



Prebble Q Ramswell

Positive Change By and For the People. Florida's Future Begins With Us!

THE RAMSWELL REVIEW

A monthly newsletter from Destin City Councilmember Prebble Q Ramswell

April 2017

Speak Up! It's Your City!

Top stories in this newsletter

Flood Map Change Meeting



Bills Affecting You



Destin Serving You



News

YOU SHOULD KNOW

Flood Map Change Meeting



As you may be aware, FEMA has presented its revised flood maps and many property owners in our area have been adversely affected. The updated maps, pending final approval, are in a 90-day review period (February 22 to May 22, 2017) prior to implementation.

Jim Simpson with the Okaloosa Island Leaseholder's Association has worked with Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel to arrange a Town Hall informational meeting on the new flood maps. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 24, 2017, at the Emerald Coast Convention Center in the Emerald Ballroom IV at 6:00 PM. For more information on the proposed changes, and forms to make an appeal visit: <http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/gm/crs-flood-facts>

Okaloosa County	
Preliminary Flood Study Products	April 29, 2016
Preliminary DFIRM Community Coordination Meeting	June 28, 2016
Flood Risk Open House	June 28, 2016 and June 29, 2016
Appeal Period	February 22, 2017 – May 23, 2017
Start of 6-Month Compliance Period (Issue Letter of Final Determination)	Summer 2017 (June – August)
Effective Flood Study Products	Winter 2017 – 2018 (December – March)

Bills Affecting You



The 2017 Legislative Session has been one that has left many elected officials scratching their heads. The primary reason: multiple bills which remove or reduce home rule. Home rule is the ability of cities to determine and set their own laws as they deem necessary and proper rather than having the state set blanket laws which they feel are appropriate the cities. When you consider how vastly different the sizes, needs and issues are of the cities in Florida, you can begin to see the huge problem. Problems that might be significant in Ocala or Defuniak Springs are vastly different than those affecting Miami or Destin.

As a result, elected official from across Florida have been vocal in stating their cases and causes before Senate and House committees. One set of bills I strongly oppose and spoke again in a Senate committee was SB 188/HB 425. These bills alter the laws on vacation/short-term rentals and require any ordinance to not single them out. As an example, in Destin we require rentals to have a sign out front with an emergency 24-hour phone number. These bills would disallow that practice unless we applied the ordinance to our non-rental home as well! Can you imagine your private residence having your name and phone emblazoned on a sign in your front yard? Here are some other bills to keep an eye on:

- House Bill 7077 and Senate Bill 364: change Triumph funding
- CS/CS/SB 596: Wireless Infrastructure Bill—removes free market approach
- CS/CS/HB 13 and CS/SB 1770: limits scope and power of CRAs
- HB 17 and SB 1158: Preempts the power of cities to regulate businesses

Destin Serving You



There is much going on in our little fishing village! Here's a look at what is happening:

- City Staff met with the City's continuing service provider to make plans for repaving Indian Bayou Trail. The paving operation is scheduled for completion prior to Memorial Day.
- The Harbor pump, when running, is causing cavitation in the water creating air bubbles that enter the pump and causes it to vibrate. As a consequence, the vibration sensor is shutting the pump down. Staff has hired a pump company to take the pump to their shop in Panama City to do maintenance and any necessary repairs. The crane company is expected to remove the pump either next week or the week after. A schedule for repairs cannot be determined until the pump company has completed their inspection.
- The contractor has mobilized on the cement plant site to begin removal of the aggregate. The concrete crushing operation is scheduled to begin on May 1.

Code Enforcement Division Weekly Enforcement Activity Levels, April 05-11, 2017:

- Cases under investigation: 46 (This week) 51 (Previous week)
- Proactive Cases: 41 of 46 = 89% (Previous week: 88%) 5
- Reactive Cases: 5 of 46 = 11% (Previous week: 12%) 5
- Snipe signs removed this week: 11

The Code Enforcement Division is now registering Short-Term Rentals under the revised Ordinance and Livery Vessel Permitting is now active

News

YOU SHOULD KNOW

- The TDC is deep in discussions on a restructuring of the agency
- Beach clean-up issues continue, though City Manager has held a meeting with county to discuss procedures and needs
- The Children's Park at the Morgan Sports Center and the playground at Buck Destin Park will be closed for approximately 10 days, beginning Monday, April 17th, for repairs and maintenance.
- Repairs continue on the Indian Bayou Stormwater project... the situation is being closely monitored by council and staff
- There are 16 development projects currently under review
- Destin Beach Safety has implemented a daily social media alert for notification of beach conditions: <https://www.facebook.com/destinbeachsafety/>
- Thank you to all our first responders— I was reminded of the lengths they will go to after hearing of DFCD's attempts to rescue and save two dogs from a burning home last week.

Hello Friends and Neighbors!

Thank you for subscribing to my monthly newsletter, *the Ramswell Review*. It is my goal to improve communication between the city and its citizens, and act as a conduit of information on issues that affect our community and future.

I value your input and insight and am always available to you. I recognize that we each offer a unique and valuable perspective on the issues and believe everyone in this community's opinion carries weight. I believe in positive change— by and for the people. Florida's future begins with us.

I look forward to a two-way relationship with the community knowing that we all have the same goal of a beautiful, successful city centered on family values.

Prebble



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I always welcome your feedback and input. However, please be sure to direct any correspondence related to city business to my city email address pramswell@cityofdestin.com. All such correspondence shall be considered a public record pursuant to Florida's open records laws.

Any views or opinions expressed in this newsletter are my own and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Destin City Council or the views or opinions of any other Councilmember. This newsletter is not an official record nor a transcript of the matters presented to, or the decisions made by, the City Council and should not be interpreted as such.

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