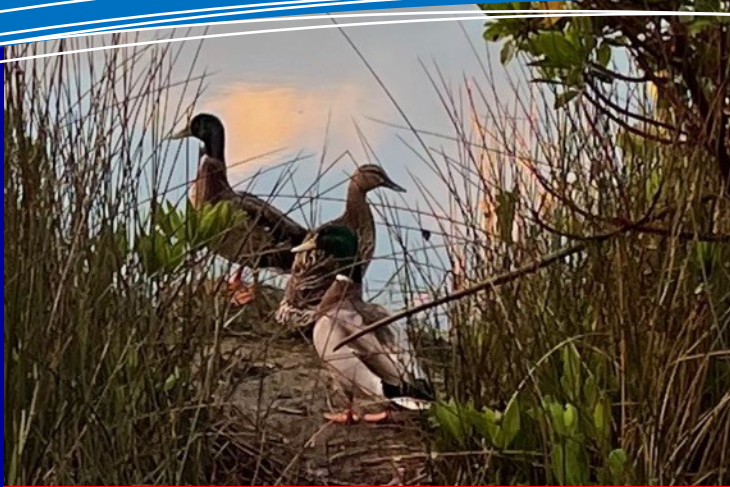




# The Beachcomber



*Hernando Beach  
Property Owners  
Association  
Newsletter*

**SPECIAL NOTE ~ New HBPOA Membership Meeting place:  
Hernando Beach Yacht Club - 4163 Shoal Line Blvd.**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

The month of April did not bring many showers! Here it is May and the flowers need some water but be careful. Hernando County is strictly enforcing water restrictions according to our April guest speaker Mr. Frank McCabe. Mr. McCabe is the Hernando County Code Enforcement Supervisor and he's hired two code enforcement officers to enforce water restrictions. You can find the day of the week you can water on the front of your water bill or on the back. Check your day with this guide. Address numbers ending with:

- 0 or 1 may water on MONDAY before 8am or after 6pm
- 2 or 3 may water on TUESDAY before 8am or after 6pm
- 4 or 5 may water on WEDNESDAY before 8am or after 6pm
- 6 or 7 may water on THURSDAY before 8am or after 6pm
- 8 or 9 may water on FRIDAY before 8am or after 6pm

Mr. McCabe's presentation with a Q & A was the perfect forum for our membership questions. He noted that with 200,000 residents in Hernando County, he has a staff of five – one code enforcer per district (the two extras are water restriction enforcers) for a total of seven. If you have a request for code enforcement on something or someone, you must give your name – no anonymous complaints. Your questions regarding derelict vehicles and tractor trailers on Shoal Line Blvd lots, commercial boats parked and operating at/from private residential docks, noise complaint process, RV parking and Air BnB issues kept him on his feet.

April was a busy month for the HBPOA. We hosted the Association's 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary with a Tropical Celebration on April first and it was not a

*(Continued on page 3)*

Our next meeting  
will be held  
**Thursday,  
May 4th, 2023  
at 7:00pm  
Hernando Beach  
Yacht Club  
4163 Shoal Line Blvd.**  
Doors open at 6:30pm  
to socialize.



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

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4103 Diaz Ct 60 x 100 Ft Lot Western  
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(Continued from page 1)

prank! We had a great time with great food – building memories with our friends. I'd like to recognize two friends, Mr. Lou and Stephanie Fusaro – they won the Grand Prize of the celebration – a full day pontoon boat rental – CONGRATULATIONS Lou and Stephanie!



Thank you, Cathy and Jon Groves for donating the pontoon rental from Hernando Beach Marina for the Grand Prize.



Thank you, Barry Holland, for your work on the bylaw amendment. We'll present in May and Vote in June. For a complete review see the membership meeting minutes published in this Beachcomber by Barb Gossett (Thank you Barb!). We need 2/3rd of membership present to approve, I look forward to seeing you there. Thank you for your cooperation.

