

## FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING & WATER RESTRICTIONS

by: **Colin L. Bartholomew**, Public Works Program Coordinator

We have officially entered the “dry” season and our region is currently experiencing a deficit of nearly ten inches of rain. This deficit impacts local water suppliers abilities to recharge drinking water sources including aquifers, rivers, and lakes which prompted Southwest Florida Water Management District to implement a Modified Phase 1 watering restriction for Pinellas County, limiting the amount and frequency that you are allowed to water your lawn to once per week. (You can find more information on the restrictions at: [cityofsafetyharbor.com/496/Water-Restrictions](http://cityofsafetyharbor.com/496/Water-Restrictions).)



Residents can reduce the amount of irrigation used year-round by implementing Florida-Friendly Landscaping (plants, grasses, and trees that are native to local conditions). These plants and landscapes require little to no watering; ideal for any year including those that are drier than average. Florida-Friendly plants can be integrated into an existing landscape, used in designs such as rain gardens and natural landscapes, and have other benefits such as flood control, increasing biodiversity, and assisting in stormwater filtration.

For more information on Florida-Friendly Landscapes please contact Colin Bartholomew, Public Works Program Coordinator at [cbartholomew@cityofsafetyharbor.com](mailto:cbartholomew@cityofsafetyharbor.com).

## GRANT APPLICATIONS & MAYOR’S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE NOMINATIONS

by: **Cecilia Chen**, Community Planner/GIS Analyst



The City of Safety Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency is accepting Downtown Partnership grants through April 1, 2024. Categories include façade, front porch, fencing, signage, public art, landscaping, dumpster enclosure, interior renovation, new non-residential building, market/hardware store, and artistic bicycle rack.

You can find the application at:  
[cityofsafetyharbor.com/DowntownPartnershipGrants](http://cityofsafetyharbor.com/DowntownPartnershipGrants)

The City of Safety Harbor is accepting matching grants and Mayor’s Award of Excellence applications through April 15, 2024.

Neighborhood project matching grant categories include entryway signs, fencing, walkways, fountains and lighting in a common area. Beautification matching grant categories include landscaping and irrigation in a common area. The Mayor’s Award of Excellence recognizes property owners for beautifying their property and enhancing the property’s curb appeal.

You can find the application at: [cityofsafetyharbor.com/NeighborhoodGrants](http://cityofsafetyharbor.com/NeighborhoodGrants)

For more information, contact Cecilia Chen at [cchen@cityofsafetyharbor.com](mailto:cchen@cityofsafetyharbor.com).

### WHAT’S INSIDE

CITYWIDE  
pages 2 & 3

LIBRARY  
pages 4 & 5

RECREATION  
pages 6 & 7

# AROUND SAFETY HARBOR

## WHERE DOES IT GO....LEAVES IN THE STREET *by: Renee Cooper, Public Works Director*



Leaf drop (dormant season tree shedding) in Florida occurs in the fall and winter. The City experiences the heaviest leaf fall during the months of February through April. During those three months, the City's street sweeping contractor increases sweeping frequency to twice per month. Please remember to park vehicles in the driveway so the sweeper can access the curb line.

Please do not place loose leaf piles at the curb, on the sidewalks, or in the roadway for collection. Do not rake or blow leaves into the street as the vegetation can present a flooding concern when washed into and thereby clogging storm drains. The vegetative debris later causes water quality issues at the point of stormwater discharge (algae blooms). Most of the phosphorus found in urban stormwater comes from leaves in the street during fall/winter and over fertilization in spring/summer.

Loose leaf piles should be containerized (bagged, placed in your City-issued garbage can or placed in a 32-gallon) and placed at the curb on your garbage collection day. Leaves can also be mulched in the yard (providing valuable nutrients to landscaping) or used in a compost pile. Residents, business owners, and civic groups can help educate others on the importance of keeping our storm drains clear of leaves and debris as well showing their artistic talents by signing up for the City's Storm Drain Mural Program.

