



## December 2007 Leaseholders and Residents Association Newsletter

Hello Everyone!

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving Holiday. It seems that a large number of people chose to spend the holiday on Navarre Beach as many homes were lit at night and the roads more heavily traveled; just another sign of our continued recovery from "Ivan" and "Dennis".

If you haven't been to the beach in awhile you need to make the trip to see the really great landscaping at the Highway 98 entrance to Navarre Beach. John Conner and all of the active members of the BBC can be proud of themselves for almost two years of hard work. Their efforts have provided a huge improvement for our residents and a very welcoming impression for visitors. If you have yet to contribute to this worthwhile project it's never too late; as the project will be ongoing and all contributions are tax deductible.

Elections were held at our last meeting and our new slate of officers was elected. Congratulations to the following: President – Wayne Sweeney, Vice President – Lou Paravate, Secretary – Nanci Agee and Treasurer – Angela Veal. Our new Board members seem anxious to assume their elected positions and move forward with new ideas as well as continue our ongoing projects.

As of this writing we are in dire need of volunteers to work on the Mardi Gras Parade Float Committee. A lot of planning and organization needs to take place prior to the middle of January, as the parade will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February. All interested individuals should contact Terry Taylor at 850 261 0800.

I hope to see everyone at our next meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup> at the Firehouse. At this time we will pass the torch to the new officers and say goodbye to the outgoing directors.

If I don't see you there, have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Sincerely  
Jim Taylor



President Jim Taylor called the meeting to order at 10:00

Nanci Agee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Nanci Agee read the minutes from the October meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded and accepted.

Jim Taylor gave the Treasurer's report. The previous checking balance was \$5349.44. The NBLRA received \$4340 from dues and \$344 from ads. Expenses were \$3,061.98. The current balance in checking is \$6,971.46. The balance in Certificates of Deposits is \$10821.01. Total Assets are \$17,792.47. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report as given. The motion was seconded and accepted.

John Conner gave an update for the Beach Beautification Committee. The landscaping work at the entrance to the bridge will be completed within a couple of days. The sign to the entrance will be painted within the next few weeks. Judy Lewis and Terry Taylor are working on a recognition plaque for the donors that have already given. Anyone wishing to donate money is still able to do so. This was the first of four phases. We will begin fundraising for the next phases. The Tourist Development Center has some money from the bed taxes that were collected that we will have access to along with possible grants.

John will be stepping down as Chair of the BBC, but will be involved in over seeing the maintenance in this area. We appreciate all the hard work he has done in getting this first phase completed! It looks wonderful!!!

John Richardson gave an update of the NBAITC. Our attorneys and the committee have met and decided to appeal Judge Swanson's ruling that the condo

owners that were involved in the previous suit can not be involved in this suit because the land issue had already been decided on. Remember this will be a long process so patience will be needed. Keep up to date on the suit by visiting the web site [www.navarrebeachtaxsuit.com](http://www.navarrebeachtaxsuit.com).

If you have not joined the lawsuit and would like to join for this year you still have time. Contact one of the members of the Legal Liaison team to find out how. What are the benefits of joining? Well since this is not a class action suit there are benefits to being named. First if you desire not to pay taxes or pay partial taxes, in order to be able to you must be a named party in the lawsuit. If you pay your taxes and we win, the county has said they will repay any taxes paid. This only applies to named plaintiffs. If we win and you have not joined the lawsuit, you will benefit from that point on but will not receive any refund.

There has been discussion that the fire MSBU might need to be raised in order to replace old equipment and to keep full time firemen at the station. It was decided that we should have the fire department present a budget to the group and give us possible options as to what services we will receive at different increased levels.

Jim Taylor brought to our attention that Article 7 in our By Laws states that a candidate for office must have been a member for at least one year prior to the date of elections. The current Board of Directors along with our Past president Jane Johnson met and decided to forgo this requirement for this election because it was in the best interest for the NBLRA at this time. Keith Johnson made a motion to elect each of the officers for the 2008 term. It was seconded and passed unanimously. The officers for 2008 are:

Wayne Sweeney-President  
Louis Paravate- Vice President  
Nanci Agee-Secretary  
Angela Veal-Treasurer

Lynn Zehr is in the process of updating the map that shows the debris on various lots on the island.

