



# BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

(From the Desk of Tynalin Smiley, Commissioner, District 4)

1000 CECIL G. COSTIN SR. BLVD., ROOM 302, PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA 32456

PHONE (850) 229-6106/639-6700

FAX (850) 229-9252 • EMAIL: commissioner4@gulfcountry-fl.gov

DATE AND TIME OF MEETINGS • SECOND AND FOURTH TUESDAYS AT 9:00 A.M., E.T.

2013 MAR 25 10:00 AM

March 25, 2013

The Honorable Rick Scott, Governor of Florida  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

**RE: Support for House Bill 807 & Senate Bill 1070 – E9-1-1 Point of Sale**

Dear Governor Scott,

As chairman of the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners, I am writing to urge your support for 9-1-1 point-of-sale legislation, as embodied in House Bill 807 and Senate Bill 1070. Your support for this legislation would help to equalize the E9-1-1 contribution burden on wireline and post-paid wireless consumers in Florida without increasing state revenues.

Since 2007, legislation has been in place directing the collection of fees on pre-paid wireless phones to support the 9-1-1 system; however there has been six years of moratorium while a methodology was established and agreed upon.

During those six years, the economic downturn has forced more and more people to give up their home and post-paid wireless phones, replacing them with pre-paid phones. The resulting effect of the moratoriums has been a slow but steady decline Statewide in 9-1-1 revenues at a time when technological advances are raising the public's expectation of the system. Therefore, I strongly opposed any moratorium as it will be crippling to 9-1-1 throughout the State.

In April of 2011, two carriers decreed themselves to be pre-paid and stopped remitting the fee. This resulted in a decline of 15.4% Statewide and has been financially devastating to the 9-1-1 system. While a one-time disbursement helped offset the loss, with the decline Statewide, those disbursements will no longer be available.

The bills have been amendment from their original form to include lowering the fee to \$.46 then again to \$.43 to make the legislation "revenue neutral". At the present time, the 9-1-1 fee supports only 33% of the 9-1-1 system in Gulf County. Small County's cannot afford to continue supporting a 9-1-1 system with other revenue streams should the funding be decreased.

Some have been led to believe that this is a "new tax" as opposed to a fairer distribution of the 9-1-1 user fee. This is a *user fee* to support a public safety system that will allow all phone users' quick access to first responders during emergency situations where time is critical.

The key to maintaining effective 9-1-1 systems in Florida is a consistent and reliable source of funding. Florida has chosen to provide the funding necessary for the emergency

CARMEN E. McLEMORE  
District 1

WARD McDANIEL  
District 2

JOANNA BRYAN  
District 3

TAN SMILEY  
District 4

WARREN YLAGER  
District 5

communications systems by imposing a fee on users of communication services. Passage of House Bill 807 and Senate Bill 1070 will ensure that *all* users of wireless communications services contribute equally to the funding of Florida's 9-1-1 system, while making the collection of such fees as simple as possible for retail establishments across Florida. In short, adopting this measure will harmonize Florida law with that of over half the states, solving the problem of how to collect E9-1-1 fees from prepaid wireless consumers in a consensus-based fashion. It will also provide stability to the critical E9-1-1 funding stream.

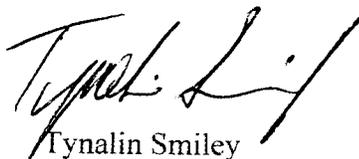
Over the past five years, Florida's 9-1-1 community has worked collectively with the wireless industry and retailers to develop an approach based on an equitable, efficient, and uniform collection mechanism for E9-1-1 fees from repaid wireless consumers. Throughout this process, the primary goal has been to develop a solution that avoids a decline in funding for the delivery of critical emergency services to the public as consumers increasingly choose prepaid wireless service. As a result, the retail point-of-sale approach has been embraced by legislatures of all political compositions as a fair and practical model for collecting E9-1-1 fees on prepaid wireless services. Already, 26 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have adopted the point-of-sale collection methodology, including the surrounding states of Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

The prepaid wireless sector is growing rapidly, with nearly 1 in 4 wireless consumers choosing prepaid service. As this growth has accelerated, legacy bill-based revenue models have imposed unfairly high burdens on wireline and post-paid wireless subscribers, while allowing prepaid wireless consumers to receive "free" E9-1-1 service. Establishing a uniform collection mechanism will help create an equitable, predictable, and reliable source of revenue from prepaid wireless consumers, provide relief from unnecessarily-high fees to wireline and post-paid wireless subscribers, and stabilize the existing revenue stream for Florida's 9-1-1 systems. House Bill 807 and Senate Bill 1070 will accomplish those goals.