The City's Adopt-A-Street program also encourages civic organizations, residents, and business owners to assist in removing trash and debris before it enters the City's stormwater system by volunteering to remove litter along a designated roadway. Contact Public Works for more information!

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## STREET TREE PROGRAM 2024 *by: James Ryan, City Arborist*

The City of Safety Harbor is continuing the Annual Street Tree Program. City residents can sign up to have a free shade tree planted in their front yard. All requests will be reviewed to ensure the selected tree is appropriate for the requested location and will not conflict with utilities.

Available trees include: Southern Live Oak, Gumbo Limbo, Bald Cypress, and Eagleston Holly. The trees will be planted by the city; however, applicants are responsible for watering the trees during the establishment period. A tree watering schedule will be provided to each applicant.

The deadline to apply is February 7, 2024. A waiver is required at the time of application. Applications and waivers can be downloaded from the city tree page at this address: [cityofsafetyharbor.com/774/Tree-Protection](http://cityofsafetyharbor.com/774/Tree-Protection).

For more information, contact James Ryan at [jaryan@cityofsafetyharbor.com](mailto:jaryan@cityofsafetyharbor.com).



## IMPACT FEE UPDATE *by: Marcie Stenmark, Community Development Director*

The City of Safety Harbor is planning to update impact fees in 2024. New development within the City of Safety Harbor is subject to impact fees at time of permit issuance. Impact fees are assessed for new development to recover the cost of providing capital facilities to serve new development. The City of Safety Harbor City Commission adopted impact fees between 1976 to 1990. The impact fees included: sewer, sanitation, public safety (fire), library, park, and parkland. The City's impact fees have not been updated since they were originally adopted. In addition, the City has a mobility (transportation) impact fee that is coordinated with Pinellas County and was last updated in 2016.

In 2023, the City of Safety Harbor hired a consultant to review the City's impact fees and recommend updates based on Florida statutes. The City Commission held a workshop on May 1, 2023. The City Attorney prepared a draft ordinance (Ord. No. 2023-12) to update the City's impact fees. You can find the impact fee update website, with adopted impact fees, workshop presentation, impact fee update memo, and the draft ordinance at: [cityofsafetyharbor.com/957/Impact-Fee-Update](http://cityofsafetyharbor.com/957/Impact-Fee-Update).

The impact fee update ordinance will be heard by the City Commission on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 (first reading), and Monday, February 5, 2024 (second reading). The meetings will start at 7:00PM. The revised impact fees will be effective March 4, 2024.

If you have any questions about the impact fee update, please e-mail [mstenmark@cityofsafetyharbor.com](mailto:mstenmark@cityofsafetyharbor.com).



# HARBOR HAPPENINGS

Check [cityofsafetyharbor.com](http://cityofsafetyharbor.com) for meeting locations

## JANUARY

### CITY MEETINGS

1 *New Year's Day - All City Facilities Closed;  
No Trash Collection*

9 Library Advisory Committee, 7PM

10 Planning & Zoning Board/Board of Appeals, 6:30PM

11 Finance Advisory Committee, 6:30PM

15 *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day- All City Facilities Closed  
Trash Collection Happens as Usual*

16 City Commission, 7PM

17 Code Enforcement Board, 6:30PM

### SPECIAL EVENTS

19 Best Damn Race Expo (Waterfront Park), 3-6PM

19 3<sup>RD</sup> Friday Street Celebration (Main Street), 6-10PM

20 Best Damn Race (Waterfront Park), 6AM

## FEBRUARY

### CITY MEETINGS

5 City Commission, 7PM

8 Finance Advisory Committee, 6:30PM

13 Library Advisory Committee, 7PM

14 Planning & Zoning Board/Board of Appeals, 6:30PM

19 City Commission, 7PM

21 Code Enforcement Board, 6:30PM

### SPECIAL EVENTS

13 Senior Expo (Community Center), 10AM-12:30PM

16 3<sup>RD</sup> Friday Street Celebration (Main Street), 6-10PM

24 Art & Seafood on the Waterfront (Waterfront Park), 12-9PM

25 Art & Seafood on the Waterfront (Waterfront Park), 10AM-3PM

Market on Main ☞ Sundays ☞ 10am - 3pm ☞ Gazebo on Main St.



