



# The Beachcomber



*Hernando Beach  
Property Owners  
Association  
Newsletter*

**SPECIAL NOTE ~ Please renew your HBPOA Membership before December 31, 2023**

Our Holiday Dinner will be held **Thursday, Dec. 7th, 2023 at 5:30pm** **Hernando Beach Yacht Club** **4163 Shoal Line Blvd.** Doors open at 5:30pm. Reservations required.



**The purpose of this organization is to unite the property owners of Hernando Beach.**

Don't miss out on an email from HBPOA, add [HBPOA34607@gmail.com](mailto:HBPOA34607@gmail.com) as a contact.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



“If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind, of what, then, is an empty desk a sign?”

— Laurence J. Peter

The November meeting was well attended – 50 people including the board and committee members. Apparently, the HBPOA is doing something right and is of value to our members.

Our November elections were remarkable – volunteers for every vacant position except President. We will have further discussions about our HBPOA Bylaws and some ambiguity with regard to the “two term limitation” and how we can address the issue of “no replacement”. Until that time, I'd like to introduce your new HBPOA Board members – drum roll please – Vice President Tom Crowley, Director Jerald Markus, Director Sheryl Coggins and Director Mike Fulford. And welcome to our Parliamentarian – Denis Polyn. Remaining in place are Linda Tartaglione – Secretary, Jennifer Brown – Treasurer, and Bill Roberts – President until we find a replacement – I'll stay and help mentor the new board on the functions and responsibilities.

We bid a fond farewell and send off with much appreciation our departing Vice President Joan Puls, Director Bobbi Caccamisi and Director Chuck Greenwell. Good Luck and God Speed.

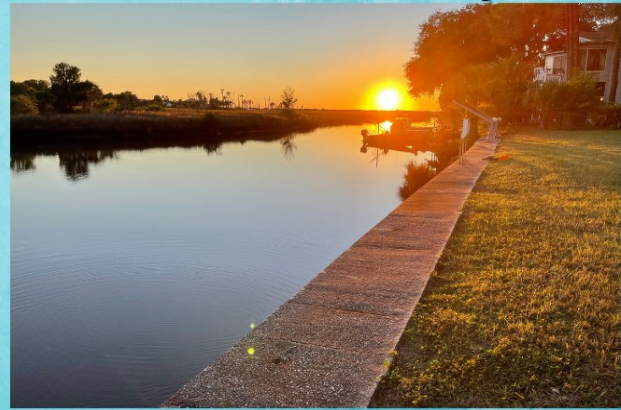
# If you are going to build, you might as well have a Gulf View with Sunsets



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(Continued from page 1)

The HBPOA Holiday Party Reservations closed on 27<sup>th</sup> of November, there is no pay-at-the-door.

The Joe Wachs Memorial Christmas Light Fund was blessed with over \$3000.00 in donations and all the lights were adopted. Thank you to the Association and to the Hernando Beach community that contributed. The lights were almost completed at the writing of this column and planned mounting on Shoal Line Blvd the first week of December.

Thank you to our departing Vice President Joan Puls for inviting our guest speaker Ms. Diana Gisonni. Diana shared with us why the program is a Florida success story, her experiences working as a Guardian ad Litem for the last nine years and some insight.

Diana noted that Florida's child advocacy organization is state funded unlike other states and it does make a difference in a child's life. She shared how you can become involved or support the Florida Guardian ad Litem Foundation. The Foundation provides support and additional resources for children represented by the Florida Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office. Diana said she started out as a volunteer. She felt so strongly about the good of the program she became a Trainer. Her efforts to coalesce the attorneys, child welfare professional and the Ad Litem to advocate for the child is just one rewarding aspect of her volunteerism. If you feel it in your heart to volunteer, she said the time you spend is invaluable to the children. Your time spent is about five to ten hours per month on visitation, paperwork and coordination. You'll see the child every month.

The children you'll work with come from the many different scenarios you can think of that tear the fabric of a family and negatively impact the child. The parents will also be working to "normalize" the home life. The parents enter a program that lasts one year – their own "Case Plan" to accomplish training, tasks and counseling with milestones as they work together with the attorneys and case workers with the end goal to reunite the family.

