

The Beachcomber

Hernando Beach Property Owners Association Newsletter

www.hernandobeachpoa.com

January 2017 Issue

Our next meeting will be held **Thursday, January 5th, 2017 at 7:00pm** at the **Coast Guard Auxiliary** on Shoal Line Blvd., doors open at 6:45pm.

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Gladys Moore

2016 has been a busy year for HBPOA. We formed our Hospitality committee to welcome new property owners to Hernando Beach plus they put together and hosted a very successful Christmas Dinner and social.

Our Government Affairs Committee headed by Charles Greenwell has done an amazing job for Hernando Beach. GAC researches and addresses issues that can have an impact on Hernando Beach directing these issues to our county officials and board of county commissioner's attention.

Under Chuck's leadership we have established a good rapport with our county officials, identified issues of concern to Hernando Beach then brought our community together in support of those issues. Most importantly GAC stopped a rezoning that would have had a negative impact on Hernando Beach. They have garnered the cooperation of county officials to change practices within the county regarding notices of zoning changes and permits. Practices that were not acceptable to Hernando Beach residents. Chuck guided our Vision Committee in their research for and the writing of a "vision statement" for Hernando Beach which will be incorporated into the county's comprehensive plan.

Currently GAC members are working on an issue with the Hernando Beach Volunteer Fire Department. The Hernando Beach community wants an ALS fire truck or an ambulance stationed full time in Hernando Beach. The Hernando County Fire rescue department wants to take over our HBVFD and do away with it. Whether or not we will have ALS services directly in Hernando Beach is questionable. Currently ALS is

(Continued on page 3)





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dispatched from County station #1 on Parker off Spring Hill Drive.

We also have another issue with Hernando Beach Seafood in that the company wants to establish a seafood processing plant on Shoal Line Blvd in the old Gulf Star Marine building. This would mean that large commercial vessels would be navigating Marlin canal daily to unload their fish or shrimp for processing and packaging to be shipped out to New York.

The ALS issue is to be addressed in January of the coming year. They are still working of the processing plant issue.

Our Government Affairs committee is so very valuable to our community. We owe a thank you to Chuck for his guidance, skill and knowledge as well as to our GAC members for their research on issues, dedication to a project, and willingness to step forward and be heard in support of our Hernando Beach community.

HBPOA members still have a lot to accomplish and a lot of dreams for Hernando Beach going forward into the future. We are not a stagnant society but rather a vibrant, energetic group of property owners who bring a wealth of knowledge and skills to Hernando Beach for the benefit of our community. We take pride in our Hernando Beach community, endeavoring to help it to become a beautiful little paradise for all its residents to enjoy.

Come to a meeting, listen and learn what is going. Join HBPOA and help us for a better Hernando Beach. See you at the next HBPOA meeting.

CONTINUING ISSUES COULD LEAD TO END OF FIRE DEPARTMENT IN HERNANDO BEACH

By: Barbara Behrendt, Times Staff Writer, December 2, 2016

HERNANDO BEACH — Hernando County Fire

The Beachcomber

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Property Owners Association

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Rescue this week took over emergency calls in Hernando Beach after trying for months to get the Hernando Beach Volunteer Fire Department to cooperate with county emergency protocols.

Concerns about the volunteers failing to respond to 911 calls, failing to report who is available to respond to such calls and their qualifications, and ongoing issues about financial reports and quarterly reports on response times could spell the end of the volunteer department's operations.

Hernando County government staffers will recommend on Tuesday that the County Commission immediately terminate the county's contract with the Hernando Beach Volunteer Fire Department.

If the commission makes that decision, it would end a contract signed in mid 2014, close a volunteer department in place since 1975 and bring to an end the last all-volunteer fire department in Hernando County.

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Hernando Beach Property Owners Association

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

HERNANDO BEACH PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM

HBPOA meetings are held the 1st 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.