## Storm Drain Mural Program

We welcome residents, students, artists, and civic groups to paint their own storm drain mural to educate the public about the importance of keeping our storm drains free of trash, leaves, grass clippings, and chemicals in order to keep our waterways healthy and clean. The City will provide most of the needed materials.

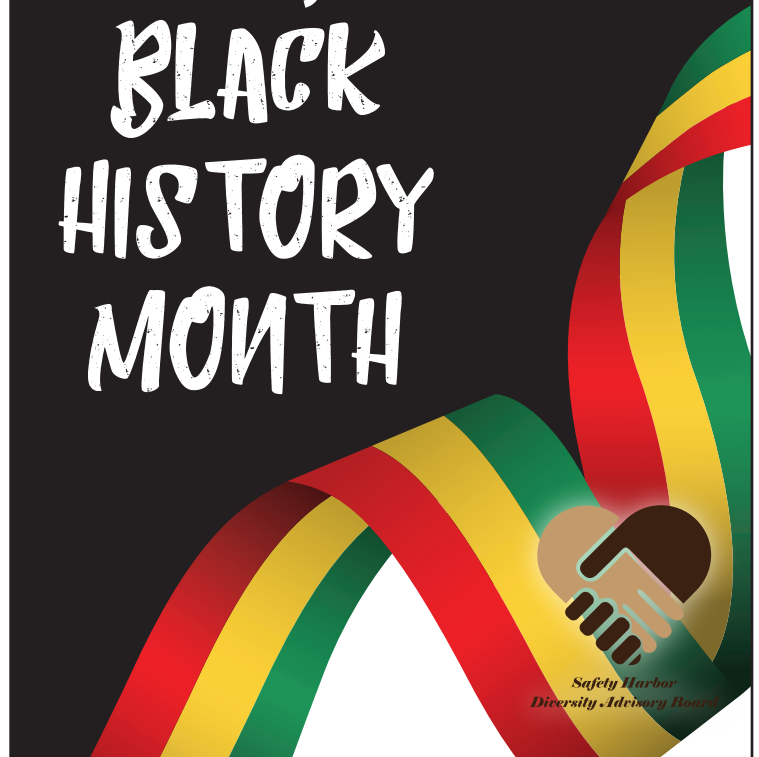
For more information, contact Public Works at 727-724-1550.



[CityofSafetyHarbor.com](http://CityofSafetyHarbor.com)

City of Safety Harbor Celebrates Diversity

February is  
**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**



Safety Harbor  
Diversity Advisory Board

# SAFETY HARBOR PUBLIC LIBRARY

## LIBRARY SECOND STORY CONSTRUCTION KICKS OFF IN JANUARY

by: *Lisa Kothe, Library Director*



We are excited to announce the City Commission approved the first-floor lighting upgrades and second floor addition at the December 4<sup>TH</sup> commission meeting. A bit of library history... in 1994, the existing library facility opened in the current location. In 2008, after significant community input, the library underwent a renovation adding 9,300 square feet and celebrated a grand reopening in April 2009. Architectural design included the structural ability to accommodate a second story due to anticipated growth.

As the library became a cornerstone in the downtown district, we attracted high numbers of visitors and organizations due to our educational and cultural programs, resources, and meeting areas, making it difficult to keep up with the demand for space. In 2015, city staff began discussing the addition of the second story. The following year, the Library Foundation kicked off their Let's Build a Story capital campaign with a goal of raising \$500,000. They've met their goal and continue to fundraise due to increased costs. The Friends of the Library also support the project with a \$35,000 donation. Twenty-five percent of the construction is funded through grants and donations.