An additional opportunity to volunteer is to work with teens (16+) who need mentoring. You can

# The Beachcomber

Published by Hernando Beach Property Owners Association

Deadline for ads, articles, and news:  
**December 10th** for publication in our  
**January Issue.**

## Yearly advertising prices:

### Black & White:

1/4 page - \$190

1/2 page - \$335 - **best buy**

full size - \$650

## Yearly advertising prices:

### Color:

1/4 page - \$352

1/2 page - \$700

full size - \$1400

Interested in advertising with the  
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Hernando Beach Residents  
please e-mail or call:

Jennifer Brown, Editor (352)678-1795

**HBPOABeachcomber@gmail.com**

volunteer for "Courtesy Cases" where additional assistance is provided by persons such as yourself to listen and mentor children in extended foster care. You can be that person – unaffiliated and not related who can listen and mentor someone who needs to understand there is kindness in the world.

You can be a part of the solution. The link below will take you to the Florida Guardian ad Litem website for more information and volunteer opportunities.

[Florida Guardian ad Litem Office | Child welfare advocates protecting the rights of children.](https://guardianadlitem.org/)  
<https://guardianadlitem.org/>

Many of us will be traveling over the holidays – please drive carefully and look twice for motorcycles. To kick off 2024, we'll meet on January 11<sup>th</sup> at the Yacht Club with the new board.

Love where you live.

Bill Roberts

HBPOA President

# Hernando Beach Property Owners Association

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

## 2023 Board of Directors

**President:** Bill Roberts - (540)419-5871  
**Vice President:** Joan Puls - (803)818-0144  
**Secretary:** Linda Tartaglione - (914)260-6556  
**Treasurer:** Jen Brown - (352)678-1795  
**Director:** Scott Fitzgerald - (781)608-5341  
**Director:** Jim Fournier - (352)238-8662  
**Director:** Bobbi Caccamisi - (901)486-0352  
**Director:** Denis Polyn - (352)556-4277  
**Director:** Chuck Greenwell - (502)939-9809

## 2023 Committee Chairperson

**Governmental Affairs Committee** - Chuck Greenwell  
**Landscaping Committee** - Bill Roberts  
**Membership Committee** - Patty Roberts  
**Hospitality Committee** - Diane Ziemski  
**Beachcomber** - Jen Brown  
**Bylaw Committee** - Barry Holland

## HERNANDO BEACH PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION 2024 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM

HBPOA meetings are held the 1st Thursday of every month.  
Meetings are held at the HBYC - 4163 Shoal Line Blvd, the doors open at 6:30pm and meetings start at 7pm.

**Dues are \$35.00 annually and include the Beachcomber Newsletter mailed to you.**  
**Annual dues are due by January 1st every year and are NOT prorated.**

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

**New Member**                       **Renewal from 2023**                       **Prefer to receive the Beachcomber by email**

1) **Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

2) **Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to help with** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hernando Beach Property Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Eligible members are the property owner(s) listed on the property deed, as owner(s) of record on file with the Hernando County Property Appraiser's office, as owners named on the purchase agreement if the deed has not yet been recorded, individuals named in trust agreements that have present legal ownership of that property and the spouses of such property owners whether or not listed on property deeds and records. (Section 3.3 of the HBPOA Bylaws)

I grant permission and consent to the Hernando Beach Property Owners Association for the non-profit use of any photograph(s) taken by the HBPOA, or submitted by me for presentation to the HBPOA, under any legal condition, including but not limited to publicity, copyright purposes, illustration, advertising, and web content.

If paying online please complete the online application with method of payment through our website at [www.hernandobeachpoa.com](http://www.hernandobeachpoa.com).

**Make Check payable to HBPOA and mail with application/renewal to:**  
**HBPOA, PO Box 3198, Spring Hill, FL 34611-3198**

FREE FAMILY EVENT

# Santa's BEACH BONANZA

Join us at 3263 Shoal Line Blvd,  
Hernando Beach, FL 34607

SCAN ME



DECEMBER 2ND  
5PM - 7:30PM

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**HERNANDO BEACH  
PROPERTY OWNERS  
ASSOCIATION  
HOLIDAY SOCIAL**

**DECEMBER 7TH  
5:30PM**

**HB YACHT CLUB  
4163 SHOAL LINE BLVD.**



**THURSDAY & FRIDAY 9AM-2PM  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY 9AM-3PM  
THURSDAY NIGHT 5-9PM**

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**HERNANDO BEACH PROPERTY  
OWNERS ASSOCIATION INC.,  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**

November 2, 2023

Hernando Beach Yacht Club, 4163 Shoal Line Blvd  
Hernando Beach, FL 34607

**PRESENT:**

Present		
Bill Robert	President	Present
Joan Puls	Vice President	Present
Linda Tartaglione	Secretary	Present
Jen Brown	Treasurer	Present
Chuck Greenwell	Director	Not Present
Scott Fitzgerald	Director	Present
James Fournier	Director	Present
Denis Polyn	Director	Present
Bobbi Caccamisi	Director	Present

Quorum present.