The Board of County Commissioners met on Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. Agenda item I., Update regarding Weeki Wachee Preserve for Shoal Line Blvd Recreation Project and Weeki Wachee River Springs Protection Zone. County Administrator Jeff Rogers opened the discussion for the Commissioners with a review of the county plan provided to the Southwest Florida Water Man-

# The Beachcomber

Published by Hernando Beach Property Owners Association

Deadline for ads, articles, and news:  
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Jennifer Brown, Editor (352)678-1795  
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agement District (SWFWMD) and the response received. The commissioners reviewed and voted to embrace the proposal by SWFWMD and move forward for the county residents on the following: 1. Improve existing amenities and trails within the revised project area, 2. Utilize Shoal Line entrance and build out a boardwalk or bridge over the canal to the Preserve for ingress and egress subject to applicable permitting and mitigation requirements, 3. The expansion of non-motorized boating activities such as a kayak launch.

Regarding the creation of a swimming area, SWFWMD is not interested in the development of this high intensity recreational use of District-owned lands. However, the District will consider the County pursuing a fee acquisition of the revised project area five years after entering a lease or management agreement. (Plain language – the County will have to buy the land to put a swimming area in it). The District tied a couple of other caveats to the creation of the swimming area and those are available in the agenda packet online.

The Commissioners reviewed the Florida Fish  
(Continued on page 5)

# 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 2023 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 2022**                       **Prefer to receive the Beachcomber by email**

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

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

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

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

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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)

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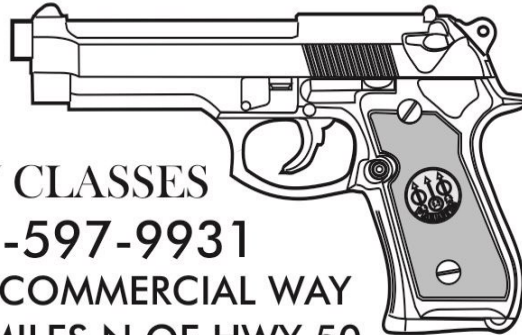
**HERNANDO BEACH  
PROPERTY OWNERS  
ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING**

**MAY 4TH**

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*(Continued from page 3)*

and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) presentation on the Weeki Wachee Spring Protection Zone Public Meeting on March 28, 2023.

FWC was very convincing on the underlying causes of shoreline, vegetation, and grass area damage. However, the FWC attempted to find a middle ground to enable full on recreation as if nothing should change but then added 20 exclusion zones to help damaged areas heal. The issues of enforcement, signage and compliance flummoxed the Commissioners. Their comments included: how do we preserve the beauty of the Weeki Wachee when they'd have to add signage requirements. Signage is ugly and could possibly damage what they are trying to protect. Additionally, the enforcement effort would pit the Waterways Sheriff against citizens determined to ground, anchor, moor or beach their vessel. "Not here?" "Move 10 feet and you can do it there." Bottom line, the Commissioners are for the creation of the Weeki Wachee Spring Protection Zone from Rogers Park to the Weeki Wachee park boundary. What does this mean? There will be no anchoring, mooring, beaching, or grounding of vessels. This does not apply to property owners on the Weeki Wachee mooring their vessels to their property. More to come on an implementation date and County coordination with partnering agencies.

Thank you for all you do to help keep Hernando Beach a great place to live.

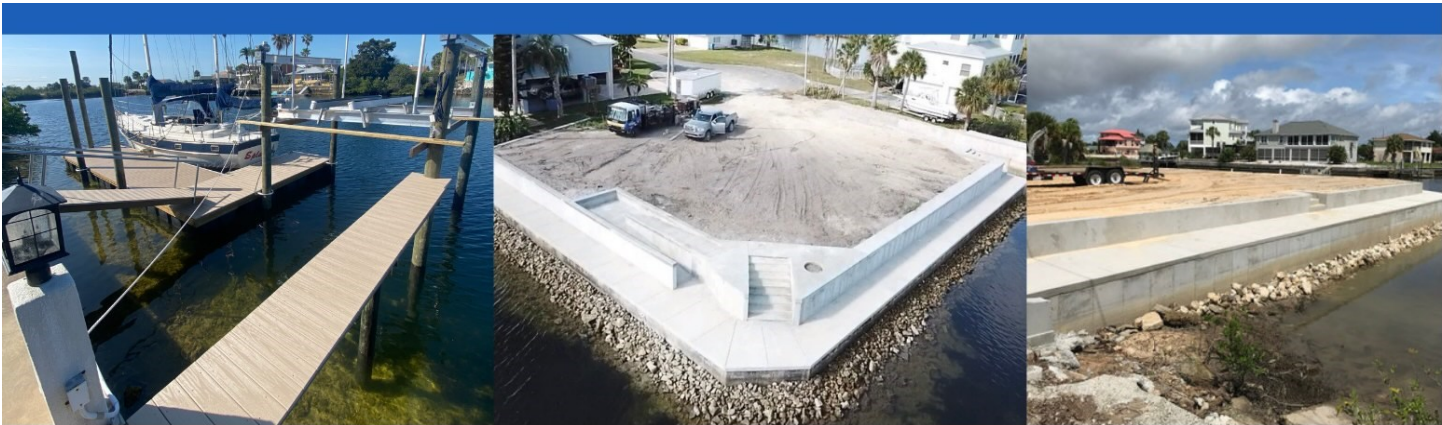
Bill Roberts  
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### **MAY SPEAKER PAUL HASENMEIER**



