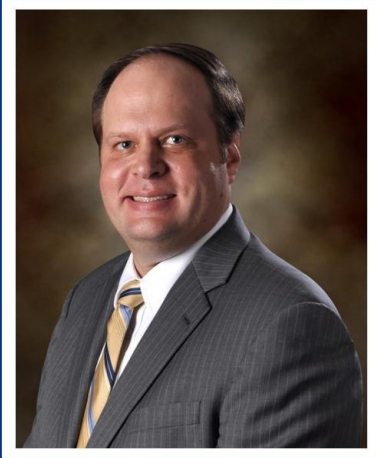
In the late sixties our coastline had a tremendous fishery that, in my eyes, was second to none. We fire-fished (shinning a light) for our dinner on the way to deer camp. Hernando Beach was newly in existence at the time. Our camp was on the Chaz River located on Blind Creek. Most of us from that time period fished from Aripeka and to the north. We became proficient with fishing spots all the way to Crystal River.

Some of the photos that may accompany these articles are from that area and time frame.

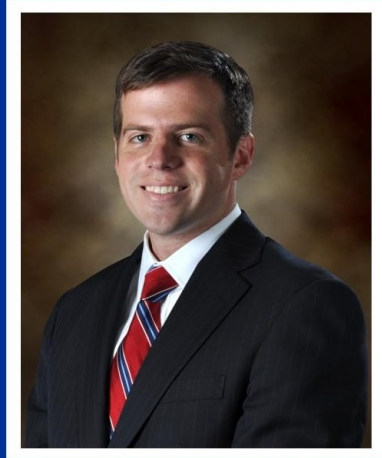
Last month I mentioned the freeze that killed the vegetation in the area. There was also a fire that devastated the swamp (coast) from Highway 50 northward and US 19 to the west. The fire took place in the early 70's. It decimated the area killing the majestic Red Cyprus trees along with most of the wild life. The deer population took a big hit, as every type of wild life in the area was affected.

*(Continued on page 20)*

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(Continued from page 19)



In this area, in the early to mid Twentieth Century, Red Cyprus was harvested and moved up the coast to Cedar Key. In Cedar Key the trees would be cut and transported

around the world. The development of the railroads that originated in Ocala tied into the main line from Cedar Key and to the south. One of the last remnants of the railroad was the trestle that is located on the Chaz. The railroads brought in many workers who basically lived in the swamp for weeks at a time. The wages were miniscule and many worked for food and a small wage.

There were no roads or grates in the Chassowitzka in the 70's, only the old trams associated with the railroads. (The trams were almost gone by the mid '70's.) They were used as a guiding point in the swamp. The railroad was also the Hunt Mainline. The tram was situated north to south. Logging pulls were found the at the ends of the trams. Logging

Pulls are the ruts that the Red Cyprus made when they were moved out of the swamp. In my mind, I imagined the men with oxen pulling the massive logs out of the swamp.



As a young man, I was extremely lucky to have been part of the hunting camp in the Chaz. Camps such as ours were found up

the coast from Aripeka where Babe Ruth stayed many times, to Mary's Fish Camp on the Mud River, to Wall Creek, and Blind Creek just to name a few. The people of many of the camps were prominent citizens in our area. They had great visions of and for this area including Hernando Beach. What we do and how we protect our beautiful coastline is in our hands now.

The Native Americans that occupied this area before us were very protective of the area and the resources that abounded. We, too, should keep that approach towards this little piece of paradise. Like the Red Cyprus trees, our natural beauty and resources disappear in the blink of an eye never to return.

# March 2017

| Sun                                                                   | Mon                                                              | Tue                | Wed                                                                      | Thu                           | Fri                                                        | Sat         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| To be included in next month's calendar please e-mail your events to: | to Jennifer Brown<br>mjajbrown@tampabay.rr.com<br>By 03/08/2017. |                    | 1<br>VFW Spaghetti Dinner                                                | 2<br>HBPOA MEMBERSHIP MEETING | 3<br>HBC Dinner 6-11pm                                     | 4<br>HBVFD  |
| 5                                                                     | 6                                                                | 7<br>HBVFD 6:30pm  | 8<br><b>Beachcomber Deadline</b><br>HB Crime Watch Meeting<br>7pm at VFW | 9                             | 10<br>HBC Dinner 6-11pm                                    | 11<br>HBVFD |
| 12                                                                    | 13                                                               | 14<br>HBVFD 6:30pm | 15<br>Port Authority Meeting<br>7pm                                      | 16                            | 17<br>HBC Dinner 6-11pm<br>VFW Fish & Shrimp<br>5pm to 7pm | 18<br>HBVFD |
| 19                                                                    | 20                                                               | 21<br>HBVFD 6:30pm | 22                                                                       | 23                            | 24<br>HBC Dinner 6-11pm                                    | 25<br>HBVFD |
| 26<br>VFW Breakfast                                                   | 27                                                               | 28<br>HBVFD 6:30pm | 29                                                                       | 30                            | 31                                                         |             |

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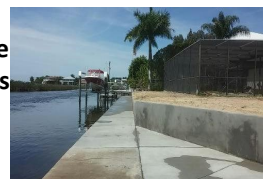
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### Hernando Beach, Rocky Creek, Little Pine I. Bay, Florida, March 2017