**7:00pm – CALL TO ORDER.**

1. Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Motion to adopt the agenda by Dennis Polyn, second by James Fournier – Passed.
3. Motion to approve minutes as emailed to membership on Friday, Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> by Denis Polyn, second by Joan Puls - Passed.

**7:05pm – Realtor Appreciation Recognition.** The membership awarded the first-ever HBPOA recognition certificate to our local realtors who advertise in

the Beachcomber and those that also purchase HBPOA membership for new homeowners to learn about the community and present an opportunity to meet their neighbors. We thank them for their support.

1. Dennis Realty.
2. JT Realty – Sarah Hill.
3. The Mamo Team – Sarah and John Mamo – not present. President will deliver certificate.
4. Re/Max Alliance Group – Sharie Oakland.
5. The Tracie Maler Group – Tracie Maler.
6. Weaver Group – Tom Dishman and Laura Ghent.

**7:30pm – Guest Speaker Ms. Diana Gisonni. Guardian Ad Litem.**

**8:10pm – BUSINESS MEETING.**

President Comments relayed to the membership several community events: November 7<sup>th</sup> Front Porch Artwalk, December 7<sup>th</sup> HBPOA Holiday Party. He emphasized the change in meeting dates for the next HBPOA Board meeting and membership meetings are later in January due to the proximity to the holidays. January 8<sup>th</sup> HBPOA Board Meeting and the January 11<sup>th</sup> HBPOA Membership Meeting will have the new HBPOA Board Oath of Office Ceremony.

1. Committee Reports:
    - a. Finance & Beachcomber.
      - Records as Distributed with Agenda.
- No comments.
- Beachcomber input for December edition is 10 November.

*(Continued on page 8)*



Hernando Beach Marina is an all inclusive FULL SERVICE marina with mechanical/boat maintenance, ship store, boat rentals and bottom painting. We have the most reliable High/Dry with two forklifts and Wet Slips available for rent and transients.

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*(Continued from page 7)*

Jen Brown, Scholarship Chair reported that calendar sales have reached \$3544.00 for scholarships from the HBPOA. The deadline for Hernando Beach high school students is April 1<sup>st</sup>. Scholarships will be remitted to the school of choice with confirmation of registration and acceptance letter.

Your Scholarship Committee is Carol Crane, Kathy Polyn and Buck Buchanan. Thank you for your work getting the first ever HBPOA Scholarship program off to a great start.

b. Membership - Renewals in November and December are good for 2024. We sent out reminder postcards to the members per their request.

c. Landscape – the Joe Wachs Memorial Christmas Light Fund is still open as many lights have more than 100 lights and incur additional expense. Lights are on schedule for delivery at the end of November. All lights have been adopted.

d. GAC – November 7<sup>th</sup>, Notice of Public Hearing for Change of Land Use Hernando County Florida. Location: BOCC Meeting Hall – John Ayers County Commission Chambers, 20 North Main Street, Room 160, Brooksville FL. Starts at 9:00am.

**8:45pm – NEW BUSINESS**

- November 2<sup>nd</sup> - HBPOA Board Elections.
  - Position not filled – incumbent will serve until replaced (per bylaws).
    - a. President (Bill Roberts).
  - Positions filled by volunteers without contest:
    - a. Vice President Mr. Tom Crowley (Formerly held by Joan Puls).
    - b. Treasurer Jennifer Brown (incumbent).
    - c. Secretary Linda Tartaglione (incumbent).
    - d. Director Jerald Markuson (Formerly held by Bobbi Caccamisi).
    - e. Director Sheryl Coggins (Formerly held by Chuck Greenwell).
    - f. Director Mike Fulford (Formerly held by Denis Polyn).
    - g. Parliamentarian Denis Polyn.
  - Motion to accept slate of volunteers for positions indicated by Joan Puls, second. James Fournier. Motion passed.
  - Member Comments – Month of November. Hernando Beach Marina. Special Deal is offering

*(Continued on page 9)*



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**8:55pm – NEXT HBPOA EVENTS :**

- Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, HBPOA Toy Boat to collect Toys for Tots - HB Yacht Club Christmas Boat Parade.
- Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, Holiday Party. 5:30 Start. Reservations close Nov 27<sup>th</sup>.