In March 2020, a design kickoff meeting was held with the architect and the commission noted the second story as a workshop goal. The pandemic then stalled the project. Fast forward to May 2023, when the site plan for the project was approved by the City Commission. In December, a general contractor was selected and the project approved.

The addition will add 4,784 square feet, including approximately 1,800 square feet of meeting room space. The Deaf Literacy Center will relocate to 2<sup>ND</sup> floor, vacating space on first floor for new Maker Space. There will also be a room with multiple desks for quiet self-study and remote business workspace needs.

During the construction, access to the children's wing, main meeting and conference rooms will be unavailable for use. Children's collections will be relocated within the library to serve our youngest patrons and their families. Our programs for all ages will move to remote locations within the community. Stay tuned to the library website and newsletter, social media, listserv, and staff for information. We'll operate a bit differently for a while but will provide the same services.



The library has been growing for many years, offering a wide range of books and online materials and services from seeds, tools, to high school diplomas, museum passes, games, programs, and much more. A unique cake pan collection was recently added. We are excited for this next phase of the library which cements its importance in

our community for learning, literacy, cultural experiences, and a meeting place that's vital to a creative and innovative city.

LINKS FOR OUR LIBRARY

# MINI-GOLF PUB CRAWL



SATURDAY, FEB. 3



LINKSFORLIBRARY2024.EVENTBRITE.COM



# Children's Programs

★ 1000 Books Before Kindergarten. Register at: <https://safetyharborlibrary.beanstack.org>

- Frozen Story Time Party: (Ages 8 & under)  
Wednesday, Jan. 3, 11:00 am.

★ ICRE8- Art Class: (Ages 5-95)  
Mondays, Jan. 8 and Feb. 12, 5:30pm.

★ Preschool Arts & Crafts (Ages 2-4)  
Tuesdays, Jan. 16 and Feb. 13, 10:30 am.

- Wee Discoveries: (Ages 5 & under)  
Tuesdays, Jan. 30 and Feb. 27, 11:00am.

- Story Tots: (Ages 19 months to 4 years)  
Wednesdays, 10:30 am.

- LEGO League: (Ages 3-12)  
Thursdays, 3:30 – 5:30 pm.

- Baby & Me Story Time: (Ages 0-18 months)  
Fridays, 10:30 am.



★ REGISTRATION REQUIRED AT: [EVENTS.SAFETYHARBORLIBRARY.ORG](https://events.safetyharborlibrary.org)

# Tween Library Programs Ages 8-12

\*Tween Cooking: 1/23 & 2/6,  
5:30-6:30 p.m.

\*Tween Hot Chocolate Bombs: 1/9,  
5:30-6:30 p.m.

\*Tween Painting: 1/16 & 2/20,  
5:00-6:30 p.m.

Beyblades Club: (Ages 6-12)  
1/22, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

\*Tween Graphic Novel  
Book Club: 1/30 &  
2/27, 5:30-6:30 p.m.



\*Registration Required

Register at [events.safetyharborlibrary.com](https://events.safetyharborlibrary.com)

# Teen Library Programs

Ages 13-18

100 Books Before Graduation. Register at  
[safetyharborlibrary.beanstack.org](https://safetyharborlibrary.beanstack.org)

\*Teen Cooking - Hot Chocolate Bombs - 1/10 - 5:00 pm

\*Teen Dungeons & Dragons - 1/13, 1/27, 2/10, 2/24 -  
1:30 pm

\*Teen Book Bags - 1/15-1/20

Teen Anime & Manga Club - 1/24, 2/7 - 5:00 pm

Teen Rainbow Room - 1/31, 2/28 - 5:00 pm

\*Valentine's Day Cupcake Wars - 2/14 - 5:00 pm



\*Registration required at  
[events.safetyharborlibrary.org](https://events.safetyharborlibrary.org)



# LIBRARY EVENTS FOR ADULTS

*Winter Reading Roadmap*  
Until January 31

Saturday Movie  
Matinee

1/27 & 2/24 | 2:00 pm

CrAfterWork

Magazine Strip

Collage

1/25 | 6:00 pm

Gingerbread Love

Shacks

2/22 | 6:00 pm

ESOL Class

Wednesdays | 10:00 am

Citizenship Class

Wednesdays | 11:30 am

Book Clubs

Words & Wine

1/15 & 2/20 | 6:00 pm

Books & Bagels

1/16 & 2/20 | 10:30 am

Visit us at [SafetyHarborLibrary.com](https://SafetyHarborLibrary.com) for a  
complete listing of upcoming events.