Paul Hasenmeier is the Public Safety Director and Fire Chief for Hernando County (FL) Fire Rescue. Hasenmeier possesses a bachelor's degree in Fire Science from Columbia Southern University as well as a master's degree in Public Administration from Capella University. He is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. Additionally, Hasenmeier is trained as a Firefighter, Paramedic, Instructor, Fire Inspector, and in all of NFPA 1670's technical rescue disciplines.

In addition to his current duties and responsibilities as Public Safety Director and Fire Chief in Hernando County, Hasenmeier is a lead faculty member at Columbia Southern University where he teaches on-line courses in their fire administration program. Hasenmeier is an adjunct instructor for Bowling Green State University and teaches at their annual state fire school. He has presented on fire service and leadership topics across the United States and in Canada.



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## HBPOA MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2023, 7:00PM

Present:

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

7 Board Members present: We have a quorum.

6:30pm – BUSINESS SOCIAL – BAR WILL CLOSE AT 7:00pm for Official Business

Please visit our highlighted Hernando Beachcomber advertiser at their table to learn more about what they have to offer. Highlighted this month: JT Realty and Associates represented by

Sarah Hill.

### 7:00pm – CALL TO ORDER

1. Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Motion to adopt the agenda by Denis Polyn. Second by Jim Fournier. Vote Passed – Adopted minutes.
3. Motion to approve minutes from the last membership meeting as published in the Beachcomber by Sue Dyer and second by Valerie Shelter. Vote passed - Approval of Minutes.

### 7:05pm – GUEST SPEAKERS

1. Mr. Frank McCabe was introduced by Joan Puls.

He has been the Code Enforcement Supervisor since February 2016. He enjoys working with Hernando County residents and businesses as well as with other government agencies with the goal of making Hernando County a safer and cleaner place to live. At this time, there are 5 code enforcement officers for 200,000 residents. Hernando County has been warned by SWIFTMUD that the wells are starting to be over

(Continued on page 8)

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(Continued from page 7)

pumped which could be fined. Therefore, utilities have hired 2 additional enforcement officers focusing solely on watering lawns between 8am - 6pm which is prohibited unless laying new sod.

A state law that has changed is that all calls to code enforcement may no longer be anonymous. You must provide your name and address to register a complaint. To find codes, go to the Hernando County website under County Ordinances. The email is [ce@hernandocounty.us](mailto:ce@hernandocounty.us). If you have photos, there is a portal on the website for those.

2. JT Realty & Associates with Realtor Sarah Hill is our featured Hernando Beach business. Questions were raised about grants for single story homes to be lifted and flood insurance and a suggestion was made to investigate speakers on the subjects.

## 7:40pm – BUSINESS MEETING

1. President Comments. Bill Roberts stated that he attended his first Port Authority Meeting with the BOCC. They discussed improvements, airport enhancements, loans, commercial fishing, and funding opportunities. There is also discussion

about a separate “barge canal” for commercial boats.

The opportunity to help our own Shoal Line businesses and work with other organizations on the beach is getting traction. Our members agree Shoal Line Blvd needs some beautification. Code compliance is lax at best among some but other businesses shine. A willingness to get involved and a commitment to work together to help keep Hernando Beach beautiful and our local businesses participating is needed.

