



TOWN OF HYPOLUXO

"Home of the Barefoot Mailman"

NEWSLETTER

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JUNE 2009

HURRICANE SEASON

The 2009 hurricane season is here. Preparation is the key to surviving a serious storm. You should have on hand a minimum of five days of non-perishable food and drinks. Old batteries should be replaced with new ones. Most importantly all tree trimming should be completed. FP&L is clearing branches of trees that might cause an electrical outage. Such trees should at some time be replaced with the "Right Tree in the Right Place". Visit www.fpl.com/trees for further information.

A "Flood & Hurricane Awareness Expo" will be held Saturday, June 20, 2009 at the Boynton Beach Mall. Be prepared and maybe, just maybe, Palm Beach County may not have a hurricane strike this season. All residents received a copy of the town's Flood Hazard & Property Protection Brochure. A copy of our Flood Insurance Rate Map is on the back of the brochure. If you need assistance in determining if you are in a flood hazard area or need another copy of the brochure, please contact the Town Hall.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Hypoluxo Town Council meets once monthly. The meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month. Council meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and everyone is encouraged to attend. Please make a note of the dates on your calendar. An agenda for the council meetings is on the Town's web site, which is www.hypoluxo.org. Hypoluxo council members are interested in the opinions of others and your attendance at the meetings is welcomed.

TOWN'S BUDGET

The Town's budgeting process begins in August for the next fiscal year beginning October 1, 2009. The Town has been initially advised to expect a decrease in income of approximately 10% for the next fiscal year. This is due to the economic times. At this time it is anticipated that no necessary services will be eliminated. Your council will look at all alternatives to provide for the safety, health and welfare of Hypoluxo residents.

PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD

The Town of Hypoluxo's Planning and Zoning Board has two vacancies. One is for a regular P&Z Board Member position and the other is for an Alternate position. The appointments are for two years. The P&Z Board meets on the call of the chairperson. Normally the board meets three or four times a year. The P&Z Board primarily recommends to the council on land use matters. If you are interested in serving on the Planning and Zoning Board, please submit a letter to the Town Hall prior to June 11th. The mayor will recommend to the council the names to fill the two positions at its June 17th meeting. A criterion in the selection of P&Z members is representation from diverse developments. If you have questions about the role of the P&Z Board, please contact the town hall.

BUILDING PERMITS

A building permit is needed for practically anything you do around your property that involves water or electricity. A building permit is necessary to put in paver bricks, and to replace water heaters and air conditioners. A function of government is to provide for the safety of its residents. Building permits insure your safety and help you avoid scams. The penalty for doing a project without a building permit is very costly. The wisest approach is to take a moment, call the Town Hall and determine if a building permit is necessary. This can save you much aggravation later.

HYPOLUXO'S WEB SITE

The Town of Hypoluxo's web site is www.hypoluxo.org. You are encouraged to view the web site and to bookmark it. The web site has many forms on it that will permit you to complete paper work before visiting the Town Hall. There is news of the town on the site. Council agendas appear on the site. Contact telephone numbers are listed as well. The web site will always contain any emergency information in the event of a disaster. There also are links to other sites. It is time now to look at www.hypoluxo.org.

COMMISSIONER STEVEN ABRAMS

Governor Charlie Crist recently appointed Steven Abrams as County Commissioner for District IV to replace Mary McCarty. Commissioner Abrams is a former mayor of Boca Raton and is fully aware of municipal issues. Commissioner Abrams also knows the importance of intergovernmental relationships and this is important to the Town of Hypoluxo. The Town of Hypoluxo looks forward to a rewarding working relationship with Commissioner Abrams. You can contact Commissioner Abrams at (561) 355-2204.

BUSINESS TAX RENEWALS

Do you know there are over 200 businesses in the Town of Hypoluxo? Each business is required to pay a business tax. Many businesses are operating out of their homes. The renewals for the 2010 business tax will be in the mail to each business in July and payment is due by September 30th, 2009. Be on the lookout for them.

TELEPHONE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town has the capability of telephoning all of its residents at one time (15 minutes). This is useful when an emergency exists, such as a boil water order. This capability also can be used for specific announcements. The telephone communication always begins by saying, "This is an important announcement from your Town". If you hear this message, please do not hang up. The calling database is comprised of local listed phone numbers and other numbers that have been provided by residents. Please contact town staff with your cell, online, or cable telephone number if you want to be included in this service.

