



# TOWN OF HYPOLUXO

## *"Home of the Barefoot Mailman"*

### NEWSLETTER

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#### **MILLAGE RATES**

The Town of Hypoluxo will be establishing a new millage rate at two public hearings in September. The first meeting is September 15th and the second and final hearing September 29th. The council has established a tentative rate that will probably be reduced. The new tentative rate is 3.6607 mils. This rate would generate approximately the same amount of ad valorem tax revenues as last year. Most Town of Hypoluxo ad valorem tax charges would be the same as last year. Some may pay slightly more and some slightly less, but the total aggregate amount of money to the town remains the same as last year. The slight differences are because each property did not lose the exact same percentage amount of taxable valuation. Another reason for slight variations is because of differing homestead exemptions and when a homeowner took advantage of the "save our homes" tax benefit. You are encouraged to come to the public hearings to learn more about the new millage rates and to express your comments.

#### **FEDERAL HIGHWAY ROADWORK**

The resurfacing of Federal Highway is done. Hopefully, the disruption for you was minimal. There have been many added signs. The new signs are needed to avoid liability issues. A number of persons have asked about the "No U Turn" signs. They have been placed at locations where there is no stacking lane for cars. Previously, drivers often had to stop in the fast lane because someone was stopped in the fast lane waiting to make a "U" turn. The highway does look very nice.

#### **FORESTRY GRANT**

The Town recently received an \$18,000 grant from the State of Florida's Forestry Grant Program. The money must be spent on trees at the entranceway to the scrub area. You will soon see the addition of 40 to 50 trees at the entranceway. This will enhance the scrub area tremendously. The trees also serve to clean the air and provide for a healthier environment.

#### **TREE CITY**

The Town of Hypoluxo is contemplating being designated as a Tree City. Such a designation indicates the Town prizes trees and what they do for the environment. It also means the planting and pruning of trees be encouraged by all residents. The Town of Hypoluxo has over 40% of its land planted with trees. The Town is pleased with its contribution to being "green".

#### **WATER CONSERVATION**

Water is increasingly becoming a scarce product. This is due, in part, because of the number of persons depending upon water in south Florida. Did you know that by turning off the tap when brushing your teeth, eight (8) gallons of water can be conserved per day?

Thirty thousand (30,000) gallons of water can be saved per year by retrofitting the average home with water efficient fixtures. Irrigating your lawn and plants is important, however, do so in the coolest part of the day. This will reduce the amount of water lost through evaporation. Everyone must learn to conserve water.

#### **GARBAGE PICK-UP**

There are three types of pick-ups each week in Hypoluxo. Garbage is picked-up twice a week. Yard waste and trash are picked-up once a week. Also, recycling is once a week for paper products and glass/metal materials. There are only two days in the year when pick-ups are not made. The two days are Thanksgiving and Christmas. If these holidays occur on the date of pick-up, there will be no pick-up and there will be no make-up days.

#### **RETIREMENTS**

##### **DEB FICK**

Long time employee, Deb Fick, has announced her intent to retire. Her last day of employment at the Town Hall is August 20, 2010. Ms. Fick, Deputy Town Clerk, has been primarily in charge of handling building department functions as well as business tax receipts for the Town. Deb Fick will be missed. Prior to joining the Town of Hypoluxo nine years ago, Deb worked for the Town of Greenacres, the Town of Lantana and the National Enquirer. Her experiences were very beneficial to the Town of Hypoluxo. Please feel free to stop by and wish Deb well. Deb, enjoy retirement and all that goes with living the good life.

##### **CHIEF RICK LINCOLN**

Chief Lincoln, the police chief for the Town of Lantana and for us, is retiring as of September 30, 2010. He has served the Town of Hypoluxo well for the past ten years. He will be missed. Captain Jeff Tyson of the Lantana Police Department will become the new chief of the department as of October 1, 2010. Captain Tyson also has been an asset to the Town of Hypoluxo for the past ten years. The Town looks forward to working with Chief Tyson.