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(Continued from page 3)

Hernando Beach Chief David Murdock was not immediately available to comment on the developments.

The department has been at the center of multiple controversies and public discussions over the last several years, ranging from allegations that a former chief bought and consumed alcohol with his crew at the station to questions about why the community had basic life support providers rather than advanced life support providers as first responders on calls.

But nearly two dozen documents released to the Tampa Bay Times this week in response to a public records request indicate that the problems run far deeper, with county officials questioning the veracity of reports listing response times, details of calls the volunteers received that they never responded to, and internal communications voicing concern about the county's liability in allowing the volunteer department to continue.

If the commission terminates the contract Tuesday, Hernando County Fire Rescue is poised to take over immediately, according to Scott Hechler, assistant county administrator and fire chief. That would also mean that Hernando Beach would have first responders who are trained in advanced life support, stationed 24/7 in Hernando Beach.

The Hernando Beach volunteers can only provide basic life support, which does not include administering medications or providing artificial breathing apparatus, among other services. And some of the volunteers who were sole responders on at least one recent call didn't even have that level of training, according to the documents released this week.

Hechler said that Hernando Beach residents — and those in Aripeka and Forest Glenn, who are also in the district — will not see an increase in their annual fee for fire service until the start of

(Continued on page 6)

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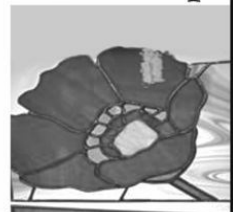
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(Continued from page 5)

the 2017-18 fiscal next October. Currently, property owners in the volunteer fire district pay \$107.36 a year on their property tax bills for the fire service while other county residents receiving service through Hernando County Fire and Rescue pay \$183.43.

The Hernando Beach volunteers have weathered a variety of controversies in recent years. Community leaders and county officials have had town hall meetings twice in the last year to talk about the differences between the services provided by the volunteers and the county.

Discussion of a brutal dog attack of a Hernando Beach resident who visited the volunteer fire station last Thanksgiving prompted a County Commission discussion about how it might be time to gauge Hernando Beach's interest in changing over to county fire service.

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(Continued from page 6)

The Fire Department's former chief, David Freda, now chief at the Brooksville Fire Department, was counseled over his excessive use of the county's gas card several years ago. He also was investigated for allegations that he bought beer for his volunteers, drank beer and allowed them to drink beer at the station.

Freda said no policies were broken.

In a memo to commissioners in advance of Tuesday's contract termination recommendation, Hechler details the most recent problems with the Hernando Beach department.

He wrote that the department is not consistently following protocols, including, in some cases, not even acknowledging calls using the radio system.

"This inconsistent following of emergency communications protocol can potentially negatively

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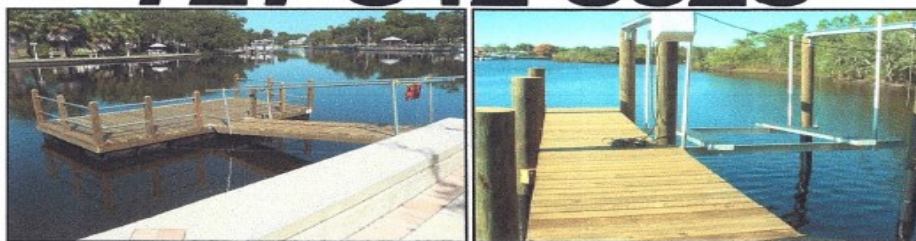


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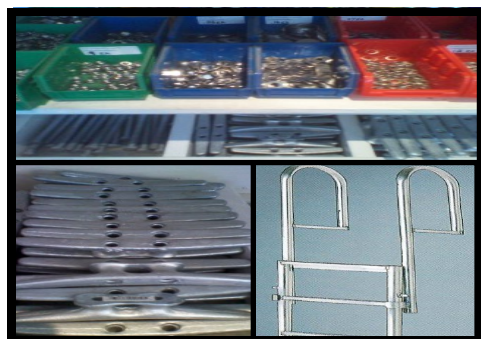