(cont'd on Page 4)



## NBAITC UPDATE



**UPDATE**

In November at a re-hearing of several issues before Judge Bergosh, he again ruled against us.

We also were asked Judge Swanson to intercede on our behalf in order to change a stipulated judgment to a voluntary dismissal. He refused to intercede.

The result of these two hearings is condominium leaseholders have been excluded from the law suit. The tax committee have asked our attorneys to appeal these rulings.

Until the appeal is heard, the case will not go forward.

### Paying of taxes:

Per our Attorney, ( Mr. Danny Kepner ) the "STAY" on the collection of taxes is in effect and will be until the final disposition takes place for the different phases of our suit. Mr. Kepner has stated that if the times comes that we must pay any portion of the tax bill we will be conveying that message through written correspondence. The Florida Statute that gives us the right of the "STAY" is F.S. 194.171 (3) and can be read by visiting [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov) . When the page opens click on the "Search Statutes" option at the upper left side of the page. You will have to look in Title XIV Chapter 194 to find it.

However, please understand it is up to each one of us to decide for ourselves whether or not to pay the tax bill during litigation.

There is another part of this statute that you should consider, F.S. 194.171(4), which says that if you pay your tax bill, while challenging it, the payment is not an admission that the tax is due. This statute goes on to say you may "seek a refund". Should we prevail in our suit and you are a named plaintiff and have paid your tax bill, you could request a refund on an individual basis by writing a letter to the Florida Department of Revenue. You would identify yourself as having been a named plaintiff in the suit for the given years and thereby request the refund per F.S.194.171(4).

As you may know, we are contesting the taxation of the Governmental Leasehold land as well as the improvements, with the land being the primary focus. The rulings could go three different ways, we may win the land issue, land and improvement issue, or neither. You may want to consider paying a portion of your tax bill by calling the tax collectors office @ 850 983-1800 and having them give you a \$ amount cost for the land vs. the improvement on your tax bill.

Another point to keep in mind when calling the Tax Collectors Office and identifying yourself as a Navarre Beach LEASEHOLDER is that our 2007 TAX BILLS will not show us as being involved in the BEACH LITIGATION SUIT FOR 2007. This is because the complaint has not yet been filed with the court, however our Attorney will be filing the 2007 complaint in early December before the 60 day deadline. The 60 day time line started the day after the tax rolls were certified by the Property Appraiser, which was in early October.

**Without question, we should all be paying the Fire Protection and Beach Re-nourishment MSBU charges that are shown on our tax bills.**

(cont'd from Page 2)

If a lot near you is in need of cleaning or has been cleaned please contact her with this information. We are planning another cleanup of the island in the spring and this information will be valuable.

Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> was Christmas in the Park from. There was a parade at 4:00 and Santa Claus was there. Hope you had a chance to go out and enjoy and support this event.

It's time to start preparing for Mardi Gras again! Terry Taylor has graciously agreed to chair this committee again. Under her leadership we have won the grand prize for 2 years in a row and have a fantastic time doing so! This year the parade will be February 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you would like to help, contact her at 850-261-0800. You will have a great time!

Devra Edwards came out to meet everyone. We really appreciate all she has done in revamping our website and taking over the duties associated with our newsletter. If you have any ideas or suggestions she welcomes your input.

Jim Taylor thanked Gary Agee for all of the work he has done in his year as Vice President. We all appreciate everything that he has done and the outstanding job that Jim Taylor has done in his 2 years as President.

Renewal notices have gone out. Please print clearly (especially the e-mail address) and mail these back as soon as possible. Encourage your friend and neighbors to join! A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

The next meeting is at 10:00 on December 15th at the Navarre Beach Fire Department.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nanci Agee, Secretary



## New Additions to the Web Site

At our last meeting we discussed the fact that our out of town members don't have a forum to give their thoughts as to "Our Beach" and any beefs they may want to express to the rest of us. We have concluded that there will be an "Editorial Page" to be included in this newsletter and also the website.