#### **TOWN OF MANALAPAN**

The Town of Manalapan has selected a new Town manager. He is Mr. Tom Heck. Mr. Heck has extensive background in engineering and government. He also has been a flight commander at the U.S. Air Force Academy. He retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He has degrees from a number of major universities. Mr. Heck introduced himself to Hypoluxo by attending a council meeting and making a brief presentation. The Town of Hypoluxo welcomes Tom Heck and wishes him well with his new endeavors.

#### **PRIMARY ELECTIONS**

All registered voters should vote in the primary election. The primary this year will be August 24<sup>th</sup>. The Town Hall serves as a voting location for the Town of Hypoluxo. The polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. One can also vote by absentee ballot. Your vote will insure the best candidates are selected.

#### **HELP**

There are a number of persons, mostly elderly, that should be visited periodically to insure they are doing well. The Lantana Police Department has established a Community Action to Reach the Elderly (CARE) program to assist those in need. Participation in the program is voluntary. During the hurricane season, the officers check on those participating in the program. If you or someone you know should be visited every so often, please contact the Lantana Police Department 540-5710 or contact someone at our Town Hall 582-0155 to be added to the list of those visited.

#### **CELL CALLS TO 911**

In an emergency, please DIAL 911 for police and fire/rescue services. However, you should be alerted that a cell phone call to 911 does not necessarily go to our police and fire/rescue dispatch center. Cell calls search out the nearest available cell towers for transmittal of information and this might not be in Hypoluxo. It is best to use a land line when dialing 911 from the Town of Hypoluxo. This will insure the nearest dispatch center will be used.

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## HURRICANES

We are approaching the middle of the hurricane season. 50% of the hurricanes that have struck the State of Florida have done so in the month September. Be prepared. Have your water, batteries, and evacuation plans set as soon as possible. There is no time to be wasted when preparing for a hurricane. The town distributes a Property Protection Information Brochure to every property owner annually. If you do not have your brochure you can obtain one at the town hall. The information is also located on our website [www.hypoluxo.org](http://www.hypoluxo.org).

### UNLICENSED CONTRACTORS

It is important to hire only licensed contractors when planning any home improvement project. It also is important for the licensed contractor to acquire building permits. Unlicensed contractors cannot obtain building permits. If work is done by an unlicensed contractor, the project can be stopped and penalties assessed. You become liable if something "bad" should happen because the contractor was not licensed.

### GEOCACHE

There are a number Geocaches buried within the town limits. Many persons have located them and have so noted their achievement in the containers. You can learn more about the process of Geocaching on the Internet at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com). The Town is pleased to be a part of the Geocache system.

### STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Federally mandated stormwater permits require many industries and cities to control stormwater runoff.

We can all Help! Each of us contributes to stormwater pollution and each of us can help to stop it. Here are some ways you can help:

- Keep pesticides, oil leaves and other pollutants off streets and out of storm drains.
- Divert roof water to lawns or gardens where it can safely soak in.
- Clean up pet waste - bury it or flush it down the toilet.
- Keep cars tuned up and repair leaks - or better yet, walk, bike or take the bus.

The amount of pollution that you stop may seem small, but together it all adds up to cleaner water for everyone to enjoy.

### FLOOD HAZARD & PROPERTY PROTECTION INFORMATION

Homeowners in the Town of Hypoluxo have been awarded a 10% discount for National Flood Insurance Program policies issued or renewed on or after Oct. 1, 1996.

#### Flood Hazard:

The **Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)** for the Town of Hypoluxo includes an explanation of the Flood Zone Designations. The Town provides map determinations to let you know if you are in a flood hazard area. Most properties located on the east side of U.S. Highway #1 are in a flood hazard area due to the threat of storm surges from the Intracoastal Waterway. Even if you are not within a flood hazard area every property is at risk of flooding. There is a 26% chance of experiencing a flood during the life of a 30-year mortgage. Many factors contribute to flooding.