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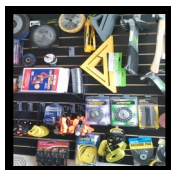
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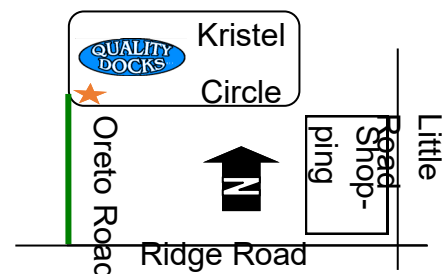
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(Continued from page 8)

impact patient care and cause delays in the response of appropriate certified HCFR responders [in lieu of HBVFD personnel who are contracted to respond, but have either a delayed (response) or not responded at all]."

Hechler goes on to detail two serious protocol breaches.

One happened in late July when a life-

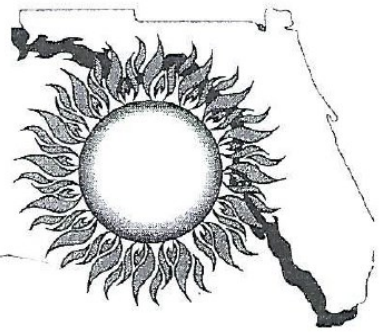
threatening emergency was called in from Orient Drive in Hernando Beach. The volunteer department, which is required to have round-the-clock staffing, twice failed to respond to separate 911 dispatches, including one that was tagged as a Priority 1 medical emergency.

Hernando County responded with its Engine 1 to assist the county ambulance that was heading to the call from more than 9 miles away. During that

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(Continued from page 10)

response, Murdock, the Hernando Beach volunteer chief, who was working his full-time job at the Brooksville Fire Department, called in to say that a Hernando Beach volunteer district chief was on his way. He never said why the volunteer department's engine was not responding.

The call prompted the county to cancel Engine 1, "assuming emergency medical services qualified volunteers were responding." But they never did, and the county's ambulance crew was left to handle the patient call unassisted.

In late October, there was another call on Biscayne Drive, but the volunteer department never responded on the radio, and Hernando County Fire Rescue responded on its own.

Hechler goes on to note that "after numerous requests over past two years" from the county, Hernando Beach "continues not to provide daily staffing reports ... of their in-station, on-duty per-

sonnel and their capabilities. This lack of information can impact patient care due to a delayed response of the closest certified EMS responders on (county) engine companies to assist (county) rescues."

The lack of information from reports not made means that required quarterly compliance reports "contain questionable data on issues such as their average response times and their 24/7 on duty in-station staffing levels."

That lack of information led the county to take over initial responses beginning on Thursday, according to county officials.

In addition to the procedural issues, the Hernando Beach department is now two years in arrears with filing required financial audits with the county. Documents obtained by the Times question spending information and even raise issues regarding how decisions are made about which volunteers receive payments for their

(Continued on page 13)



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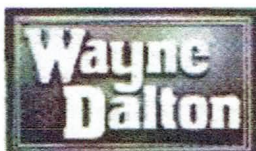
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"administrative services" and how much they are paying themselves.

Commission delays thorny issue of Hernando Beach fire department's future

By: Barbara Behrendt, Times Staff Writer, December 6, 2016

BROOKSVILLE — Even after public records and public testimony backed up the county staff's assertion that the Hernando Beach Volunteer Fire Department has committed serious violations of its contract with the county, the County Commission decided this week to defer discussion about ending the contract.

Instead, the commission set a public workshop on the issue for 2 p.m. Jan. 24, giving the two new commissioners and more community members additional time to explore the topic.

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The emotional comments from the public Tuesday included the county's retired fire chief, Mike Nickerson, who said that the volunteer department "has been in default since its inception." He said that Commissioner Wayne Dukes — who lives in Hernando Beach, has long supported the volunteer department and showed strong support again Tuesday — has stopped the county from dealing with the many problems by hiding them "under the rug."