I support these measures, and respectfully ask that you do so as well. Should you have any questions or need additional information, do not hesitate to contact me at (850) 229-6106.

Sincerely,

GULF COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Tynalin Smiley  
Chairman

CARMEN L. McLEMORE  
District 1

WARD McDANIEL  
District 2

JOANNA BRYAN  
District 3

TAN SMILEY  
District 4

WARREN YEAGER  
District 5

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE**

Donald Butler, Chief Administrator

1000 CECIL G. COSTIN, SR. BLVD., ROOM 302, PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA 32456

PHONE: (850) 229-6106/639-6700 • FAX: (850) 229-9252 • EMAIL: dbutler@gulfcountry-fl.gov

DATE AND TIME OF MEETINGS: SECOND AND FOURTH TUESDAYS AT 9:00 A.M., E.T.

March 21, 2013

Mr. Ashley Stukey  
Budget Officer  
Bay County BOCC  
840 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Panama City, FL 32401

MAR 19 - 5 PM 13

RE: MEDICAL EXAMINER

Dear Mr. Stukey;

At their meeting on February 26, 2013, the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners recommended approval of the re-appointment of Dr. Michael Hunter as the District 14, Medical Examiner. During this discussion, the budget process and allocations for the Medical Examiner's Office was talked about as well.

I am sure that all of us are experiencing the same budget issues. In the last several years, Gulf County has experienced deep cuts in services to many of our organizations. During this same time, our costs have risen for this service.

In previous years, the counties in this district met on a regular basis to facilitate this department. Gulf County would like to inquire as to the possibility of re-organizing this committee. Please consider polling the other entities as to their interest in doing so.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to hearing from you on a meeting date for this committee.

Sincerely,  
GULF COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Donald H. Butler  
Chief Administrator

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

A Public Hearing will be held at the Planning and Development Review Board (PDRB) meeting on Monday, April 15, 2013 at 8:45 a.m. ET, and at the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. ET. Both public hearings will be held in the BOCC Meeting Room at the Robert M. Moore Administration Building, 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Port St. Joe, Florida. The public hearings will be to discuss and act on the following:

1. Final Plat Application for Phase 1 - Palms at Money Bayou, LLC - for Parcel ID #03179-005R - Located in Section 19, Township 9 South, Range 10 West, Gulf County, Florida - Development review for approval and development order.
2. Final Plat Application for a Minor Subdivision - Timothy H. Jarrett - Parcel ID # 06345-120R - Located in Section 36, Township 8 South, Range 12 West, Gulf County, Florida - development of a four (4) lot subdivision.
3. Scoping Public Hearing for revisions to the County Development Regulations and Policies
4. Staff, Public and Open Discussion

The public is encouraged to attend and be heard on these matters. Information prior to the meeting can be viewed at the Planning Department at 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Room 311.

Ad #2013-54

Date: April 4, 2013 and April 11, 2013

Invoice: Gulf County Planning Department

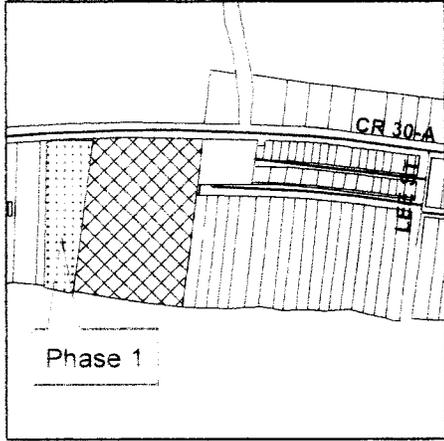
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**Must be at least 2 columns wide by 10 inches long**

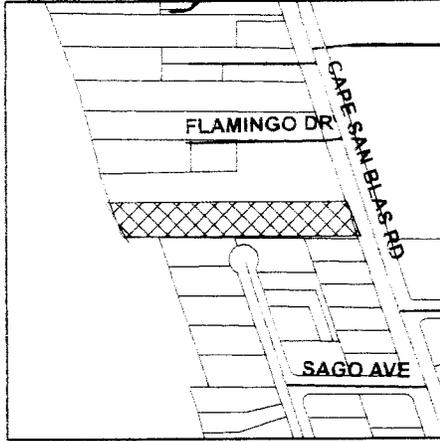
**Must not appear in the newspaper portions where legal notices and classified advertisements appear**