The website page has already been added so if there's anything you'd like to get off of your chest, send it to me and I'll make sure that it gets on the website and, depending on the size of the editorials, at least one will be published in the monthly newsletter.

**Here's your chance to voice your opinions!!!**

**Check the website frequently as it is being changed constantly!**

**E-mail Devra Edwards at [coloradosapphire@gmail.com](mailto:coloradosapphire@gmail.com)**

# Beach Beautification Project

Thanks for your continued support!

**Phase I is underway!!!!**  
**Recognition through October 14, 2007**



As of , 2007 our account balances are as follows:

Checking:	\$16,325.93
Money Market Acct:	\$51,315.74
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$67,641.67</b>

**Recognition for all who have contributed to  
Phase II of our project!**

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Bob & Maxine Nolan  
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Chris & Shawna Hogan  
**\$200**

**BBC Contribution Levels:**

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Gold Level	\$2,500
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Other	_____

**Make checks payable to:**

BBC or Beach Beautification  
Committee  
P.O. Box 5003  
Navarre, FL 32566



Please include your name, address and email

## Beach Beautification Committee

**Fund Raising**

John Conner, Chairman	850-939-4201
Terri Savoie, Co-Chairman	850-936-9430

**Budget & Finance**

Judy Lewis	850-939-7125
Nanci Agee	850-515-0374
Ira Mae Bruce	850-939-3266

# House passes new property tax relief ballot proposal

*By Bill Kaczor Associated Press Writer*

Florida voters will have a leaner, simpler property tax relief plan when they go to the polls Jan. 29 after the House reluctantly passed a take-it-or-leave-it compromise that the Senate offered Monday.

The measure passed just 1 day before the deadline for putting proposed state constitutional amendments on the presidential primary ballot.

"The people have won," Governor Crist said. "The people don't want us to bicker. The people want us to work together to do what's right."

The compromise would increase exemptions for primary homes, known as homesteads, for an average estimated annual savings of \$240 each. Also, for the first time it would cap assessments on other properties – businesses, second homes and rentals.

A "portability" provision would let homesteaders take at least part of the benefits they get from the existing Save Our Homes assessment cap with them when they move. Finally, it would give businesses a \$25,000 exemption for equipment and other personal property. It will take a 60 percent vote at the polls to enact the amendment. "It's like walking on a tightrope over Niagara Falls", Webster said. "There's this razor-thin line we have to walk down." He said polling indicated the previous plans were too complex and confusing.

Lawmakers convened their 4th special session of the year – the 2nd on property taxes – on Oct. 12 after a judge removed a prior proposal from the ballot, ruling it had an inaccurate and misleading summary.

The Senate passed its new plan 35-4, and then voted 37-2 to put it on the ballot. Senate President Ken Pruitt, R-Port St. Lucie, announced he had no intention of considering any changes by the House. The House's only choices were to accept the Senate proposal or do nothing. Representatives voted 97-18 for the amendment and 112-3 to put it on the ballot after a lengthy debate. Rep. Alan Hays, R-Umatilla, complained that the House was having to "take the medicine." "Instead of a pill, we are taking it in the form of a suppository," Hays said. Rep. Kevin Ambler, R-Lutz, argued that lawmakers let voters have a chance to decide if it's a good plan.

"It's deal, or no deal," Ambler said. "I think we owe it to our constituents to take the deal."

The new plan is expected to save taxpayers – and cost cities, counties, special districts and school boards – \$8.74 billion in the first four years. That's about \$1 billion less than previous proposals in both chambers although they differed significantly on the details.

The compromise (SJR 2D) is a streamlined version of what the Senate passed 2 weeks ago with the addition of a scaled-down variation of the House's new assessment cap for businesses, second homes and rentals.

It also eliminated provisions in the earlier plans that would have given additional tax breaks to 1st time home buyers, low income seniors and marinas and other "working waterfront" properties.

Polling shows doubling the existing \$25,000 homestead exemption is the most popular of the major tax-cutting ideas the Legislature has been considering.