Dukes, Nickerson said, has been so aligned with the organization that he has "lost his objectivity."

Another adamant plea came from Chuck Greenwell, who heads the government affairs committee of the Hernando Beach Property Owners Association. He urged commissioners not to "kick the can down the road" because there already have been so many delays.

He also called out Dukes for failing to respond to offers to meet and talk about the issues with the community. Promises by officials that there was a plan to provide advanced life support services for the community were not true, Greenwell said, noting that the county has admitted in writing that it knows it is liable for not forcing the volunteer department to comply with its contract.

County staffers had recommended that the contract be terminated because volunteers failed to respond to 911 calls, failed to report who is available to respond to such calls and their qualifications, and because there are ongoing issues about financial reports and quarterly reports on response times. Audits required by the contract have not been completed, including one that is more than a year late.

Not knowing who was at the station and their qualifications was the reason the county last week started acting as first responder to emer-

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your "special event".

There are photos of the club, past events, a
map to the club, wedding information and
much more.... please visit us Online at:

www.hernandobeachclub.com

(Continued from page 14)

gency medical calls in Hernando Beach. When Dukes asked Hernando Beach Volunteer Fire Department chief David Murdock if he could start providing the county with those staffing details, Murdock said he could.

But until the Hernando Beach officials provide regular information to the county that they are staffed with emergency medical technicians, the county will continue to be first responders, according to Virginia Singer, the county's spokeswoman.

Murdock, former Hernando Beach chief David Freda (now the Brooksville fire chief), Dukes and other county officials met Monday to talk about financial records required by the contract. They agreed to get audits done in the coming months and to suggest that the workshop in January would allow everyone to get more information.

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

Dukes told new commissioners John Allocco and Steve Champion that they need to obtain more information about how the Hernando Beach department works before they make a decision about its future. They supported the workshop idea, but noted that the fire department issue is important. Public safety, Champion said, "is our No. 1 issue. . . . What happens if someone dies?"

"We have a tremendous liability problem," commission Chairman Nick Nicholson said. "The safety of our citizens is at stake."

That was backed up by Sean Moulton, a captain at Station 1, the closest county station to Hernando Beach, and president of the firefighters union. He told commissioners that there have been times when Hernando Beach "has failed to respond completely" to calls.

That riled Dukes, who said the comments were inappropriate. The commission had to take a break when Dukes left the commission chambers.

But the new commissioners said they wanted to hear what the public had to say, and the discussion continued. Moulton went on to question spending by the Fire Department, including large amounts for travel and fees for the administration, which made it appear the volunteers were getting paid.

Several Hernando Beach residents defended the volunteers, including Jim "Sarge" Dendy, who said the county has done nothing, despite months of discussion about putting an advanced life support engine in Hernando Beach. Bringing the equipment to the community was the top issue in a survey conducted by the property owners several months ago.

County fire chief Scott Hechler said an advanced life support truck staffed full-time would be moved there if the contract with the volunteers were terminated.

Resident Stu Sturm said that, as an auditor, he



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could find questions about anyone's financial dealings. He said he liked having the volunteers dedicated just to Hernando Beach.

The workshop in January will include a discussion of county funds expended to provide emergency services to both Hernando Beach and the city of Brooksville — money those communities could owe back to the county. Clerk of the Circuit Court Don Barbee told the commission that the use of those monies might not be legal and that some resolution needs to be found.

**2017 Brooksville Raid Reenactment
The location is on Hwy. 50 West at the
Sand Hill Scout Reservation
(Across from Oak Hill Hospital) -**

The Hernando Historical Museum Assoc., Inc. and North Pinellas County Scout Sertoma Club, Inc. present the **37th Annual Brooksville Raid**

(Continued on page 17)

Reenactment, **Jan. 21 & 22, 2017.** This reenactment is a re-creation of a Civil War battle that happened in Hernando County in July of 1864.

