



Loxahatchee Groves Newsletter

Message from Mayor Dave Browning



Mayor Dave Browning

Town Council Members



Vice Mayor
Marge Herzog



Councilman
Dr. Bill Louda



Councilman
Dennis Lipp



Councilman
Dave Autrey

Greetings from your Mayor!

First, I want to say how thankful I am for the rain we've received. It has definitely made a difference.

I am pleased with the progress and public participation involved to date with our Comprehensive Plan. Special thanks to our staff and Calvin Giordano for their ongoing efforts. We have a plan in place for the distribution of our local gas tax monies and the ability of the Water Control District to use these funds for the improvement of all the roads in our town. Speaking of taxes, I'm glad to say our budget for next year looks good with no increase in our millage rate. Thanks to Matthew and Irv of New Community Strategies for their efforts in keeping the costs down. I also want to commend the Incorporation Committee for their foresight and hard work in crunching the numbers prior to our becoming a town. It is proof that you were right.

Last, but not least, I want to give a big "At-a-boy!" to our CERTS Team. I was volunteered (drafted???) into acting as a victim for their training exercise this past Saturday. I'm a little suspicious of why I got the assignment to be the "disoriented" victim. Hmm... They did a great job and I'm glad we have such a dedicated team in our community. Keep up the good work!

Dave Browning



Hurricane season is upon us once again. The official hurricane season is from June 1 to November 30. The Town of Loxahatchee Groves is a very self-reliant community, however it is still essential that everyone is prepared should a hurricane threaten our area. The most essential benefit to hurricane preparedness is hurricane safety. To prevent loss of life or property people should adequately prepare in advance of a hurricane.

Some of the basics that should be considered are developing a family plan, creating a disaster supply kit, have a place to go, secure your home and have a pet/livestock plan. The Town will be working the P.B.C. Emergency Operations Center, L.G.W.C.D., C.E.R.T. and other agencies throughout Palm Beach County to develop an Emergency Plan in 2008. Please logon to our website to get more detailed information relating to Hurricane Preparedness and other disaster related information.

Solid Waste Services

Starting October 2008 Waste Pro will be the new waste hauler for the Town of Loxahatchee Groves. The great news with the selection of Waste Pro is that the rates will only increase by 11.7%. You are currently paying \$329.13 and the new rate for residential will be **\$372.73 per unit on each parcel per year**. ONYX will continue the same level of service until their contract expires in September. Any non-residential parcel that needs to have waste and vegetative pick-up, will need to set up a separate contract with Waste Pro on their own. The contract the Town executed with Waste Pro made them the exclusive provider of non-residential waste and vegetative pick-up. Waste Pro has an excellent industry reputation and is also servicing other areas in Palm Beach County. Similar to many communities in Palm Beach County, and in order to keep our costs down, we will be going to a limited pick-up of 6 cubic yards of vegetative waste per week. The Town and Waste Pro will be sending out information to all landowners relating to the transition. In addition, the Town and Waste Pro will be conducting an Open House at the Town Office in September. This will give the residents and land owners the opportunity to meet the Waste Pro team directly and receive as much information as possible to make the transition smooth.

SPECIAL NOTES:

- (1) On July 15, 2008, the Town adopted the proposed Solid Waste Assessment Fee. The Town will be having a public hearing to officially adopt the Solid Waste Assessment fee on Tuesday, September 2, 2008 at 6:45 p.m.
- (2) Any parcel that didn't pay their residential ONYX Waste Hauling Assessment from 2007 (billed by the Town in December, 2007), will have to pay the 2007 assessment along with their 2008 assessment that will be appearing on their 2008 Property Tax Notices

Comprehensive Planning

The Town has commenced the Comprehensive Planning Process. The Town is utilizing the planning services of Calvin, Giordano & Associates to conduct the Comprehensive Planning Process. The Comprehensive Plan is the adopted legal rules and maps for each county and municipality that dictates population density, how natural emergencies are handled, and how the land may be used. The Comprehensive Plan is formally adopted by the local elected officials as the blueprint for growth and future development. The Comprehensive Plan is utilizing the Strategic Vision and Plan as the foundation and will drive the planning process. Once the Comprehensive Plan is submitted and approved by the Department of Communities Affairs (D.C.A.), the town will then be addressing land development codes and regulations.

Town of Loxahatchee Groves Calendar of Comprehensive Planning			
Week of 7-7-08	-----	Draft Comprehensive Plan distributed to Council and Public for review	The document will be available on this website, by e-mail, or a copy can be picked up at the Town office.
Sat, 7-12-08	10:00 a.m.	Public Workshop	Lox. Groves Elementary School Cafeteria
Sat, 8-2-08	10:00 a.m.	Special Town Council Meeting for Comprehensive Planning	Palms West Hospital (Classroom 2)
Sat, 8-9-08	10:00 a.m.	PUBLIC WORKSHOP	Lox. Groves Elementary School Cafeteria (this has been updated from the previous calendar)
*Tues, 9-16-08	7:00 p.m.	Transmittal Hearing	Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District (Regular Town Council Meeting)
*9-22-08 to 11-22-08	-----	Dept. of Communities and Affairs Review of Comp. Plan	At the end of the review the Town will receive an Objections Review and Comments report (O.R.C.)
*Tues, 1-6-09	7:00 p.m.	Adoption Hearing	Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District (Regular Town Council Meeting)

*** These dates are subject to change. The Town Clerk's office will revise these dates if necessary.**

How can I get involved?