**8:56pm – NEXT MEETINGS:**

- January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at HB Yacht Club 11:00am. Board Meeting.
- January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at HB Yacht Club 6:30pm. Membership Meeting.

**8:57pm – CLOSING COMMENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.**

**9:00pm – ADJOURN.**

50/50

**9:00pm – HBPOA SOCIAL - BAR OPEN TILL ~ 9:30pm.**

**9:30pm – DEPART BUILDING.**

Minutes provided by Linda Tartaglione

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## HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Hello Hernando Beach!

Can you believe that 2023 is about to come to a close?

We have just concluded a month in which we focus on thankfulness. We hope you found a way to share your goodness with others. We hope your Thanksgiving Holiday brought family and friends together, even if it needed to be via Skype, Facetime, text, or telephone conversations. We are in a mobile world so it is often difficult to all be on the same soil.

So, here we are in December. Even though we rarely see those snowy flakes here in the South, Santa will surely find a way to reach Hernando Beach. One way is the installation of newly renovated holiday lights along Shoal Line Boulevard. Many members of HBPOA donated funds to make the improvements.

A few of the most recognizable holidays in December are Christmas, of course, on December 25th. We also recognize other holidays. Hanukkah is celebrated from December 18th to December 26th. Boxing Day is on December 26th. In Great Britain, servants and workers are given the day off and are given a present.

we often give nonperishable items, ex. canned goods, to not profits for our homeless population. If we give canned goods, why not include a can opener, if we give mac and cheese which needs milk, why not include powdered milk which can be reconstituted. Also, be mindful of the items you are giving and think about the extras that might be needed in order to use those items.

December will celebrate the 12th month of our Hernando Beach Front Porch Art Walk. We must thank Diane Greenwell for beginning this project. She has been the inspiration to bring artists to Hernando Beach the first Saturday of each month. We must also thank the Silver Dolphin Restaurant, Brian's Place, and Weaver Real Estate for allowing the artists to occupy a portion of their property to display their art. We have met so many wonderfully creative folks each month.

December also offers our Hernando Beach Property Owners Association Members an end of year Holiday Dinner Celebration. You have already been advised of your reservation forms. The Membership and Hospitality Team work hard to bring this special occasion to our residents.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT: During December

*(Continued on page 11)*



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We wish you a December and a New Year filled with many blessings.

Until January 2024!

Judith Hughes

### FWC NIGHT HIKE

Join us for a family friendly evening of nocturnal exploration at Chinsegut WEA! We'll start at the conservation center with an introduction to Chinsegut, and then as the sun sets we'll watch the bats leave the bat boxes. After that we'll walk down to May's Prairie where we'll listen to the sounds of the night from the boardwalk and overlook. Along the way we will provide UV and infrared flashlights to share to look for various creatures.

Hike is moderate, over uneven terrain and unpaved trails in the dark. Bug spray is recommended. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Spots are limited and registration is required. To register, click on the register button above.

Any person who requires special accommodation to participate should notify us at least 2 weeks before the event by calling 352-754-6722 or by e-mailing [Chinsegut@myfwc.com](mailto:Chinsegut@myfwc.com). Those with hearing or speech impairments may contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service at 800-955-8771 (TDD) or 800-955-8770 (voice).

Registration is available until 12/01/2023.

**When: Friday, December 1st, 2023, 5:30pm to 7:30pm**

**Where: Chinsegut Conservation Center  
 23212 Lake Lindsey Rd  
 Brooksville, FL**

**Contact: [Chinsegut@myfwc.com](mailto:Chinsegut@myfwc.com)  
 (352)754-6722**

LAWNS

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### FWC VULTURES OF THE WORLD

On Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10am we will hear from Master Naturalist Sue Bathauer as she shares with us all about the vultures of the world. Learn about their importance to the environment and interesting vulture facts. Spots are limited and registration is required for the presentation. Before and after the presentation there will be vulture themed crafts and activities available all day in the center while we're open from 8am - 2pm (except from 10-11am while the presentation is taking place). Registration is not re-

*(Continued on page 12)*

(Continued from page 11)

quired for the crafts and activities, so stop by anytime outside of the presentation and either craft here or take your crafts to go!