The Raid is held the 3rd weekend in January every year. We have become the largest Civil War reenactment in Florida with over 1500 reenactors and their families. We have 28 cannons, 60 horses, and over 50 sutlers.

The public is invited to tour, at no additional charge, the authentic confederate and union camps and actually see how they lived and what it was like during the Civil War. We expect around 60 sutlers (Vendors), so you can purchase any Civil War items you might want. We also have kettle corn, old time root beer and you can't leave without having a FRY BREAD. All animals must be on a leash.



Raid 2017

On Brooksville

37th Annual Reenactment

Where:
Sand Hill Scout Reservation
11210 Cortez Blvd., Brooksville

When:
Saturday and Sunday,
January 21 & 22, 2017

Presented by:

- Hernando Historical Museum Association
- North Pinellas County Scout Sertoma Club



SATURDAY

- 9 A.M. Gates, Camps & Sutlers Open
- 9:30 A.M. Colors - Battle Field
- 10:30 A.M. Ladies Tea (period dress required)
- NOON Artillery Demonstration
- 1:30 P.M. Music by 7lbs. of Bacon
- 2:30 P.M. Mess Band
- 3:30 P.M. Brooksville Raid Battle
- 4:30 P.M. Flag Retirement Ceremony
- 5:30 P.M. Camps Close to Public

SUNDAY

- 9 A.M. Gates, Camps & Sutlers Open
- 9:30 A.M. Colors - Battle Field
- 10 A.M. Church Service
- NOON Artillery Demonstration
- 12:30 P.M. Music by 7 lbs. of Bacon
- 1:30 P.M. Mess Band
- 2 P.M. Grand Review
- 2:30 P.M. Brooksville Raid Battle
- 4:30 P.M. Camps Close to Public

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- \$5 Youth 4-12 years old
- FREE-5 & under
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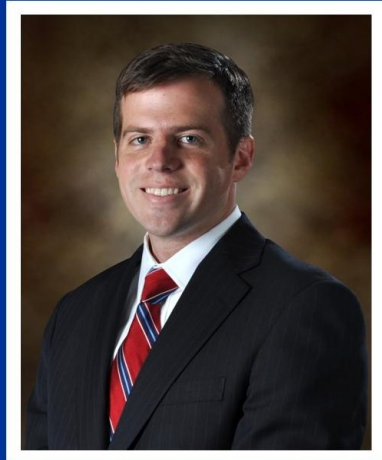
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HERNANDO BEACH CRIME WATCH ANNUAL REPORT

After a great year in 2016, the members of the Hernando Beach Crime Watch, Inc. elected the Board of Directors for 2017. Officers are David Brann, President; Ray Parrott, Vice President, Pam Arendall, Treasurer and Adeline Brann, Secretary. Sheriff Al Neinhuis will install the board at the monthly meeting on January 3, 2017 at the VFW on Shoal Line Blvd, 7PM. All residents are invited to bring a dessert and celebrate with the volunteers who patrol our streets to prevent crime all year long.

During the past year, Crime Watch has supported local restaurants with a monthly community breakfast or luncheon. The annual Crime Watch yard sale was held for two days on Shoal Line Blvd. and Crime Watch partici-

pated at the Blue Pelican party, the cardboard boat race, and the VFW yard sale. In 2016, thirty neighbor volunteers logged **10,607 miles** driving **506 patrols** for a total of **2017 hours** of volunteering!

At the December 2016 meeting, Crime Watch members identified three priorities for the coming year. **First**, replace the patrol vehicle. The 2002 Chevrolet patrol vehicle, with almost 130,000 miles, cost over \$2000 in repairs and \$2800 in fuel and registration during 2016. **Second**, increase donations. Crime Watch offers Hernando Beach T-shirts and hats to encourage donations and hosts monthly breakfasts and luncheons. Donations to Crime Watch are needed during in the coming months. **Third**, increase community participation through increased membership. The most valuable resource in Hernando Beach is its

(Continued on page 19)

residents. Crime watch needs patrol teams to continue its operation.