There is a Public Participation Meeting scheduled for the Comprehensive Planning process. Meeting time and location are listed above. The public may also submit written comments at any time by e-mailing them to our town office at clerk@loxahatchee.org, or by sending hard copies to Town Clerk 14579 Southern Blvd, Suite 2, Loxahatchee Groves, FL, 33430. To learn more about the project, please contact us or visit our website at www.loxahatchee.org

Strategic Visioning

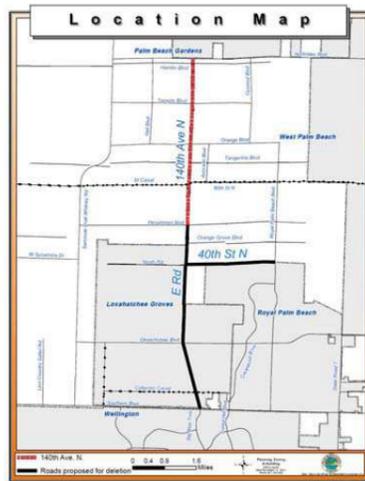
The Town of Loxahatchee Groves has completed the **Strategic Visioning & Planning Process**. The Town utilized the facilitation services of Dr. Herb Marlowe (Analytica) for this process. The public participation was the most important part of this process and because of the participation, the Town feels that the Vision Document truly represents the needs and desires of this community. The Vision Document is the foundation for the development of our Comprehensive Plan. You can download a copy of the Vision Document from the Town website at www.loxahatchee.org or request a copy from the Town Clerk's office.

E-Road/140th Thoroughfare

On April 28, 2008, the Palm Beach County Commission voted unanimously to transmit the Transportation Information Map (T.I.M.) to the DCA with the REMOVAL of the E-Road/140th Thoroughfare.

On July 11, 2008, D.C.A. issued its Objections Revisions and Comments Report (O.R.C.) relating to E-Road/140th. Their recommendation was to identify and adopt alternative transportation strategies that will be used to mitigate for the deletion of these roads.

Town Staff is working with Palm Beach County, the Town's legislative consultant and Town Council members to resolve the issue raised by the D.C.A. The next public hearing for P.B.C. is August 21, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. on the 6th floor at 301 North Olive Avenue (downtown.)



Town Budget for 2008-2009

On July 15, 2008 the Town Council adopted a proposed millage rate of 1.5000 for the next fiscal year. This is the SAME as the millage for last fiscal year which will actually decrease your property taxes (due to the decrease in property value); NO INCREASE. The preliminary draft budget was presented to the Town Council showing the 1.5000 millage rate. The budget will be discussed at the August 5 and August 19 Town Council meetings. All residents are encouraged to attend these meetings to participate in discussion. The 1st budget hearing will be on September 3, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. and the final budget hearing will be on September 16, 2008 at 6:45 p.m. For a copy of the draft proposed budget, you may log on to the town's website or contact the Town Clerk's office.



14579 Southern Blvd
Suite 2
Loxahatchee Groves, FL 33470



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"Home Rule"

On November 4, 2008, you will have the opportunity to vote on an important change in the Palm Beach County Charter. Under our current County Charter, all Amendments are approved by voters countywide. Under the new proposal, amendments that transfer or limit a municipal service, function, power or authority would have to also be approved by a majority of voters in that municipality. If the voters within our Town do not approve the change, that charter amendment would not go into effect within our Town. Essentially, each Town's voters would have the right to "opt out" of countywide rules that are not in the best interest of their Town. The Town Council is in FAVOR of this ballot change through the approval of Town Resolution 2007-004 on May 1, 2007.



Other Important Information....

Master Plan for Roads & Greenways

During the Comprehensive Planning process, the Town Council will be outlining a process in which a master roadway plan will be developed within the next 2 years. This plan will address the planning of all public roadways, trails and greenways in the entire Town.

Gas Tax Revenues

On June 3, 2008 the Town Council approved entering into an inter-local agreement with Palm Beach County to receive Local Gas Tax revenues based on public lane miles in the Town. In addition, the Town Council rescinded an agreement with the LGWCD for Road Maintenance Funding as a part of qualifying for the receipt of the Gas Tax Revenue. The Town Council will be using the Gas Tax Revenues to benefit all the residents and landowners of the Town. For Fiscal Year 2008-2009 the Town will be receiving approximately \$400,000.

Disaster Debris Monitoring Services

On June 3, 2008 the Town Council approved retaining Calvin-Giordano and Associates to provide disaster debris monitoring services for the Town. In August, 2008, the Town Council will be sending out a Request for Qualifications to hire a Disaster Debris Removal company. The current contract with Palm Beach County concludes on October 1, 2008.

Land Use Plan Amendment

On May 6, 2008 the Town Council adopted Ordinance 2007-009 which changes the Future Land Use Designation for the Town from Rural Residential 1 unit per 10 acres to Rural Residential 1 unit per 5 acres. On July 7, 2008, the Department of Communities of Affairs approved this amendment. If by July 31 no interveners object to the L.U.P.A., it will be officially adopted by the Town. There will be information provided as to the platting requirements and procedures for any land use change.

Town Website

The Town Clerk's office highest priority is provide excellent customer service and communication to all the residents and landowners. We use our website as the prime source of providing information. Visit our website at www.loxahatcheegroves.org



Important Phone Numbers

Town Office:

14579 Southern Blvd, Suite 2
Loxahatchee Groves, FL 33470
Phone: 561-793-2418
Fax: 561-793-2420
clerk@loxahatcheegroves.org
www.loxahatcheegroves.org

Hours of Operation:

Mon-Fri: 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

All Emergencies

(Police, Fire, & Rescue): 911

Poison Control Center:

800-282-3171

Non-Emergency Fire:

561-616-7000

Non-Emergency Sheriff:

561-688-3000

L.G. Water Control District:

561-793-0884

SWA (trash disposal):

561-697-2700

American Red Cross:

561-833-7711

Emergency Management:

561-712-6400

Florida Power & Light:

561-697-8000

Bell South (telephone):

561-780-2355