Valerie Shelter made a motion for the Shoal Line Blvd Beautification Committee to get started and Bobbi Caccamisi seconded. Vote passed. Bill, Valerie and Carol Crane will be on the committee.

## 2. Committee Reports:

a. Finance & Beachcomber - Jen Brown. Beginning balance - \$11,981.84, Ending balance - \$7,494.32. Beachcomber seeking photos and articles by the 10th of each month.

b. Hospitality - Marlies Blackford. 68 people attended the 31st Anniversary party potluck dinner on April 1, 2023.

c. Membership - Patty Roberts welcomed Bu-



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*Hernando Beach Residents*

*(Continued from page 8)*

chanan's and the Coggins. We have 263 total people in HBPOA, 149 families and 4 businesses.

d. Landscape - Bill Roberts reported that 3 accidents in February took out the shed that we had there.

e. Government Affairs - Chuck Greenwell. Topics to watch for: 1) commercial fishing seaport; 2) developers and industrial bonds; 3) airport, seaport, roadways, and development synergies; and 4) the possible selling of water to Pasco Co. regarding County Line Road.

#### 8:00pm – NEW BUSINESS

1. Bylaws – Barry Holland. Per membership request, the Bylaws committee received and reviewed a recommended amendment. After board review and per Section 8.1, the revision was submitted and will be presented to the membership on May 1<sup>st</sup> so that we may have a vote in June. Section 3.6 has been amended as follows in *ITALICS*:

*“The annual dues are due and payable to the HBPOA on the first day of January each year.*

*(Continued on page 10)*

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(Continued from page 9)

*Prior year members in good standing will be afforded a dues grace period starting January 1st and ending at the start of the first membership meeting of the new year. Members must be in good standing to take office or serve as a committee chair."*

2. Member Comments.

**Friday, April 14 at noon** - Ribbon cutting for mermaid at Weaver Group.

**Saturday, October 14** - Cardboard Boat Race at the Hernando Beach Marina. (HBPOA is encouraged to enter a boat)

8:15pm – NEXT MEETINGS:

1. Next Board meeting May 1st, 2023, at 11am.  
Next Membership meeting May 4th, 2023, at 7pm.

8:20m – CLOSING COMMENTS/  
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Electronics Committee is working on website improvements and security and looking for other members to assist.

8:25pm – ADJOURN Denis Polyn made a motion to ADJOURN. Tom Crowley seconded. Voted and passed.

50/50

8:30pm – HBPOA SOCIAL - BAR OPEN TILL  
9pm.

9:30pm – DEPART BUILDING.

Minutes provided by Barb Gossett

## HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

By: Judith Hughes

Hello Hernando Beach,

There are times when it is a difficult task to write this article. Somehow, the month just flies by and before I know it, the deadline for submission has arrived.

I have been thinking about our HBPOA meetings. Our new location, the Hernando Beach



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Yacht Club, is a wonderful venue. We now have a "Happy Hour" prior to and after each meeting which is conducive to socialization. The idea is for each attendee to wander around prior to or stay a few minutes after each meeting and say "hello" to a new face. We might find that we have something in common with our neighbors.

If you are receiving The Beachcomber, you are a member of HBPOA. Unfortunately, we only see a certain percentage of membership attending each meeting. That begs me to question: WHY? Is the time of our meeting inconvenient? Is the day inconvenient? Would an emailed reminder be helpful? Would a phone call be helpful? Is the information presented not useful? Are you content with the Beachcomber minutes of the precious meeting? Hernando Beach is your community. The HBPOA Board welcomes your input. You can contact them via the information published each month in the Beachcomber. Be an active member of your community and come to our monthly meetings, whether you are a part time or full time resident of Hernando Beach. We welcome you and your suggestions.

(Continued on page 11)



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Last month, **Your Hospitality Team** presented a wonderful Tropical Potluck Social and a good time was had by all. Thanks to all whose imagination, set up, and presentation to make this event one our members will remember. The team is always thinking of ways to bring our members together. What will happen next?