E-MAIL MESSAGES

The Town maintains an E-mail list. Persons on this list receive periodic updates on town events and happenings. If you would like to receive messages in this manner, please inform the town of your E-mail address.

GARNETT PARK



A new passive park is now open and located at 7210 South Federal Highway. It is a place to learn of the past and the experiences of the Barefoot Mailmen and to reflect on what the future might have in store for Hypoluxo residents. A picnic table is available as well as benches. Additional trees and landscaping will be added in the months ahead. The sculpture moves with the wind to inspire new thoughts. Residents are already taking advantage of Garnett Park.

ENTRANCEWAY TO HYPOLUXO SCRUB

The wooden structure at the entranceway to Hypoluxo Scrub will be painted this summer. This will extend the life of the wood. Hundreds of people have visited the site, which pleases the Town of Hypoluxo. If you have not done so, you are encouraged to visit the scrub. The history of Hypoluxo is on display. You also are encouraged to walk the paths in the scrub area. It is peaceful and as Florida was 100 years ago. You also just might see a gopher turtle.

SEWERS

The Town is pleased to announce that every resident has access to sewers. This does much for the environment. Ground water contamination is reduced significantly. Providing sewers has been a major focus of the Town. The Town is grateful that it has been able to acquire some grant funds to help with the cost of the installation of sewers.

RESURFACING OF FEDERAL HIGHWAY

Beginning in September a resurfacing project will be underway for Federal Highway between Hypoluxo Road and the canal bridge in Boynton Beach south of Gateway. The road will be open; however, there will be lane closures. It is important to drive carefully when workers are around. The project may take up to a year to complete.

The Town of Hypoluxo has an ordinance prohibiting parking on public streets. There are a few exceptions, e.g. limited times for building workers and lawn maintenance. It is extremely important not to park on the streets after dark. Our safety officials, police and fire, request the streets be clear for them to work effectively. Everyone's cooperation is appreciated. There are events when a number of cars will be visiting a particular house. The Town has a parking permit to handle these situations. Please contact the Town if you plan to have guests parking on the streets.

FEEDING OF WILD ANIMALS

Wild animals need to learn to survive on their own. To feed them causes the animals to depend on humans and this is not advisable. Wild animals can turn on humans at any time as this is their natural instinct for surviving. Rats are known to survive off of bird seeds and then become a nuisance. Bird feeders need to be monitored. If you can protect your bird feeder from attacks by rats, then they are acceptable. If not, it is better not to have a bird feeder.

TRIMMING OF TREES AND HEDGES

The Town has often been asked about the trimming of trees and hedges that extend over property lines. The legal opinion is that the air over your property is yours and you can trim at the property line anything that grows over the line. The earth you own is also yours. Any roots that extend into your property can be removed up to the property line. No one should trim any tree or hedge, or remove any roots not on their property.

LEASH LAW

The Town of Hypoluxo has a leash ordinance. No dogs or cats can be off its owner's property without being on a leash. Dogs can be frightening to others when loose. If you see a dog or cat off of a leash, please take a picture of it, identify the owner and the Town will inform the owner of the leash law.

VITAL HEALTH INFORMATION

Most of us have a health history. It should be a written record and kept up to date. It is important to have the record readily available in the event of an emergency. Many persons place this information on their refrigerator doors. Fire/rescue personnel will always ask for vital health information when responding to a 911 call. Some information you will want to consider is hospitalizations and surgeries, medications, allergies, dentures and eyeglasses. You might also want to name your personal physician and insurances. Having vital health information available when asked in an emergency just might save your life.

MANALAPAN WATER STATEMENTS

As a result of recent changes the Town of Manalapan has placed into effect, water statements will now reflect three charges - the basic rate, the usage amount and the surcharge. The new statement format is to accurately identify all charges and is not an increase of the charges. The base rate is a fixed monthly charge that is determined by the size of the water meter. The second charge is for the amount of usage. The third charge is a surcharge of 20% to the Town of Manalapan to compensate them for providing water service to the Town of Hypoluxo. By law the maximum amount a town can charge as a surcharge is 25%. The new water statement will more accurately reflect water charges. Seasonal service turn-off requests must now be made in person. The form is available at www.manalapan.org.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

It is important for all of us to conserve energy. There are number of things one can do around the home. Install energy efficient light bulbs. Turn off lights when not necessary. Use the washing machine only when there is a full load. The dish washer should be used only with full loads. The list of ideas to conserve energy is long. You are encouraged to do your part and our children's generation will be better off.

