

Neighborhoods Learn About Public Safety Issues

Largo Library was the place where 12 residents representing 6 neighborhoods and homeowner's associations attended the 2nd Neighborhood Roundtable held for 2012 on Wednesday, May 9 at the Largo Library. The subject was "Public Safety" which focused on hurricane preparedness and pedestrian safety. This topic was chosen since 52% of neighborhood respondents to the neighborhood survey used for Largo's Strategic Plan, indicated that crime prevention and emergency preparedness are major concerns. Fire Department Division Chief of Professional Standards Willis made a presentation on things to think about when preparing for hurricane season. Senior Research Associate Bond from the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) at the University of South Florida (USF) made a presentation on pedestrian and bicycle safety called "Walkwise." Residents received written materials to share with their neighbors and a reflective bag.



Also in attendance were Planning Technician Hendrickson and Police Officer Poinsette to assist in answering questions and provide presentation support. Further roundtable discussions may not be scheduled until annual budget discussions are complete.

Get Ready For Hurricane Season 2012

The responsibility for storm preparation rests with individuals and their families or caregivers. That planning needs to happen early. Do not wait until the storm is raging. Emergency personnel may not be able to respond when high winds make road travel hazardous. Make your plan now.

1. **Have a Kit** - Get an emergency supply kit, which includes items like non-perishable food, water, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, extra flashlights and batteries. You may want to prepare a portable kit and keep it in your car in case you are told to evacuate.
2. **Make a Plan** - Make a Family Emergency Plan. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you will contact one another, how and where you will get back together and what you will do in case of an emergency.
3. **Be Informed** - Some of the things you can do to prepare are the same for both a natural or man-made emergency. However, there are important differences among potential emergencies that will impact your decisions and actions. Learn more about the affects of hurricanes, storm surges, tornadoes, and other disasters that could happen where you live and the appropriate way to respond to them.

How Florida Can Avoid 9 Pedestrian Deaths A Day

Ten simple safety tips to follow daily according to www.seetheblindspots.com

- 1 Always be alert and attentive to traffic and don't cross the street until it's safe.
- 2 Obey the pedestrian Walk/Don't Walk signals.
- 3 Always look left-right-left, and then if it's clear, begin crossing.
- 4 When crossing the street, continue to check for traffic in all directions, especially for vehicles turning "Right on Red."
- 5 Do not assume approaching drivers have seen you. Make eye contact with the driver to verify that you have been seen, and your intention to cross is understood. Always stop first before crossing the street.
- 6 Always use sidewalks when they are available. On roads without sidewalks, walk on the left side of the road facing traffic.
- 7 Never attempt to walk along or cross expressways, interstate highways, or turnpikes.
- 8 When walking at night or during the low-light hours of dawn or dusk, wear something reflective on your clothes or shoes, and carry a flashlight.
- 9 Limit alcohol consumption if you plan on walking.
- 10 Supervise road crossings for children since they don't have the capacity to safely judge the situation.

No Fertilizer? No Sweat:

How to keep your yard looking great this summer

It's true: new laws mean you can't use fertilizer from June 1 to September 30 in Pinellas County, Manatee County and Tampa. But why would you want to? People who love Florida know that summer rains wash fertilizer from our yards and into the nearest lake or bay, ruining the waterways that make our community so special (and prop up our property values). Gardeners who have adapted their landscaping to Florida's unique climate also know that with just a few small changes, you really only need fertilizer twice a year at most, in April and October. Here's how they do it:

5 ways to make your yard the envy of your neighbors:

Pump some iron. An application of iron will keep your lawn green during the summer. You can find it at most garden centers, along with macronutrients like potassium and magnesium that can help keep your lawn healthy.

Get better plants: Plants adapted to Florida's hot, humid climate need less water and fertilizer year round. Ask your garden center or county Extension office about how to go Florida-friendly; you'll reduce your water bill and pay less for fertilizer.

Put your lawn on a diet. Replace a corner of your lawn with shrubs, small trees, or an easy-to-maintain groundcover like Asiatic jasmine or perennial peanut. Expand your landscape beds a little bit at a time, and before you know it you'll be devoting your weekends to relaxing instead of mowing, weeding, and edging.

Make pay dirt. Use your own compost to enrich your soil. It's better than anything you can buy — and it's free.

Reclaim your water. Ask your water provider if you can hook up your irrigation system to reclaimed water (it's only available in certain areas). Reclaimed water may contain enough nitrogen to meet all your lawn's needs.

Visit BeFloridian.org for more ideas on how to garden the Florida way.

NOTICE!

Tom Moore, Neighborhood Coordinator, has accepted a position in the Housing Division. The Neighborhood Coordinator position is proposed to be eliminated in the FY 2013 budget.

Accordingly, the position will be frozen pending the approval of the FY 2013 budget. Since the position is vacant, the Neighborhood Newsletter and all neighborhood outreach activities will be suspended until action is taken on the budget in September. If the position is eliminated, these initiatives and other aspects of the neighborhood program will be permanently eliminated.