We must note the special days we celebrate in May::

**May 5 - Cinco De Mayo:** This day celebrates the victory of the Mexican army over the French army at The Battle of Puebla in 1862.

**May 8 - Mother's Day:** The Mother's Day holiday in the United States is always celebrated on the second Sunday in May. It essentially began as a women's movement to better the lives of other Americans.

**May 29 -Memorial Day:** This U.S. federal holiday is observed on the last Monday of May to honor the men and women who have died while serving in the military. It was formerly known as Decoration Day.

**And did you know?** May 1st is School Principals Day, May 4th is International Firefighters Day, May 6th is the Kentucky Derby Day, May 8th is No Socks Day, and did you know that May 31st is National Flip Flop Day (this is a day we all know about in Florida)

## HERNANDO COUNTY WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

By: Mike Fulford

The Hernando County Waterways Advisory Committee (WAC) was created by the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on 23 February, 2021, by Ordinance Number 17939. The WAC acts as an advisory body to the BOCC on all matters pertaining to the waterways, in-land lakes and rivers located within Hernando County. Topics include maintenance, aquatics and eco system restoration. All functions are performed in a public forum, subject the Florida Sunshine Law Legislation. They currently meet six times a year. The Committee currently con-

*(Continued on page 15)*

# May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 HBPOA Membership Meeting	5	6 Front Porch Art Walk 10am to 2pm
7	8	9 BOCC Meeting	10 Beachcomber Deadline HB Crime Watch Meeting	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day	15 US Coast Guard Auxiliary Meeting 7pm	16	17 Waterways Advisory Committee 6pm	18	19	20
21	22	23 BOCC Meeting	24	25	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day	30	31			

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### Save the Date - May 13, 2023

Please join us in person or online at 11 am on May 13th for an Informative Workshop on Building and Financing a New Construction Home. Our Guest Speakers will be Danny LaRocca from LaRocca Contracting Services and Chris Suarez from Suarez Home Finance. This event is being hosted by Tom & Tammy Dishman, Owners of The Weaver Group Realty. Please RSVP by calling 352-592-7576 or by sending an email to [team@weavergroupoffice.com](mailto:team@weavergroupoffice.com).



Daniel LaRocca - President/Owner started his career in 2005 working in the corporate world for multiple National Home Builders here in the Tampa Bay Region. Being a part of the management team and completing over 1000 Homes per year has allowed Danny to understand what it takes to succeed in the fast-paced and always-changing dynamic of homebuilding. From design-build construction to remodeling in the residential and commercial sectors; his experience has grown. Danny has even ventured out into the specialty market of Precast Concrete. Over the last 10 years, Danny has concentrated on building his own business here in the Tampa Region with a focus on residential, commercial, & municipal work while also working with insurance companies/insurance claims, lenders, first-time home buyers and 203k programs. Danny's brother, Mike LaRocca, is a Realtor at The Weaver Group Realty specializing in commercial sales and also works with Danny at LaRocca Contracting Services.



#### About Chris:

I have been in the mortgage industry since 2004 and before that, in the mortgage banking arena. I treat every customer like family. I am a Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Sister and Daughter. My family and I are true Tampanians going back four generations. I have 2 beautiful Sons, an amazing Grandson, and a wonderful Daughter-in-law. We moved my family to Hernando County in 2005 to leave the hustle and bustle of city life so we could enjoy country life. We love it here and have made Hernando County our home. Most of our family is still in Tampa so our roots are still running through there! I love being a Mortgage Broker/Mortgage Loan Originator because it's an awesome experience to tell a Family... "You are HOMEOWNERS!!!" I am a numbers person and absolutely love what I do. Is it stressful? Oh my gosh, yes....but my staff is dedicated, sincere, and extremely helpful during the process right alongside of me.



Tom & Tammy Dishman, Owners of The Weaver Group Realty.

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*(Continued from page 11)*

sists of four members appointed by the BOCC by consensus and is citizen-volunteer based. The WAC meets at the Hernando Beach Coast Guard Auxiliary Facility and all meetings are publicly noticed. The WAC currently has one vacancy existing. Application can be made through the Hernando County Office of the Administrator.