Crime watch is totally funded through donations by residents of Hernando Beach and serves all of our community through regularly patrolling our streets and being visible to potential criminals. The Hernando County Sheriff identifies Crime Watch as one of the most effective tools to prevent crime in our neighborhood.

You can support the Hernando Beach Crime Watch and neighbor volunteers by attending our monthly meeting and becoming a patrol team member for one or two hours a week. Financial donations are also needed. Please mail your donations to HBCW, Box 3140, Spring Hill FL 34611 or online at www.HBCW.info. For further information contact David Brann at (561)202-4729.

YARD SALE AT WEEKI WACHEE FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2017, 9AM – 3PM

Come one, come all! Sell your wares or find your treasure! Shop for all things common or unique, that "just what you've been looking for" item! The community style yard sale will be set up in the Weeki Wachee Springs State Park parking lot, south end of the lot. Register at Guest Relations at the Park, or call the number listed. Set up: 7:00am.



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Hernando Beach shirts are available for each \$10.00 donation and hats for each \$8.00 donation at A Classic Touch Salon on Shoal Line Blvd. Donations benefit the Hernando Beach Crime Watch. Support your volunteer neighbors in their crime prevention efforts.

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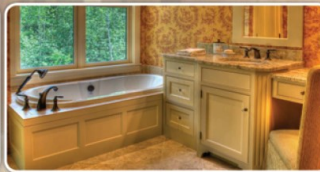
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The Hernando County Parks and Recreation Department announces that effective immediately there is a \$5 per vehicle fee for parking at the Hernando Beach boat ramp parking area located at 4477 Calienta Street in Hernando Beach. This fee applies to all vehicles, with or without a trailer.

Contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (352) 754-4027 for more information.

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Wednesday January 18, 2017**

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January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2.	3	4 VFW Spaghetti Dinner	5 HBPOA MEMBER- SHIP MEETING	6 HBC Dinner 6-11pm	7 HBVFD
8	9	10 HBVFD 6:30pm HB Crime Watch Meeting 7pm at VFW	11	12 Beachcomber Deadline	13 HBC Dinner 6-11pm	14 HBVFD
15	16	17 HBVFD 6:30pm	18 Port Authority Meeting 7pm	19	20 HBC Dinner 6-11pm VFW Fish & Shrimp 5pm to 7pm	21 HBVFD
22	23	24 HBVFD 6:30pm	25	26	27 HBC Dinner 6-11pm	28 HBVFD Gun & Knife Show
29 VFW Breakfast Gun & Knife Show	30	31			To be included in next month's calendar please e-mail your events to:	to Jennifer Brown mjajbrown@ tampabay.rr.com By 01/08/2017.