#### Flood Insurance:

Flood insurance is an important and practical part of everyone's disaster planning. **Most homeowners' insurance policies do not offer protection against flood damage.** Flood Insurance is available through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Coverage is available for existing structures, buildings under construction, businesses, and contents of insurable, fully enclosed buildings located in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA). Most lending institutions require flood insurance if your property is

located in a flood hazard area. Policies will not be written when a storm is approaching, there is a 30-day waiting period. **For further information call NFIP at 1-800-638-6620 or your local insurance agent, or contact the website <http://www.fema.gov/nfip>.**

**Substantial Improvement Requirements:** The NFIP requires an existing building to meet the same construction standards as a new building if the cost of reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvements equals or exceeds 50% of the building's market value. Substantially damaged buildings must also be brought up to the same standards. Contact Town Hall for specific information.

**Drainage System Maintenance:** The Town inspects the drainage systems for proper maintenance and obstructions. It is important to protect the functioning of our canals, swales, catch basins and outfalls to prevent flooding. Report damage, obstructions and illegal dumping violations to the Hypoluxo Building Department, (561) 582-0155.

**Floodplain Development Permit Requirements:** All development in the floodplain (not just construction of buildings) require local permits. Contact the Hypoluxo Building Department (561) 582-0155 before you build, fill, or otherwise develop. Please Report any illegal floodplain development immediately.

**Flood Safety:** If you require special assistance during evacuation, register with Palm Beach County Div. of Emergency Management, 712-6696. Keep trees and shrubs trimmed regularly; photograph and list your possessions; prepare a evacuation plan; make a checklist of pre-emergency activities; and plan for enough food, water and supplies for two weeks survival without electricity. Do not drive through flooded areas. Prior to evacuation turn off utilities at the main switches. Boynton Beach High School, 4975 Park Ridge Blvd. is a Red Cross Hurricane Shelter. Openings are announced on local radio and television stations. Obtain safety literature from the Hypoluxo Town Hall.

**Natural & Beneficial Function of the Floodplain:** Protecting the grassy water preserves and water catchment areas provide many benefits: flood storage and conveyance; reducing flood velocity & erosion; improving water quality by filtering nutrients & impurities from runoff; recharging ground water while simultaneously reducing the frequency & duration of surface flow; providing additional open space, aesthetic pleasures for the community & opportunities for scientific studies; and providing habitats for plant & wildlife growth and breeding.

**Flood Warning System:** Palm Beach County Emergency Management maintains direct contact with the National Weather Service (NWS). If you have a weather band radio, tune it to NOAA frequency 162.475 MHz. Television channels 5, 12, 25 & 29 and all local radio stations will broadcast hurricane associated flood warnings 36 to 48 hours prior to the actual flooding event and at least 24 hours prior to the time to evacuate. Evacuation for a minor hurricane, category 1-2, includes mobile homes. Evacuation for a major hurricane, category 3-5, includes all properties east of US #1 (Federal Highway). Upon advance notification by the NWS that a severe weather system, including intense rainfall, is forecast, Palm Beach County alerts all residents of Hypoluxo by telephone and the Police Department is notified. They keep areas under close surveillance. If it becomes necessary, they will use loudspeakers to provide residents with additional flood warning and evacuation information. If you are instructed to evacuate, please do so, your life may be in danger. Police services will continue as the conditions allow.

**Property Protection:** The following may help minimize damage to a structure. Store plywood, plastic sheeting and lumber to protect windows and to make quick repairs; stack sandbags away from the house, move furniture, etc. to the upper floors, secure garbage cans, garden equipment, etc. or bring inside. Property owners may wish to increase the elevation of a structure. A design manual for retrofitting flood-prone residential structures is available. FEMA resources can now be accessed online at [www.pbclibrary.org/grs-mainresources.htm](http://www.pbclibrary.org/grs-mainresources.htm).

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