28.4867° N, 82.6617° W

|                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                      | Wed 01                                                                                                               | Thu 02                                                                                                              | Fri 03                                                                                                              | Sat 04                                                                                                              |
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| Sun 05                                                                                                              | Mon 06                                                                                                               | Tue 07                                                                                                               | Wed 08                                                                                                               | Thu 09                                                                                                              | Fri 10                                                                                                              | Sat 11                                                                                                              |
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| Sun 12                                                                                                              | Mon 13                                                                                                               | Tue 14                                                                                                               | Wed 15                                                                                                               | Thu 16                                                                                                              | Fri 17                                                                                                              | Sat 18                                                                                                              |
| High Tide 3.05 ft<br>00:59<br>Low Tide -0.29 ft<br>09:53<br>High Tide 2.82 ft<br>14:40<br>Low Tide 0.14 ft<br>22:02 | High Tide 3.02 ft<br>02:39<br>Low Tide -0.14 ft<br>10:23<br>High Tide 2.88 ft<br>15:05<br>Low Tide 0.02 ft<br>22:37  | High Tide 2.93 ft<br>03:17<br>Low Tide 0.03 ft<br>10:52<br>High Tide 2.93 ft<br>15:30<br>Low Tide -0.04 ft<br>23:11  | High Tide 2.80 ft<br>03:54<br>Low Tide 0.22 ft<br>11:19<br>High Tide 2.96 ft<br>15:55<br>Low Tide -0.07 ft<br>23:45  | High Tide 2.64 ft<br>04:32<br>Low Tide 0.41 ft<br>11:47<br>High Tide 2.97 ft<br>16:21                               | Low Tide -0.04 ft<br>00:20<br>High Tide 2.45 ft<br>05:12<br>Low Tide 0.61 ft<br>12:16<br>High Tide 2.94 ft<br>16:50 | Low Tide 0.03 ft<br>00:58<br>High Tide 2.23 ft<br>05:57<br>Low Tide 0.82 ft<br>12:48<br>High Tide 2.87 ft<br>17:23  |
| Sun 19                                                                                                              | Mon 20                                                                                                               | Tue 21                                                                                                               | Wed 22                                                                                                               | Thu 23                                                                                                              | Fri 24                                                                                                              | Sat 25                                                                                                              |
| Low Tide 0.15 ft<br>01:43<br>High Tide 2.03 ft<br>06:54<br>Low Tide 1.04 ft<br>13:27<br>High Tide 2.74 ft<br>18:04  | Low Tide 0.28 ft<br>02:40<br>High Tide 1.88 ft<br>08:11<br>Low Tide 1.25 ft<br>14:22<br>High Tide 2.59 ft<br>19:01   | Low Tide 0.36 ft<br>03:57<br>High Tide 1.87 ft<br>09:44<br>Low Tide 1.39 ft<br>15:45<br>High Tide 2.48 ft<br>20:21   | Low Tide 0.31 ft<br>05:22<br>High Tide 2.03 ft<br>11:06<br>Low Tide 1.35 ft<br>17:20<br>High Tide 2.50 ft<br>21:48   | Low Tide 0.16 ft<br>06:33<br>High Tide 2.24 ft<br>12:01<br>Low Tide 1.14 ft<br>18:37<br>High Tide 2.64 ft<br>23:02  | Low Tide -0.01 ft<br>07:27<br>High Tide 2.45 ft<br>12:41<br>Low Tide 0.85 ft<br>19:34                               | High Tide 2.83 ft<br>00:02<br>Low Tide -0.14 ft<br>08:10<br>High Tide 2.64 ft<br>13:13<br>Low Tide 0.53 ft<br>20:21 |
| Sun 26                                                                                                              | Mon 27                                                                                                               | Tue 28                                                                                                               | Wed 29                                                                                                               | Thu 30                                                                                                              | Fri 31                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                     |
| High Tide 3.00 ft<br>00:53<br>Low Tide -0.19 ft<br>08:49<br>High Tide 2.81 ft<br>13:44<br>Low Tide 0.23 ft<br>21:03 | High Tide 3.11 ft<br>01:40<br>Low Tide -0.16 ft<br>09:27<br>High Tide 2.95 ft<br>14:12<br>Low Tide -0.05 ft<br>21:45 | High Tide 3.15 ft<br>02:26<br>Low Tide -0.04 ft<br>10:03<br>High Tide 3.08 ft<br>14:41<br>Low Tide -0.27 ft<br>22:26 | High Tide 3.10 ft<br>03:12<br>Low Tide 0.14 ft<br>10:38<br>High Tide 3.18 ft<br>15:11<br>Low Tide -0.42 ft<br>23:08  | High Tide 2.96 ft<br>03:58<br>Low Tide 0.37 ft<br>11:15<br>High Tide 3.25 ft<br>15:44<br>Low Tide -0.47 ft<br>23:52 | High Tide 2.75 ft<br>04:47<br>Low Tide 0.62 ft<br>11:52<br>High Tide 3.25 ft<br>16:19                               |                                                                                                                     |



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