Any person who requires special accommodation to participate Yshould notify us at least 2 weeks before the event by calling 352-754-6722 or e-mailing Chinsegut@myfwc.com. Those with hearing or speech impairments may contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service at 800-955-8771 (TDD) or 800-955-8770 (voice).

Online Registration is available until 12/02/2023.

**When: Saturday, December 2nd, 2023, 10am to 11am**

**Where: Chinsegut Conservation Center  
23212 Lake Lindsey Rd  
Brooksville, FL**

**Contact: CHINSEGUT@MYFWC.COM  
(352)754-6722**

## FLORIDA MANATEE FACTS & INFORMATION



### Appearance:

Florida manatees are large, aquatic mammals that are native to Florida. Adult manatees are typically 9-10 feet long from snout to tail and weigh around 1,000 pounds; however, they may grow to over 13 feet long and weigh more than 3,500 pounds. Manatees have two fore limb flippers that they use for steering movements and to hold vegetation while eating. A large, round, flattened paddle-shaped tail is used for swimming.

Manatees have finely-wrinkled, leathery looking thick skin that continuously flakes off. Algae often grows on the backs and tails of manatees, which makes their skin color appear green or brown. Barnacles (found mostly on coastal dwelling manatees) often leave round scars from attachment sites; movement from saltwater to freshwater habitats clears the animals of these saltwater hitchhikers. The manatee's flaky skin adaptation also helps keep the algae and barnacles from building up on the animals. These unique aquatic creatures definitely have some highly specialized features.

(Continued on page 15)



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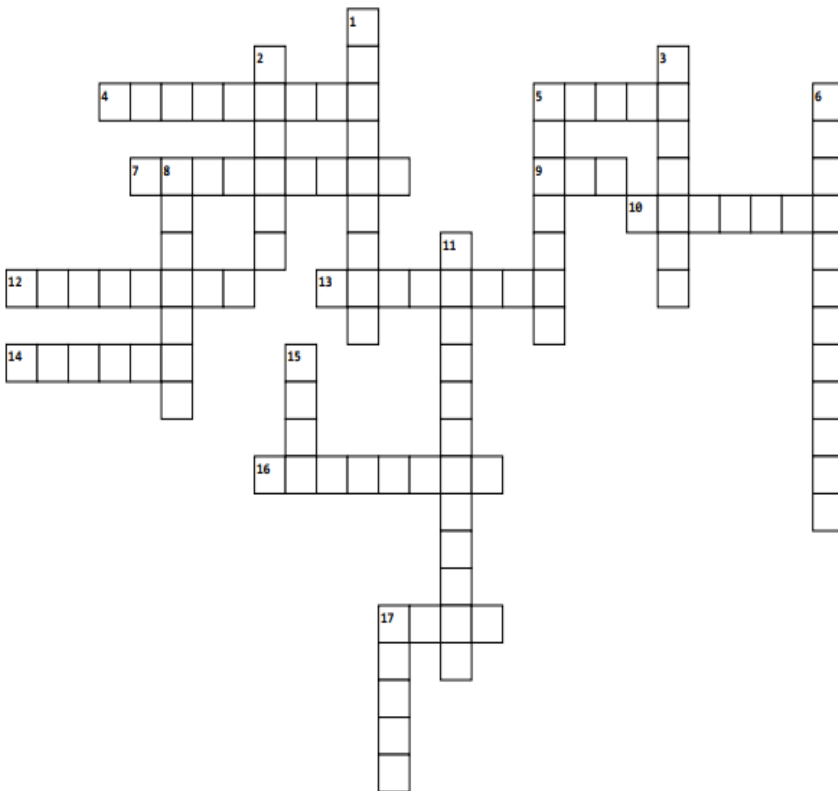


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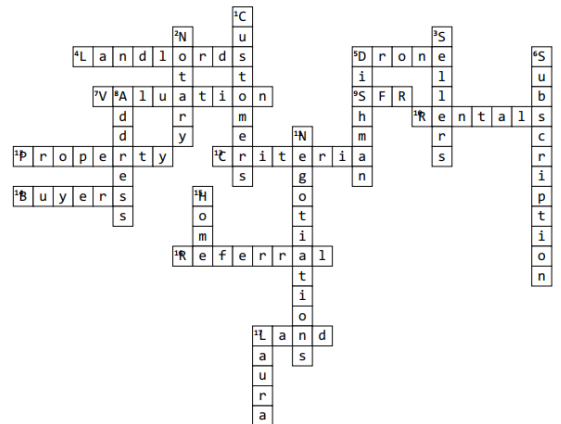
Call us anytime at 419-651-2084 for assistance with all of your Real Estate needs. We are a full service Brokerage offering services to Buyers, Sellers, Landlords and Tenants. We look forward to working with you and earning your trust.

