



April 20, 2011

CITY OF COCOA BEACH "NEWS & VIEWS"

~ A publication for Cocoa Beach Citizens produced by the Cocoa Beach Public Information Office and inserted in *The Press-Tribune* as a public service ~



COMMISSIONER'S CORNER by SKIP WILLIAMS

Downtown Cocoa Beach? Lately, I have been spending more time observing and thinking about our downtown area. We are developing a CRA Plan as mandated by the people's vote a couple years back. But funding will not occur in the near term from the Tax Increment Financing for the downtown area property tax base.

What do we do now? The Public/Private partnership Kiosk type parking lot near Yen Yen's is taking shape, the City Hall paid parking lot is up and running on weekends and holidays and next year 68 more currently free downtown parking spaces will be metered. Why are we doing this? We are trying to recoup the costs of additional Police, Emergency Medical Services and Trash pickup costs thru parking lot and meter revenues. As an additional benefit, we're noticing those folks paying to park leave far less trash in the parking areas. Are these more responsible visitors than those who parked there when it was free? Maybe.

The goal is to attract visitors that will contribute to a better downtown from a resident and business viewpoint. We want people who come to the downtown to be responsible in their behavior, to put their trash in the proper receptacles, obey the laws which are similar across the whole state, don't be drunk and disorderly, don't use illegal drugs, don't urinate in public, which are simple common sense considerations.

I'd like for all the varieties of people who come to the downtown to have a very enjoyable experience whether they come often or just once. I want them to have fond memories, tell their families and friends and to come back next week, next month or even years in the future. Creating the right balance is the key to a sustainable vibrant future for the downtown area.

Please come to your commission meetings and workshops; let us know your viewpoint. Our current vision by the consultant has several ideas I think aren't so viable. Should we change the A1A traffic pattern to two ways instead of the current one way on Orlando and Atlantic Avenues? Should we allow business licensing to sell stuff on the beach? Should we allow mixed use to increase the population density in the downtown

which is contrary to the existing density regulations that passed on a ballot vote by our residents? Please let me know what you think.

As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have whether they're related to the downtown area or not. My E-mail is swilliams@cityofcocoa beach.com. My home phone number is 783-1850. Thank You and it is my honor to serve you.

--- Commissioner Skip Williams



EASTER EGG HUNT



**SATURDAY MORNING
APRIL 23rd at 9:00AM**

**Cocoa Beach Ball Field-Sports Complex
Minutemen Causeway**

The Cocoa Beach Parks & Recreation Department will be hosting an Easter Bonnet, Easter Basket and Easter Egg Decorating Contests on Saturday, April 23rd starting at 9:00am. Note: Bring already decorated eggs, baskets and bonnets for these events. Immediately after the decorating contests, there will be an "Easter Egg Hunt" for kids 10 years and under. Children will be divided into 3 groups: ages 3 and under; ages 4 to 6; and, ages 7 to 10. Come join in the contests and hunt for goodies. Prizes will be given out to those kids who find "special eggs".

For more information please call the Cocoa Beach Recreation Department: 868-3252 or 3274.

UTILITY BILL CHANGES COMING IN JULY

In March, all Cocoa Beach utility customers were mailed a letter outlining upcoming changes relating to utility billing. These changes (effective in July 2011) will streamline the billing process by having the City of Cocoa bill and collect for all utility services on one convenient monthly billing notice. Please see www.cityofcocoa beach.com for details.



APRIL 2011

LEON "SKIP" BEELER—MAYOR
KEN GRIFFIN—VICE MAYOR
SKIP WILLIAMS—COMMISSIONER
KEVIN PRUETT—COMMISSIONER
DAVE NETTERSTROM—COMMISSIONER
CHUCK BILLIAS—CITY MANAGER

400 CHANNEL DREDGE PRE-POSITIONED AT PUBLIC WORKS BOAT LAUNCH AREA



A contractor's dredge to be used in re-dredging the 400 Channel (southwest of the City's golf course) has been pre-positioned at the Public Works Compound boat launch area. The City obtained a \$183,850 grant from the Florida Inland Navigation District to help pay for the dredging project which is budgeted at \$266,315. Work on the project should start sometime in the month of April.

SUMMER FUN & SPORTS CAMP REGISTRATION STARTS MAY 7th



The Cocoa Beach Parks & Recreation Department is gearing up for another Summer Fun and Sports Camp program for the kids. Registration for all summer sessions is set for May 7th from 9:00am—11:00am at the gym at 321 Ramp Road in Cocoa Beach.

Be sure to ask for information about all of these exciting programs: Summer Camp (ages 5-12); Sports Camp (ages 13-16); Basketball Camp (ages 6-15); and Soccer Camp (ages 5-9). Make plans now to visit the Cocoa Beach Recreation Department on Ramp Road or call 868-3252 or 868-3274 to find out MORE about their summer programs.

Visit our website and sign up to receive the "News & Views" via e-mail

<http://www.cityofcocoa beach.com/subscribe>

It's FREE...All we need is your e-mail address
Call 868-3329 for more information