# SAFETY HARBOR RECREATION

## THE ELECTRIC RIIIIIDE... BOOGIE WOOGIE WOOGIE!

by Julie Inman, Recreation Facility Manager



E-Vehicles are showing up everywhere! They are a fun alternative form of transportation allowing new users to explore. People are going farther and faster! They're getting outside and breathing fresh air and connecting with their community! With the sudden growth of e-bikes, scooters, and electric dirt bikes, lots of brands and new variations have emerged. Here are some general tips to keep you and your family safe while enjoying your electric ride!

### 10 Safety Tips to keep your ride REAL Fun:

- 1. Read the manufacturers details carefully before you purchase.** Follow the recommended age, weight, and height. Be sure to review both the maximum weight and the minimum weight. Exceeding the maximum weight can result in brake failure and structural failure, while not reaching the minimum height/weight can result in loss of rider control. Batteries that power these vehicles are heavy. They weigh much more than traditional scooters or bikes. Lighter people and children may not be able to safely control the vehicle due to the increased weight.
- 2. Maintain your ride regularly.** Due to the heavier weight, it takes more force to stop. This will cause brakes to wear down more quickly. If not properly maintained, brakes can fail. Inspect your brakes or take them regularly to a shop for adjustment/replacement.
- 3. Wear a properly fitted helmet!** Check the top speed of your electric vehicle and find a helmet rated for that type of riding. Please note, a bicycle helmet may not be rated to use on an electric dirt bike. There are helmets recommended specifically for e-bikes. You wouldn't wear a bicycle helmet on a motorcycle!
- 4. Be seen!** Wear bright colors and be sure to have front and rear reflectors and lights.
- 5. Pedestrians have the right of way.** Respect pedestrians and use a bell or horn to warn them of your approach. Always reduce speed around pedestrians and avoid riding in crowded places. Remember, stopping distance is increased the heavier your ride!
- 6. Riders must obey all bicycle road rules and traffic laws including speed limits.** Check vehicle class before purchase to ensure you will have a legal place to ride.
- 7. Check Consumer Product Safety Commission or [cpsc.gov](https://www.cpsc.gov) for recalls before purchasing and thoroughly research online forums for consumer feedback.**
- 8. Battery Replacement.** Do not dispose of or recycle lithium batteries at your home. Take them to a waste collection center for proper disposal. Also only use recommended batteries and charger for your vehicle.
- 9. Never carry anything on your handlebars** it throws off your balance and can cause overcorrection and uneven weight distribution. Strings from bags can also become entangled in your front wheel.
- 10. Consider your riding experience before choosing to hop on an e-bike or scooter.** If you are not a frequent rider, it is recommended that you practice before riding at higher speeds. Take it slow and ride within your abilities.

Be smart and enjoy your ride!





**REAL FUN! REAL FIT!**

# BINGO

Purchase Annual Fitness Center Membership	Write a Google Review about SH Fitness	Attend 2 Lunch Time Fit Classes in 1 week	Attend a Zumba Class	Visit the Fitness Center 5X in 1 Week
Attend Spin Class	Attend 3 Classes in 1 Week	Attend Fitness Room Orientation	Write a Google Review for Comm Center	Tag us in a social media post about our fit classes
Attend an AM Yoga Class	Attend B-Fit Bootcamp	<b>FREE SPACE</b>	Pickleball!!! Take a lesson/clinic or come to open play	Attend Urban Line Dancing
Attend a Zumba Class	Attend Tai Chi	Post a pic & tag us on social media	Attend Stretch & Balance	Attend Strength, Stability, & Stretch
Post a pic & tag us on social media	Visit the Fitness Center 3X in 1 Week	Attend an AM Bootcamp	Attend a PM Yoga Class	Write a Google Review for Rigsby Center

# JANUARY FITNESS BINGO

## How to participate:

Starting in January, pick up your BINGO card when you attend a fitness class or visit the Fitness Center.