Have a little fun and see if you can complete this Crossword Puzzle that offers a tiny snapshot of some of the Services we offer.

We wish you love and peace during the Holidays and into the New Year.



About: The Weaver Group Realty, Inc.



- Across**
- Owners of Rental Properties
  - Type of Video in our Listings
  - Determining present worth of your Home
  - Abbreviation for Single Family Residence
  - Short or Long Term lease
  - Type of Management Services we offer
  - A Buyers specific wants/needs
  - Customers who are looking for a new home
  - Satisfied Customer shares their experience with others
  - Vacant Lot or Acreage

- Down**
- Our favorite people
  - Free service we offer for witnessing signatures
  - Customers who want to move away
  - Last name of our new Owners, Tom & Tammy
  - Tailored Search matching your criteria
  - Where Dreams find their ????
  - Discussions between agents to determine price
  - This is where your heart is
  - First name of our new Broker

- Across**
- Owners of Rental Properties
  - Type of Video in our Listings
  - Determining present worth of your Home
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- Down**
- Our favorite people
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  - Last name of our new Owners, Tom & Tammy
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Front Porch Art Walk 10am to 2pm
3	4	5 Yoga with Barb HBYC 5:30pm to 6:30pm	6	7 HBPOA Christmas Social	8	9
10 Beachcomber Deadline	11	12 BOCC Meeting Yoga with Barb HBYC 5:30pm to 6:30pm	13 HB Crime Watch Meeting	14	15	16
17	18 US Coast Guard Auxiliary Meeting 7pm	19 Yoga with Barb HBYC 5:30pm to 6:30pm	20 Waterways Advisory Committee 6pm	21	22	23
24  31	25 Merry Christmas	26 Yoga with Barb HBYC 5:30pm to 6:30pm	27	28	29	30

Wishing Everyone a Happy Holidays



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(Continued from page 12)



**Habitat:**

The West Indian manatee's range is from the southern United States throughout the Caribbean Islands, Central America, and to northern South America.

In the United States, the Florida manatee, a subspecies of the West Indian manatee, inhabits the state's coastal waters, rivers and springs. Some Florida manatee are known to travel up the eastern coastline into Georgia, the Carolinas, and a few travel as far north as Massachusetts during warm months.

In the Gulf, Florida manatees can be found west through coastal Louisiana and are occasionally sighted as far west as Texas. Prior to winter's coldest months, manatees migrate to warm water habitats in Florida. These warm-water sites include artesian springs and power plant discharge canals. Florida is at the northern end of the manatee's winter range and these warm-water habitats play an important role in their survival during the winter months.

(Continued on page 16)

**WHO TO CALL...**

CERT	(352)754-4083
Code Enforcement	(352)754-4056
County Commissioner Brian Hawkins	(352)754-4146
HB Crime Watch	(352)592-3304
Fire Dept. (Non-Emergency)	(352)515-0924
Hernando Beach Club	(352)596-5878
Hernando Beach Boatlift Keys Frank Virginia	(352)556-3538
Parks & Recreation	(352)754-4027
Port Authority & Waterways	(352)754-4060
Public Works	(352)754-4060
Sheriff's Dept. (Non-Emergency)	(352)754-6830
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## RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS

<b>Wildlife</b>	
Fish & Wildlife Conservation (FWC) Law Enforcement	(813)558-5050 x 7
FWC Florida Wildlife - General	(863)648-3200
Manatee hotline (FWC)	(888)404-3922
Sawfish Sightings (FWC)	(941)255-7403
Sea turtle rescue (FWC)	(863)648-3200
Reptiles and Exotics Rescue	(352)403-4255
Wildlife Rescue – Owl's Nest Sanctuary	(813)598-5926
Wildlife Rescue HB Area	(813)598-5926
Horseshoe Crab Sightings	(866)252-9326
<b>Pets</b>	
Hernando County Animal Services	(352)796-5062
Humane Society of Nature Coast	(352)796-2711
SPCA Hernando County	(352)596-7000
Dogs – Report Illegal Dog Fighting	(800)780-8477

(Continued from page 15)



**Behavior:** Manatees are aquatic herbivores (plant-eaters). Also known as "sea cows," these herbivores usually spend up to eight hours a day grazing on seagrasses

and other aquatic plants. A manatee can consume from 4 to 9 percent of its body weight in aquatic vegetation daily.