The compromise would double the exemption but only for homes valued at more than \$50,000 and not for school taxes. Only 6% of Florida's homesteads will not qualify for the added exemption, said Senate Finance and Tax Chairman Mike Haridopolos, R-Indianapolis.

The House initially had passed a more complex provision that would have given homesteaders an exemption equal to 40 percent of the median home value in their county, also except for school taxes.

Save Our Homes now limits annual assessment increases to 3 percent for homesteaders. The compromise would provide a 10 percent cap for non-homestead properties, again except for school taxes. The Senate previously had no such provision while the House had a more protective 5 % cap on all taxes including schools.

The two chambers previously had agreed on providing portability for up to \$1 million in Save Our Homes benefits but excluded school taxes. The compromise reduces that to \$500,000 but includes school taxes.

The Senate on a voice vote defeated a motion by Sen. Ted Deutch, R-Boca Raton, to hold education "harmless."

Senate staffers have estimated the compromise would cost schools \$1.86 billion in the first four years. Haridopolos argued the portability provision would stimulate a depressed housing market enough to offset the school losses.

## Beach Road on Target for Spring Opening

For the last few weeks, trucks have been removing asphalt and debris from Gulf Islands National Seashore between Pensacola Beach and Navarre Beach.

Reconstruction of J. Earle Bowden Way, from the eastern end of Pensacola Beach to Navarre Beach began in October. Panhandle Grading and Paving is currently removing sand and asphalt from the roadway and building a sand fence.

Paving operations will begin this week, weather permitting. During that time the road will be closed to all traffic, including pedestrians and bicyclists.

The sight of construction underway on the new road to link the beaches is a good sign for business owners like Mike Martino.

"It is a great sight just knowing they are really working on the road," said Martino, who owns Eco-Beach. "The beach road was one of the main reasons we moved to Navarre."

Chad Volland, owner of Cocodrie's Restaurant, said the reopening of the road will be a boom for his business.

"Every Sunday in the spring and summer, we sponsor Bikers on the Beach," Volland said. "If that road were open today, we would have at least 50 to 100 more bikers alone on Sundays, and that is just the bikers."

Besides giving residents access to recreational areas, having the road intact is important for safety reasons as well.

"If a barge or storm takes out either bridge, there is no way off of the island for residents," said Buck Lee, executive director of the Santa Rosa Island Authority.

The \$3.4 million contract to reconstruct the roadway includes reconstruction of J. Earle Bowden Way to a two-lane road from Navarre Beach to Opal Beach, improvements to the Opal Beach parking areas for public access and a two-lane section between Opal Beach and Pensacola Beach.

New signs and pavement markings will also be installed. The project is located within the Gulf Islands National Seashore. The current project completion date is to have traffic on the new road from Navarre Beach to Opal Beach by late spring 2008. The anticipated date for the section between Opal Beach and Pensacola Beach is summer 2008. The facility improvements (restrooms and pavilions) within the Opal Beach area will be handled by the National Park Service under a separate contract once the roads are completed.

Jerry Eubanks, superintendent of Gulf Islands National Seashore, had hoped that the road to Opal Beach from Navarre Beach would have been completed a year ago, along with a one-way emergency only road through to Pensacola. However, months of delays were caused when the Federal Department of Fish and Wildlife and local environmentalists could not agree with the plans brought forward by Gulf Islands National Seashore and the Federal Highway Administration. The environmentalists and FDFW did not want hardening material used on the road that might keep the road from washing out in the future.

"In the end, we decided to just put the road back the way it was," said Nina Kelson, Gulf Islands National Seashore Authority deputy supervisor. "It will be easier to wash away but also easier to repair after storms."