The WAC does not replace, and is a separate body established to provide citizens input to the Hernando County Port Authority (PA). The PA will continue to enjoy the powers and responsibilities that the Florida Legislature provided in Chapter 65-1618, in 1965. What is different is that the BOCC has assumed those authorities, responsibilities and roles allowed for by the legislation.

For background, by enacting Chapter 65-1618, the Legislature created the Hernando County PA and authorized it to exercise a number of the state's sovereign powers, including but not limited to "...constructing and operating port facilities, airports, radio stations, aquariums, lighting and water systems, streets, sidewalks, and railroads". Additionally, the local act authorized the PA to exercise the power to acquire property by

eminent domain. Notably, the Legislature did not grant the PA any taxing authority.

The PA's inability to finance its own operations, have proven the Chapter 65-1618 delegations of sovereign powers not to be realistic. As a result, the PA operated for the most part as an advisory body to the BOCC since it was created in 1965. The ability to approve dock permits was removed in 2016.

This discrepancy between the PA's apparent and actual powers has long caused confusion amongst the both the PA's membership and the members of the general public. Hence the reassignment to the BOCC, since the BOCC does have the authority to tax and raise funds.

Press Release: April 3, 2023

Contact: Summer Blevins (727) 232-2921

***Bilirakis and Levin File Bill to Expand Veterans' Access to Dental Care***

**Washington, D.C.** – Representatives Gus Bilirakis (FL-12) and Mike Levin (CA-49) reintroduced the Veterans Early Treatment for Chronic Ailment Resurgence through Examinations (VET CARE) Act, to require the Veterans Administration (VA) to put in place a four-year pilot program

*(Continued on page 16)*

(Continued from page 15)

providing dental care for Veterans with certain chronic health conditions. Right now, dental care through the VA is limited to those who are 100% disabled or have a direct service-connected injury. Studies have shown that regular dental care helps alleviate certain chronic conditions, reducing overall healthcare costs. Since the VA spends most of its healthcare costs on treating Veterans with chronic ailments, like diabetes and heart conditions, increasing access to preventative dental services would help ensure a healthier Veteran population and bring those costs down.

"Our Veterans have sacrificed so much on behalf of our country; they deserve access to high quality healthcare - and that includes dental care," said **Bilirakis**. "The VET CARE Act will get the ball rolling to expand access to dental care for our nation's heroes, and could result in lower overall health care costs for the VA. Not only is this legislation good for Veterans, it is good for the VA as a whole."

"Our veterans deserve high-quality, comprehensive health care services, and that should include dental care regardless of service connection. This bill empowers VA to meet veterans' dental care needs while driving down overall health care costs in the long run," said **Rep. Levin**. "I'm proud to reintroduce the VET CARE Act with Rep. Bilirakis and look forward to it moving forward in the legislative process. We must continue to strengthen health care delivery for veterans, and this bill adds an element that is usually forgotten about in that process."

### INTRODUCING ASPEN DISCOVERY AND THE HERNANDO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY APP

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**April 19, 2023**

(Brooksville, FL) – The Hernando County Public Library System (HCPLS) is excited to announce the launch of a discovery system that will make it easier for library users to access library materials in one place in our online catalog. Aspen Discovery and the Hernando County Public

(Continued on page 17)

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*(Continued from page 16)*

Library App groups formats together, provides book recommendations, and improves the search experience.

HCPLS is one of the first libraries in Florida to launch Aspen Discovery and our own Hernando County Public Library App. The go live date is Monday, May 1, 2023.

Aspen makes searching for books and resources easier, pulling all library resources together in one search in the online catalog. Patrons can create and share lists of materials and online content or peruse curated lists created by their local library staff. Readers can easily find a title in every format available, read book reviews, and even rate items and see how others rated them.

Our main goal at HCPLS is to connect people with library materials, Aspen Discovery and our Hernando County Public Library App makes it easy for library users to access our resources. Libraries throughout the country have launched Aspen Discovery to improve user experience with less of an impact on library budgets.