SWINE FLU

The seriousness of the swine flu epidemic has passed; however, many persons are still going to acquire it. If ill, please stay at home. If your temperature rises to high levels, see a doctor. During the peak of the swine flu epidemic, the Town of Hypoluxo was briefed twice daily. Any new, significant and relevant information pertaining to the swine flu will be communicated by telephone to our residents. Information also will be placed on our web site. If you have provided the Town with your E-mail address then you also will receive the information.

It is time to celebrate our country's birthday. Our service men and women should be remembered as well as the many persons who have died to preserve the lifestyle we enjoy in this country. There is no better place in the world to live than in the United States. The same probably can be said for the State of Florida. And, Hypoluxo can be paradise. Enjoy the Fourth of July and be careful with fireworks. Fireworks can be dangerous. Fireworks can disturb others including birds, dogs, cats and humans. To enjoy fireworks the best plan is to attend a commercial fireworks display. Happy Fourth of July.

2010 CENSUS

The 2010 census will be conducted next year. In March, 2010, every household will receive a mailer to be completed and returned by April 1st. April 1st is the actual count date. If you do not return the mail from the Census Bureau, someone will knock on your door. This is a more expensive method to determine the census. Millions of dollars can be saved if the census mailers are returned. It is important that every person living in Hypoluxo as of April 1, 2010 be counted. The Town loses about \$1200 each year for the next 10 years for every uncounted resident. It is important to be counted and to participate in the census.

KIWANIS CHILD SAFETY FAIR

The Town of Hypoluxo is cooperating with the Town of Lantana and the Kiwanis Club in sponsoring a "Child Safety Fair". The emphasis of Kiwanians is serving youth. To learn more about Kiwanis Hypoluxo - Lantana, telephone 561.582.1175. The Lantana Police Explorers are assisting the safety fair as well. The event will take place Saturday, September 12 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in the pavilion at the entranceway to the Hypoluxo Scrub area off of Hypoluxo Road. Many activities will be available for your child and grandchild to learn safety habits. Fingerprinting of your child will be available. Safety signs explained and available. What to do if your child is missing. Learn the latest safety car seat laws. Fancy sport cars will be on display to inspire the youngsters. Food and drinks will be available to enjoy. This is a fair you will want to attend.

WATER USAGE

The availability of water may be the most serious problem confronting the next generation. Water restrictions are in effect. Municipalities are increasingly being pressured to monitor the implementation of water restrictions. Presently, the easy way to remember when to water is never between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (the middle of the day). Watering then is permitted two days a week. Washing of cars and pressure cleaning is allowed at any time. The seriousness of the water problem is best illustrated when we are aware that each month more children and adults worldwide die because of contaminated water or lack of water than the number of people that died in the 2004 Tsunami in Indonesia. Water availability is a crisis in the world and we need to do all in our power to conserve it.

CLEAN WATER BOAT TIPS

Many people in Florida enjoy using local rivers, waterways and lakes for fishing, skiing, etc. Learn to use your boat wisely, to limit your impact and help preserve our precious water resources.

Use on-shore garbage and sewage facilities as much as possible. Always use pump-out facilities to empty on-board sewage holding tanks.

Keep a sealable container for garbage on your boat. Make sure everyone uses it. When disposing of your garbage at a marina, follow their recycling rules.

Never litter. Retrieve all items dropped into water, especially old fishing line. Retrieve any litter found in the water.

Place a bilge pillow-an oil absorbing sponge available in marine stores -in your bilge to remove oil from your bilge water.

Check your engine regularly to see if it is leaking oil or gas. When filling gas tanks or adding oil, be careful not to spill.

When cleaning your boat, avoid toxic polishes or stain removers near the water line.

SCHOOLS OUT

Schools are closed from early June until the middle August. It behooves us all to drive carefully and to watch out for our children. Children become engrossed in what they are doing and wander into the streets. Whether driving a vehicle, motorcycle, moped or a bicycle, watch for children at play.