Each time you complete a square on your BINGO card, get a sticker from the front desk to mark your spot.

Get a BINGO in any direction by January 31<sup>st</sup> and return your completed card to front desk staff with your contact info.

We'll contact you when your prize is ready to be picked up!

# Safety Harbor

# Senior EXPO

## February 13<sup>TH</sup>

**10am–12:30pm**

**FREE at the Community Center**

**[SafetyHarborRecreation.com](http://SafetyHarborRecreation.com)**



## CITYSCAPE

CityScape is a publication of the City of Safety Harbor. For the latest updates on these and other stories visit us online at [cityofsafetyharbor.com](http://cityofsafetyharbor.com).

## CITY OFFICIALS

Joe Ayoub, Mayor  
Andy Steingold, Vice Mayor  
Nancy Besore, Commissioner  
Carlos Diaz, Commissioner  
Cliff Merz, Commissioner  
Matthew Spoor, City Manager

## CITY DIRECTORY

City Hall: 727-724-1555  
Community Center: 727-724-1530  
Fire Department: 727-724-1520  
Library: 727-724-1525  
Museum & Cultural Ctr.: 727-724-1562  
Public Works: 727-724-1550  
Rigsby Recreation Center: 727-724-1545

## City of SAFETY HARBOR

Home of the Mineral Springs



750 Main Street  
Safety Harbor Florida  
34695  
(727) 724-1555  
[www.cityofsafetyharbor.com](http://www.cityofsafetyharbor.com)

PRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT #6907  
TAMPA FL

## Flood Zone Information

The City of Safety Harbor is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program/Community Rating System (NFIP/CRS).

We offer FEMA flood map determinations and information regarding wetlands and other natural systems on property located in the city. Elevation certificates, if available, may be obtained through the Building Department.

For more information regarding this program, please contact the City of Safety Harbor at 727-724-1555.

## Adopt -A- Street

*Building Community  
One Street at a Time*

### Getting Started

- Complete and return the Adopt-A-Street Agreement.
- Two representatives from your organization must meet at Public Works for a safety briefing and to pick up the safety supplies.

### City Provided

- Recognition Signage
- Safety Vests
- Trash Bags
- Trash Bag Removal
- Record Keeping Forms

### To Participate

- Commit to removing litter four times per year.
- Select a street segment or roadway to clean.

### Volunteer Provided

- First Aid Supplies
- Cell Phones
- Transportation
- Sunscreen and Insect Repellent

*For more information on this program,  
contact Public Works at 727-724-1550*



PAINT YOUR HEART OUT  
SAFETY HARBOR

## We're Looking For Volunteers

Paint Your Heart Out Safety Harbor (PYHOSH) is a local non-profit organization that enables citizens to lend a helping hand by painting the exteriors of houses, cleaning the yards and doing minor external repairs for homeowners in need.

**PAINT DAY IS MARCH 2, 2024.**

We are beginning to take volunteers. Please sign up at  
<https://tinyurl.com/pyhosh2024>

- You must be at least 14 years old (teens aged 14-17 will need a parental consent form).
- If you have family or friends you'd like to paint with, be sure to sign up on the same house number.
- Addresses will be provided at breakfast on Paint Day.

EMAIL: [PYHOSH@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PYHOSH@GMAIL.COM)  
OR CALL: 727-380-0626  
OR VISIT:  
[FACEBOOK.COM/PAINTYOURHEARTSH](https://FACEBOOK.COM/PAINTYOURHEARTSH)

