



# Bay Harbor Islands

SEPTEMBER 2014 + VOLUME 59 NUMBER 9

**NewsWaves**

## A Message from the Mayor

### BHI Works to Craft the 2014-15 Budget

A budget planning process that began months ago is winding down as we move towards the beginning of the new fiscal year on October 1. As early as last April, our Town department heads began meeting with Town Manager Ron Wasson and Finance Director Alan Short to begin sharpening the pencils to create the 2014-15 budget.

Reviews and estimates on financial needs for the Town were compared to anticipated revenues during the coming year. Each line item was analyzed and compared to the previous year. This lengthy process includes the difficult task of estimating Town income from sources other than real estate taxes, such as franchise fees, gas taxes and interest income.

By mid-summer, Miami-Dade County had determined the taxable value of all properties in Bay Harbor Islands has risen approximately 15 percent during the past year – one of the highest increases in all of South Florida. This increase points to the excellent quality of life within our neighborhoods and the overall desirability of our Town.

The taxable value of properties in Bay Harbor Islands will be used to calculate the proposed local millage rate for 2014-15. This rate will determine the revenue the Town will receive from residents' tax bills. Remember that the Town only receives a portion of your total real estate taxes. Most of the revenue goes to the County, the School Board, special taxing districts and bond payments.

By combining so many entities, with so many variables, you can begin to see the complexity of calculating taxes. We are now in the final stages of creating next year's budget. Fine tuning is underway in preparation of the Council adopting the 2014-15 Fiscal Year budget and annual millage rate. Residents are encouraged to participate in the budget process by attending the September Budget Hearings: Monday, Sept. 8 at 7 p.m. (prior to the Council meeting) and on Monday, Sept. 22 at 7 p.m.

This process is vital to the successful operation and maintenance of our Town. Residents should be aware how diligently staff works to insure every dollar is carefully spent to provide quality services and an attractive community for all of us to enjoy.

A reminder that our Broad Causeway toll system is scheduled to transition to SunPass by the end of September. If you have not converted your annual BayPass yet, visit Town Hall.



*-Bob*

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# News from Ruth K. Broad Bay Harbor K-8 Center

## Sept. 10 is Take Your Father To School Day

Ruth K. Broad Bay Harbor K-8 Center will participate in National Fathers Take Your Children to School Day on Wednesday, September 10, 2014.

This engaging event aims to inspire fathers and families to be more effectively engaged with their children's education. One million fathers are expected to participate in this year's combined events. Fathers – including grandfathers, uncles, and big brothers – are asked to accompany their children to school and to register to volunteer 10 hours during the school year at that school. Local faith and business leaders and women are encouraged to participate.

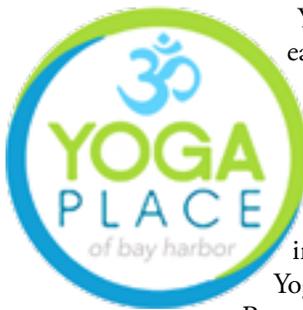
Students will be inspired seeing their fathers and men at their school and the school receives volunteers and support.

Research shows that children whose fathers take an active role in their educational earn better grades, score higher on tests, enjoy school more, have fewer absences and are more likely to graduate from high school and attend college.

**Welcome Back!**  
**2014-15**

### BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

## Yoga Place of Bay Harbor Offers a Stretch For Everyone



Yoga Place of Bay Harbor, opened earlier this year at 1037 Kane Concourse, provides a welcoming environment open to everyone in Bay Harbor Islands – from first timers to veteran practitioners to children and teens. With innovative programs such as Blissful Yoga, Fly Kids, Prenatal Yoga and Restorative Yoga, the studio offers

something for everyone.

Yoga Place partners Paola Villegas and Maria Yantorno are certified and experienced instructors and both have developed their own specialized yoga styles. Other services include meditation and relaxation techniques, bodywork, meditation, Thai vedic massage, Doula services and private yoga classes.

Classes are scheduled seven days a week and a schedule is available on their website, [www.yogaplaceofbayharbor.com](http://www.yogaplaceofbayharbor.com) or call (786) 326-6621.

## “A Novel Idea” Fall Book Drive

*A Novel Idea* has been actively collecting used books for the past seven years. As of last year, more than 25,000 books have been donated to Miami-Dade County Title-One public schools, two Florida prisons and other organizations in need. This community service project has been great for everyone.

A Fall book drive is currently being organized by Alex Radick, freshman at Miami Beach Senior High.

Please contact us at [anovelidea1@outlook.com](mailto:anovelidea1@outlook.com) and let us know if you can either drop off donations on our porch or the date we should come to your home and pick up books from your porch. Collections begin now and will be completed by Sunday, September 15, so that we have lots of books early in the school year.

This is a great opportunity to clean off your bookshelves and make a valuable contribution! We especially need books for children. We do not collect magazines, textbooks or manuals. Thank you very much!



## BE ECO-SMART!

Residents are encouraged to drop off used batteries at Town Hall for recycling.

# Police Department Announces Police Explorer Program

The popular Police Explorer program has arrived in Bay Harbor Islands. The organization that has inspired countless individuals to pursue a career in law enforcement is now encouraging teenagers to join.

Police Explorers provides young men and women the opportunity to learn leadership, life building skills and self confidence. As part of their training, the Explorers become familiar with the criminal justice system, state laws, traffic safety, marine patrol, court room procedures, crime scene investigation and more.