Manatees use their tails in an up and down motion to propel themselves forward. Strong swimmers, they are capable of reaching speeds of 15 miles per hour in short bursts. Manatees rest from 2 to 12 hours a day either suspended near the water's surface or lying on the bottom, usually for several hours at a time.

While most people tend to see many manatees gathered together at winter warm-water sites, during the rest of the year these animals are semi-social as they travel around the state's waterways in search of food,

(Continued on page 18)

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*(Continued from page 16)*

mates or places to rest. Except for cow/calf pairs and small mating herds, manatees do not need to travel together although they do socialize when other manatees are encountered.

Manatees reach sexual maturity in 3-5 years (females) and 5-7 years (males) and may live over 65 years in captivity. Gestation is approximately 13 months and usually one calf is born. The calf may stay with its mother (cow) for up to 2 years. Male manatees (bulls) are not part of the family unit. Bulls will leave a cow alone after her breeding period is over. Of the wild manatees that reach adulthood, only about half are expected to survive into their early 20s.

Miscellaneous Information:

- The nostrils, located on the upper surface of the bulbous blunt snout, close tightly when underwater.
- A manatee's small eyes have nictitating membranes that can be drawn over them for protection underwater but still allow the animal some sight.
- The ear openings, located just behind the eyes, are small and lack external lobes.
- A manatee can move each side of its lip pads

independently. This flexibility allows the manatee to "grab" aquatic plants and draw them into its mouth. The manatee uses its muscular prehensile upper lips much like an elephant (a distant relative of the manatee) uses the tip of its trunk to pick up items.

- Stiff whiskers (vibrissae) grow around the mouth and very fine hairs are sparsely distributed over much of the body. These small hairs provide a tactile system or sense of touch to help manatees understand their surroundings through changes in water currents and pressure wakes.
- Manatees do not have eyelids or eyelashes. Their eye muscles close in a circular motion, much like an aperture on a camera.
- Manatees can hear very well despite the absence of external ear lobes.
- A manatee's heart beats at a rate of 50 to 60 beats a minute. The heart rate slows down to 30 beats a minute during a long dive.
- Manatees have no "biting" teeth, only "grinding" teeth. A manatee's teeth (all molars) are constantly being replaced. New teeth come in at the back of the jaw and move forward horizontally about a centimeter a month. The front molars eventually fall out and are replaced by the teeth behind them. This tooth replacement is an adaptation to the mana-

*(Continued on page 21)*



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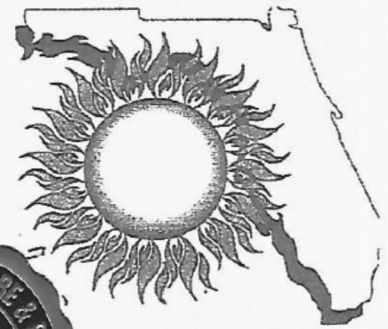
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**Rain date**

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(Continued from page 18)

tee's diet as manatees consume plants that often hold sand that can wear down its teeth.

- Manatees have only six cervical (neck) vertebrae. Most other mammals, including giraffes, have seven. As a result, manatees cannot turn their heads sideways; they must turn their whole body around to look behind them.

- The manatee's rib bones are solid, there is no marrow. They make red blood cells in their sternum where marrow is found.

- The manatee has pelvic bones, but they are not attached to its skeletal frame and are fairly small. They are remnants of a time when manatees lived on land. The bones are found in a cartilage tissue area of the body in the vicinity of the reproductive organs and the urinary bladder. The bones are soft when the manatee is young and later harden as they mature.

- Other remnant bones found in the manatee are the hyoid bones located near the neck region. These bones are similar to the Adam's apple in humans. Today, there is no known use of these bones in the manatee.

- The bones in a manatee's flipper are similar to a human hand. The jointed "finger-like bones" of the

(Continued on page 22)

(Continued from page 21)

flipper help the manatee move through the water, bring food to its mouth, and hold objects. Three or four nails are found at the end of each flipper and are in line with the “finger-like” bones inside the flipper.