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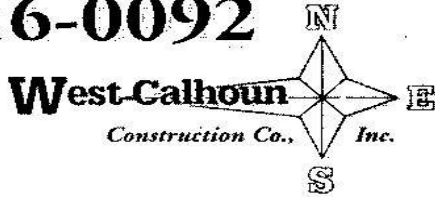
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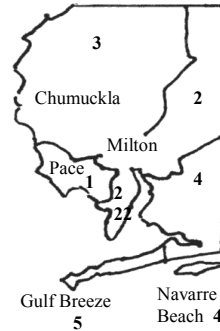
# SANTA ROSA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND STATE OFFICIALS

## SANTA ROSA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



**Tom Stewart—Chairman**  
District 1

[comm.-stewart@santarosa.fl.gov](mailto:comm.-stewart@santarosa.fl.gov)



**Gordon Goodin**  
District 4

[comm.-goodin@santarosa.fl.gov](mailto:comm.-goodin@santarosa.fl.gov)



**Bob Cole**  
District 2

[comm.-cole@santarosa.fl.gov](mailto:comm.-cole@santarosa.fl.gov)



**John Broxson - Vice Chairman**  
District 5

[comm.-broxson@santarosa.fl.gov](mailto:comm.-broxson@santarosa.fl.gov)



**Don Salter**  
District 3

[comm.-salter@santarosa.fl.gov](mailto:comm.-salter@santarosa.fl.gov)

### HOW TO REACH THE COMMISSIONERS

Phone: (850) 983-1877 or (850) 932-1340

FAX: (850) 983-1856

Email: [bcc@santarosa.fl.gov](mailto:bcc@santarosa.fl.gov)

WEB: [www.santarosa.fl.gov](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov)

Address: 6495 Caroline Street, Milton, FL 32570

### MEETINGS AND AGENDA

Regular commissioner meetings are the second and the fourth Thursday of each month. Regular meetings are preceded by committee meetings on the Monday prior to the regular meeting. All meetings begin at 9 a.m.

Agendas will be posted online on Friday before the Monday committee meeting; and on Wednesday before the Thursday regular meeting at [www.co.santa-rosa.fl.us](http://www.co.santa-rosa.fl.us).

### STATE SENATOR DON GAETZ R-Niceville

1-866-450-4DON

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### STATE REPRESENTATIVE SANSOM

R-Ft. Walton Beach

(850) 833-9328

[sansom.ray@myfloridahouse.com](mailto:sansom.ray@myfloridahouse.com)

### PHONE NUMBERS TO KEEP HANDY

Navarre Beach Water & Sewer Department: (850) 936-6110; FAX (850) 936-6112

Navarre Beach Fire Department: (850) 939-2448

Santa Rosa County Animal Services: Office (850) 983-4680 or (850) 936-6177

Santa Rosa Sheriff's Office: (850) 983-1100; (850) 936-6016;

Navarre District 2: (850) **981-2250 (New)**; Gulf Breeze (850) **981-2270**;

Emergency: **911**;

Emergency Management Center: (850) 983-5360; (850) 494-7458;

[www.santarosa-emergency.com](http://www.santarosa-emergency.com)

Florida Fish and Wildlife emergency: 888-404-3922; 850-265-3676, (regional office in Panama City.)



**NBLRA OFFICERS FOR 2008**

President: Wayne Sweeney  
(615) 533 8314

Vice President: Louis Paravate  
572-0155  
louparavate@hotmail.com

Secretary: Nanci Agee:  
225-5809 (cell)  
nanci@agee1.com

Treasurer: Angela Veal: (850) 243-0243  
aveal0473@aol.com

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**Mardi Gras will soon be here and it's time  
to get started! Terry Taylor will be  
heading up the committee once again this  
year and we need your help!**

**If you're interested in helping us become  
the 1st Place Winner again for the 3rd  
straight year in a row, contact Terry at  
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**E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues are: \$20.00 per person  
Mail to the above NBLRA Address**

As of September 1, 2007  
we had 425 members who have paid  
their dues!

Please talk to your neighbor's and  
friends about joining this worthwhile  
association. The greater the num-  
bers we have, the more impact we  
have with our local government!



## 2007 MEETINGS

10:00 a.m.

All meetings will be held at the  
Fire Department

December 15th

2008 Meetings will be announced  
soon, make sure and go to the  
website where they will be posted  
Please bring your neighbors!

December 2007

*Navarre Beach Leaseholders and  
Residents Association, Inc.*

*Post Office Box 5003*

*Navarre Beach, Florida 32566*



# Season's Greetings



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Find us on the web: [www.navarrebeach.org](http://www.navarrebeach.org)