Through activities and training, the Bay Harbor Islands Police Explorers will also benefit from teamwork, discipline and physical fitness.

Police Explorer requirements for enrollment for boys and girls are: 14-18 years of age, average or above average school grades, good school conduct and a commitment to the program. **For more information and meeting times, contact Lt. Joe Locke at (305) 866-6242 or email to [jlocke@bayharborislands.net](mailto:jlocke@bayharborislands.net).**



*Chief Sean Hemingway (L) and Lt. John Locke on stage with the first three graduates of the Bay Harbor Islands Police Explorers Program (L-R) Vini Matheus, Maryanne Locke and Tomas Robero.*

## Prevent Burglaries, Record Your Property

Bay Harbor Islands is a safe community, but we are not immune from crime. Here are some tips to make your home more secure.

- Make your home look occupied and make it difficult to break in.
- Lock all outside doors and windows before you leave the house or go to bed. Even if you leave for a short time, lock your doors.
- Leave lights on when you go out. If you are going to be away for a length of time, connect some lamps to automatic timers to turn them on in the evening and off during the day.
- Keep your garage door closed and locked.
- Don't allow daily deliveries of mail, newspapers or flyers to build up while you are away.
- Arrange with the Post Office to hold your mail, or arrange for a friend or neighbor to regularly take them for you.
- Arrange for your lawn to be mowed if you are going away for an extended time.
- Check your locks on doors and windows and replace them with secure devices as necessary. Pushbutton locks on doorknobs are easy for burglars to open. Install deadbolt locks on all your outside doors.
- Sliding glass doors are vulnerable. Special locks are available for better security.

Most importantly, keep a detailed inventory of your valuable possessions, including a description of the items, date

of purchase, original value and serial numbers. Keep a copy in a safe place away from home – this is a good precaution in case of fires or other disasters. Make a photographic or video record of valuable objects, heirlooms and antiques.

## Register for Bay Harbor Islands and PAL After-School Programs

The Bay Harbor Island's Community Services Department is proud to present our inaugural schedule of after school activities and classes to be held at Ruth K. Broad Bay Harbor K-8 Center.

Numerous sports and classes with top-notch coaches and instructors will be offered both seasonally and throughout the 2014-15 school year. Sports include cheerleading, basketball, flag football, dance, soccer and martial arts. Classes include music, art, language and technology.

Fees are set based on Annual (complete 2014-15 school year) or Seasonal (as specified).

For more information and registration, contact or visit Town Hall, 9665 Bay Harbor Terrace, (305) 866-6241.



Robert H. Yaffe  
*Mayor*

Ronald J. Wasson  
*Town Manager*

Jordan W. Leonard  
*Vice Mayor*

Marlene Marante  
*Town Clerk*

Stephanie Bruder  
*Council member*

Craig B. Sherman  
*Town Attorney*

Joshua D. Fuller  
*Council member*

Sean Hemingway  
*Chief of Police*

Kelly Reid  
*Council member*

Alan Short  
*Finance Director*

Solange Rousselot  
*Council member*

Isaac Salver  
*Council member*



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**For information or emergencies:**

**Town Hall: (305) 866-6241**

**Building Department: (305) 993-1786**

**Police: (305) 866-6242**

**Emergency: 911**

**[www.bayharborislands.org](http://www.bayharborislands.org)**

## Upcoming Meetings

The Town Council welcomes your attendance at meetings. Regular Council meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of the month at 7 pm and the regular scheduled Planning & Zoning Board meetings are scheduled for the first and third Tuesday at 6 pm. To confirm all dates and times, contact the Town Clerk's Office at 305-866-6241. All meetings, unless regarding topics specifically exempt by state law, are open to the public.

- Planning & Zoning Board – Tuesday, Sept. 2 at 6 p.m.
- 2014-15 Budget Hearing – Monday, Sept. 8, at 7 p.m.
- Regular Council Meeting – Monday, Sept. 8, at approximately 7 p.m.
- Planning & Zoning Board – Tuesday, Sept. 16, at 6 p.m.
- 2014-15 Budget Hearing – Monday, Sept. 22, at 7 p.m.

The following future meeting dates are tentative and subject to change. Please check the Town's website, [www.bayharborislands.org](http://www.bayharborislands.org).

- Regular Council Meetings: October 14 & November 10, December 8 2014
- Planning & Zoning Board Meetings: October 7 & 21; November 4 & 18 and December 2 & 16, 2014

**Committee meeting dates and times to be announced**

**ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

## Council Highlights from the August 11

- Approval of Resolution of the Town of Bay Harbor Islands Council supporting Marriage Equality, urging the State of Florida to stop opposing Marriage Equality through the courts.
- Approval of the Town Council to join the City of Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce.

## Discussion Items for September 8 Council Meeting

*At the time of printing, the topics listed below are anticipated for discussion or possible action. All items are subject to change.*

- An Ordinance amending Section 23-11 (C) (16)(F)(4) entitled sidewalk cafes/outdoor seating for restaurants, development standards and requirements, to include pressure washing of the sidewalks not less than once a month as a part of the required maintenance.
- An Ordinance amending Section 18-23 of the Town's Code to require property owners to install infrastructure necessary to connect to underground installation of utilities.