- The manatee's lungs lie along its backbone instead of along its rib cage as is found in most mammals. The lungs are long (1 meter or more in adults), wide (20 cm), and thin (5 cm or less). Besides breathing, the lungs help the manatee with buoyancy control.

- Manatees are quite agile in the water. They can swim upside down, roll, do somersaults or move vertically in the water.

Report a sick, injured, dead, tagged, orphaned or distressed Manatee,

Call (888)404-FWCC (3922)

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## Hernando Beach, Rocky Creek, Little Pine I. Bay, Florida, December 2023

28.4867° N, 82.6617° W

Date		High				Low				☀		☾
		AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft	Rise	Set	Moon
1	Fri	2:37	3.1	4:40	2.4	11:17	-0.3	11:04	1.2	7:07	5:35	☾
2	Sat	3:17	2.9	5:17	2.3	11:54	-0.1	11:49	1.2	7:07	5:35	☾
3	Sun	4:03	2.7	5:56	2.3			12:33	0.1	7:08	5:35	☾
4	Mon	4:57	2.5	6:40	2.2	12:40	1.2	1:16	0.4	7:09	5:35	☾
5	Tue	6:03	2.2	7:32	2.3	1:43	1.2	2:09	0.6	7:10	5:35	☾
6	Wed	7:33	2.0	8:26	2.3	3:02	1.0	3:12	0.8	7:10	5:35	☾
7	Thu	9:12	2.0	9:14	2.5	4:21	0.8	4:16	1.0	7:11	5:35	☾
8	Fri	10:31	2.1	9:56	2.6	5:26	0.4	5:13	1.1	7:12	5:35	☾
9	Sat	11:35	2.2	10:34	2.8	6:20	0.1	6:04	1.1	7:13	5:35	☾
10	Sun	12:29P	2.4	11:12	3.0	7:08	-0.3	6:51	1.2	7:13	5:35	☾
11	Mon	1:16P	2.5	11:49	3.1	7:51	-0.6	7:36	1.2	7:14	5:36	☾
12	Tue			1:59	2.5	8:32	-0.8	8:18	1.2	7:15	5:36	☾
13	Wed	12:28	3.3	2:42	2.5	9:13	-0.9	8:59	1.2	7:15	5:36	☾
14	Thu	1:08	3.3	3:25	2.4	9:55	-1.0	9:41	1.2	7:16	5:37	☾
15	Fri	1:51	3.3	4:07	2.4	10:38	-0.9	10:25	1.1	7:17	5:37	☾
16	Sat	2:38	3.3	4:48	2.3	11:23	-0.7	11:14	1.1	7:17	5:37	☾
17	Sun	3:31	3.1	5:29	2.3			12:10	-0.5	7:18	5:38	☾
18	Mon	4:31	2.8	6:11	2.3	12:09	1.0	12:58	-0.1	7:18	5:38	☾
19	Tue	5:41	2.5	6:58	2.3	1:13	0.8	1:50	0.2	7:19	5:38	☾
20	Wed	7:09	2.2	7:50	2.4	2:30	0.7	2:49	0.6	7:19	5:39	☾
21	Thu	8:55	2.0	8:44	2.6	3:55	0.4	3:54	0.9	7:20	5:39	☾
22	Fri	10:29	2.1	9:35	2.7	5:11	0.0	4:55	1.1	7:20	5:40	☾
23	Sat	11:44	2.2	10:22	2.9	6:16	-0.4	5:52	1.2	7:21	5:40	☾
24	Sun	12:40P	2.3	11:07	3.0	7:10	-0.7	6:44	1.2	7:21	5:41	☾
25	Mon	1:24P	2.3	11:49	3.1	7:57	-0.9	7:31	1.2	7:22	5:42	☾
26	Tue			2:01	2.3	8:38	-0.9	8:14	1.1	7:22	5:42	☾
27	Wed	12:30	3.1	2:36	2.3	9:15	-0.9	8:54	1.1	7:23	5:43	☾
28	Thu	1:09	3.1	3:08	2.3	9:49	-0.8	9:32	1.0	7:23	5:43	☾
29	Fri	1:47	3.0	3:39	2.3	10:22	-0.6	10:10	0.9	7:23	5:44	☾
30	Sat	2:25	2.9	4:08	2.3	10:54	-0.5	10:49	0.9	7:24	5:45	☾
31	Sun	3:05	2.7	4:37	2.3	11:25	-0.3	11:30	0.8	7:24	5:45	☾

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