*(Continued on page 20)*

## RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS

### Wildlife

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

### Pets

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

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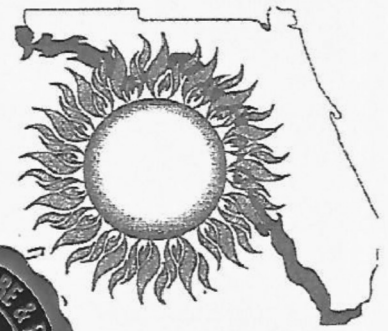
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(Continued from page 17)

HCPLS users can download the Hernando County Public Library App from Google Play or the Apple App Store.

For locations, hours, or other information, please visit the Library's website at [www.HernandoCountyLibrary.us](http://www.HernandoCountyLibrary.us) or call (352) 754-4043.

## FISH OF THE MONTH TARPON

### Appearance



- Back is dark blue-green or greenish-black, becoming bright silver on the sides
- One dorsal fin; last ray of dorsal fin extended into

a long filament

- Very large scales
- Mouth large and points upward

**Similar Species:** As juveniles, tarpon resemble ladyfish, *E. saurus*

**Size:** Up to 8 feet (300 pounds)

(Continued on page 21)

## WHO TO CALL...

CERT	754-4083
Code Enforcement	754-4056
County Commissioner Brian Hawkins	754-4146
HB Crime Watch	592-3304
Fire Dept. (Non-Emergency)	515-0924
Hernando Beach Club	596-5878
Hernando Beach Boatlift President	(727)433-3834
Parks & Recreation	754-4027
Port Authority & Waterways	754-4060
Public Works	754-4060
Sheriff's Dept. (Non-Emergency)	754-6830
Utilities Dept.	754-4037
VFW Post 9236	596-9236
Republic/Seaside Sanitation	(727)868-8566

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## **Habitat**

Primarily inshore fish; adults spawn offshore. Tarpon are found throughout Florida's coastal environment during the summer months. During the winter months, coastal water temperatures in much of the state drop significantly and cause tarpon to concentrate in South Florida.

## **Behavior**

Slow-growing, matures at 7 to 13 years of age. Spawn between May and September. Females may lay more than 12 million eggs. Develop into a ribbon-like larval stage.

Tolerate a wide range of salinity. Juveniles commonly found in freshwater.

Gulp air at the surface.

Feed on fish and large crustaceans.

- Fossil research shows that tarpon have been swimming in our oceans since prehistoric times.
- Tarpon can reach sizes up to 8 feet and can weigh up to 280 pounds.
- The life span of a tarpon can be in excess of 50 years. The oldest tarpon in captivity lived to be 63 years old.
- Due to its majestic appearance of size and col-

or, the tarpon is nicknamed "silver king."

- Tarpon are primarily found in shallow coastal waters and estuaries, but they are also found in open marine waters, around coral reefs, and in some freshwater lakes and rivers.
- Tarpon range from Virginia to central Brazil in the western Atlantic, along the coast of Africa in the eastern Atlantic, and all through the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea.
- Because of its strength, stamina, and fighting ability, the tarpon is one of Florida's premier game fish.
- Tarpon have a special ability to gulp air at the surface when they are in a habitat that doesn't provide enough oxygen.
- In their larval stage, tarpon are transparent, have a ribbon-like body and prominent fanglike teeth, and are less than an inch long.
- Tarpon can only be fished recreationally in Florida. The majority of recreational anglers practice catch and release since the fish is not considered to be of any food value. However, anglers can possess them for trophy purposes at the cost of \$50.00 per tag, per fish. Without this tag, possession is illegal.

For more information visit [myfwc.com](http://myfwc.com).

**SPRING HILL BRANCH LIBRARY CLOSING  
TEMPORARILY FOR  
SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE**

(Brooksville, FL) – The Spring Hill Branch Library will be closed beginning Friday, May 5, 2023 and Saturday, May 6, 2023 and reopen on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 in order for re-surfacing and striping of the parking lot.

Please note that the parking lot and book drop at the Spring Hill Branch Library will be inaccessible during this time including Sunday, May 7, 2023.

If you have an item(s) on hold at the Spring Hill Branch Library please pick the item(s) up by Thursday, May 4, 2023 by closing. If items are not picked up before closing, the items will be available after the library has reopened.