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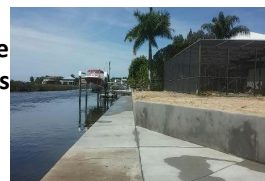
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Sun 01	Mon 02	Tue 03	Wed 04	Thu 05	Fri 06	Sat 07
High Tide 3.04 ft 02:26 Low Tide -0.48 ft 10:45 High Tide 2.56 ft 15:58 Low Tide 0.83 ft 22:55	High Tide 2.94 ft 03:08 Low Tide -0.36 ft 11:22 High Tide 2.59 ft 16:33 Low Tide 0.76 ft 23:41	High Tide 2.79 ft 03:56 Low Tide -0.18 ft 12:02 High Tide 2.61 ft 17:11	Low Tide 0.68 ft 00:33 High Tide 2.56 ft 04:53 Low Tide 0.08 ft 12:47 High Tide 2.63 ft 17:55	Low Tide 0.58 ft 01:35 High Tide 2.32 ft 06:04 Low Tide 0.39 ft 13:39 High Tide 2.67 ft 18:45	Low Tide 0.41 ft 02:48 High Tide 2.13 ft 07:31 Low Tide 0.69 ft 14:41 High Tide 2.73 ft 19:42	Low Tide 0.16 ft 04:06 High Tide 2.09 ft 09:05 Low Tide 0.93 ft 15:53 High Tide 2.83 ft 20:42
Sun 08	Mon 09	Tue 10	Wed 11	Thu 12	Fri 13	Sat 14
Low Tide -0.17 ft 05:20 High Tide 2.19 ft 10:31 Low Tide 1.05 ft 17:06 High Tide 2.96 ft 21:42	Low Tide -0.50 ft 06:24 High Tide 2.35 ft 11:42 Low Tide 1.07 ft 18:12 High Tide 3.10 ft 22:38	Low Tide -0.77 ft 07:20 High Tide 2.49 ft 12:39 Low Tide 1.02 ft 19:09 High Tide 3.22 ft 23:31	Low Tide -0.93 ft 08:10 High Tide 2.57 ft 13:28 Low Tide 0.94 ft 20:00	High Tide 3.29 ft 00:21 Low Tide -0.97 ft 08:55 High Tide 2.61 ft 14:10 Low Tide 0.84 ft 20:48	High Tide 3.29 ft 01:08 Low Tide -0.89 ft 09:38 High Tide 2.62 ft 14:48 Low Tide 0.75 ft 21:32	High Tide 3.21 ft 01:54 Low Tide -0.73 ft 10:17 High Tide 2.61 ft 15:23 Low Tide 0.66 ft 22:16
Sun 15	Mon 16	Tue 17	Wed 18	Thu 19	Fri 20	Sat 21
High Tide 3.07 ft 02:40 Low Tide -0.50 ft 10:54 High Tide 2.60 ft 15:55 Low Tide 0.60 ft 22:59	High Tide 2.87 ft 03:24 Low Tide -0.24 ft 11:28 High Tide 2.59 ft 16:27 Low Tide 0.55 ft 23:43	High Tide 2.63 ft 04:11 Low Tide 0.05 ft 12:02 High Tide 2.59 ft 17:00	Low Tide 0.53 ft 00:30 High Tide 2.36 ft 05:02 Low Tide 0.34 ft 12:38 High Tide 2.58 ft 17:36	Low Tide 0.51 ft 01:23 High Tide 2.09 ft 06:03 Low Tide 0.63 ft 13:17 High Tide 2.57 ft 18:18	Low Tide 0.48 ft 02:26 High Tide 1.88 ft 07:18 Low Tide 0.89 ft 14:05 High Tide 2.56 ft 19:07	Low Tide 0.39 ft 03:40 High Tide 1.80 ft 08:45 Low Tide 1.10 ft 15:07 High Tide 2.57 ft 20:04
Sun 22	Mon 23	Tue 24	Wed 25	Thu 26	Fri 27	Sat 28
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HERNANDO COASTAL CERT

What is CERT?

The CERT acronym stands for Community Emergency Response Team. A CERT Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

Hernando County CERT is organized under the direction and leadership of the Hernando County Emergency Management Department through the Hernando County Sheriff's Office. Click the link for

the Sheriff's Office and then the link for Emergency Management.

CERT Training

Citizens of Hernando County who join CERT are trained by Hernando County emergency responders and County emergency management personnel. As an organized team, they provide vital services in the absence of emergency responders, whose arrival may be delayed due to the severity of the situation. Students attend classes given by Hernando County Emergency Management and other emergency responders. Students are grouped into teams in the first class and complete the course as a unit.

Periodically drills are held to renew and update your training and skills.

When a major emergency overwhelms normally available resources, response delays of hours or even days may occur. Trained CERT members should be able to immediately assist those in distress because of their basic skills training that they received through CERT.