Please visit any of our other three (3) branches (Main Library, West Hernando, and East Hernando), which will be open to provide service, provide holds, and take in returned items. For locations, hours, or other information, please visit the Library's website at [www.HernandoCountyLibrary.us](http://www.HernandoCountyLibrary.us) or call (352) 754-4043.

**Hernando Beach, Rocky Creek, Little Pine I. Bay, Florida, May 2023**

28.4867° N, 82.6617° W

Date	High				Low				☀		☾	
	AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft	Rise	Set	Moon	
1	Mon	11:48	2.6			6:50	0.7	7:14	0.8	6:49	8:09	☾
2	Tue	12:03	2.7	12:18	2.8	7:32	0.7	8:00	0.4	6:48	8:09	☾
3	Wed	12:55	2.8	12:46	2.9	8:10	0.8	8:42	0.1	6:47	8:10	☾
4	Thu	1:42	2.8	1:13	3.1	8:46	0.9	9:22	-0.1	6:46	8:11	☾
5	Fri	2:26	2.9	1:41	3.3	9:21	1.0	10:01	-0.3	6:45	8:11	☾
6	Sat	3:11	2.8	2:11	3.4	9:56	1.2	10:42	-0.4	6:45	8:12	☾
7	Sun	3:59	2.7	2:44	3.5	10:32	1.3	11:25	-0.5	6:44	8:12	☾
8	Mon	4:50	2.6	3:22	3.5	11:11	1.4			6:43	8:13	☾
9	Tue	5:45	2.5	4:07	3.4	12:13	-0.4	11:54A	1.5	6:42	8:14	☾
10	Wed	6:42	2.4	5:01	3.3	1:04	-0.3	12:45	1.6	6:42	8:14	☾
11	Thu	7:44	2.3	6:07	3.1	2:01	-0.1	1:47	1.6	6:41	8:15	☾
12	Fri	8:50	2.3	7:28	2.9	3:06	0.1	3:05	1.5	6:40	8:16	☾
13	Sat	9:48	2.4	9:06	2.8	4:17	0.3	4:31	1.3	6:40	8:16	☾
14	Sun	10:35	2.6	10:36	2.8	5:24	0.5	5:48	0.9	6:39	8:17	☾
15	Mon	11:15	2.8	11:49	2.8	6:21	0.7	6:52	0.5	6:38	8:17	☾
16	Tue	11:50	3.0			7:10	0.8	7:47	0.1	6:38	8:18	☾
17	Wed	12:51	2.9	12:24	3.2	7:53	1.0	8:36	-0.2	6:37	8:19	☾
18	Thu	1:44	2.9	12:57	3.4	8:32	1.1	9:21	-0.4	6:37	8:19	☾
19	Fri	2:31	2.8	1:29	3.4	9:09	1.3	10:02	-0.4	6:36	8:20	☾
20	Sat	3:15	2.7	2:01	3.5	9:44	1.4	10:40	-0.4	6:36	8:21	☾
21	Sun	3:57	2.7	2:35	3.4	10:20	1.5	11:18	-0.3	6:35	8:21	☾
22	Mon	4:40	2.6	3:09	3.3	10:56	1.5	11:56	-0.1	6:35	8:22	☾
23	Tue	5:22	2.5	3:48	3.2	11:36	1.5			6:34	8:22	☾
24	Wed	6:04	2.5	4:31	3.1	12:35	0.0	12:19	1.6	6:34	8:23	☾
25	Thu	6:46	2.4	5:22	2.9	1:16	0.2	1:08	1.6	6:34	8:24	☾
26	Fri	7:31	2.4	6:22	2.7	2:00	0.4	2:05	1.5	6:33	8:24	☾
27	Sat	8:21	2.4	7:36	2.5	2:50	0.6	3:14	1.4	6:33	8:25	☾
28	Sun	9:12	2.5	9:03	2.4	3:47	0.8	4:29	1.3	6:33	8:25	☾
29	Mon	9:57	2.7	10:24	2.5	4:47	0.9	5:37	1.0	6:32	8:26	☾
30	Tue	10:37	2.8	11:32	2.6	5:41	1.0	6:34	0.6	6:32	8:26	☾
31	Wed	11:13	3.0			6:30	1.1	7:26	0.3	6:32	8:27	☾

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