**Map**

Final Plat Approval - Palms at Money Bayou



Final Plat Approval- Minor Subdivision-Jarrett





FEMA

# Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012

## Impact of changes to the NFIP

**Note: This Fact Sheet deals specifically with Sections 205 and 207 of the Act.**

In 2012, the U.S. Congress passed the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 which calls on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and other agencies, to make a number of changes to the way the NFIP is run. As the law is implemented, some of these changes have already occurred, and others will be implemented in the coming months. Key provisions of the legislation will require the NFIP to raise rates to reflect true flood risk, make the program more financially stable, and change how Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) updates impact policyholders. The changes will mean premium rate increases for some – but not all – policyholders over time.

### Background:

In 1968, Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Since most homeowners' insurance policies did not cover flood, property owners who experienced a flood often found themselves financially devastated and unable to rebuild. The NFIP was formed to fill that gap. To ensure the program did not take on unnecessary risks, one of the key requirements to participate in the program was that communities had to adopt standards for new construction and development.

Pre-existing homes and businesses, though, could remain as they were. Owners of many of these older properties could obtain insurance at lower, subsidized, rates that did not reflect the property's real risk. In addition, as the initial flood risk identified by the NFIP has been updated over the years, many homes and businesses in areas where the revised risk was determined to be higher have also received discounted rates. This "Grandfathering" approach prevented rate increases for existing properties when the flood risk in their area increased.

Fast forward 45 years, flood risks continue and the costs and consequences of flooding are increasing dramatically. In 2012, Congress passed legislation to make the National Flood Insurance Program more sustainable and financially sound over the long term.

### What this means:

The new law eliminates some artificially low rates and discounts which are no longer sustainable. Most flood insurance rates will reflect full risk, and flood insurance rates will rise on some policies.

Actions such as buying or selling a property, or allowing a policy to lapse, can trigger rate changes. You should talk to your insurance agent about how changes may affect your property and flood insurance policy. There are investments you and your community can make to reduce the impact of rate changes. And FEMA can help communities lower flood risk and flood insurance premiums.

### What is Changing Now?

Most rates for most properties will more accurately reflect risk. Subsidized rates for non-primary/secondary residences are being phased out now. Subsidized rates for other classes of properties will be eliminated over time, beginning in late 2013. There are several actions which can

trigger a rate change, and not everyone will be affected. It's important to know the distinctions and actions to avoid, or to take, to lessen the impacts.

Not everyone will be affected immediately by the new law – only 20 percent of NFIP policies receive subsidies. Talk to your agent about how rate changes could affect your policy.

- Owners of **non-primary/secondary** residences in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) will see 25 percent increase annually until rates reflect true risk – began January 1, 2013.
- Owners of **property which has experienced severe or repeated flooding** will see 25 percent rate increase annually until rates reflect true risk – beginning October 1, 2013.
- Owners of **business properties in a Special Flood Hazard Area** will see 25 percent rate increase annually until rates reflect true risk – beginning October 1, 2013.

Owners of **primary residences** in SFHAs will be able to keep their subsidized rates unless or until:

- You sell your property;
- You allow your policy to lapse;
- You suffer severe, repeated, flood losses; or
- You purchase a new policy.

## Grandfathering Changes Expected in 2014

The Act calls for a phase-out of discounts, including grandfathered rates, and a move to risk-based rates for most properties when the community adopts a new Flood Insurance Rate Map. So if you live in a community that adopts a new, updated Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), discounts – including grandfathered rates – will be phased out. This will happen gradually, with new rates increasing by 20% per year for five years. Implementation is anticipated in 2014.

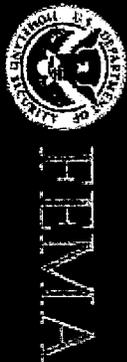
## What Can Be Done to Lower Costs?

For home owners and business owners:

- Talk to your insurance agent about your insurance options.
- You'll probably need an Elevation Certificate to determine your correct rate.
- Higher deductibles might lower your premium.
- Consider remodeling or rebuilding.
- Building or rebuilding higher will lower your risk and could reduce your premium.
- Consider adding vents to your foundation or using breakaway walls.
- Talk with local officials about community-wide mitigation steps.

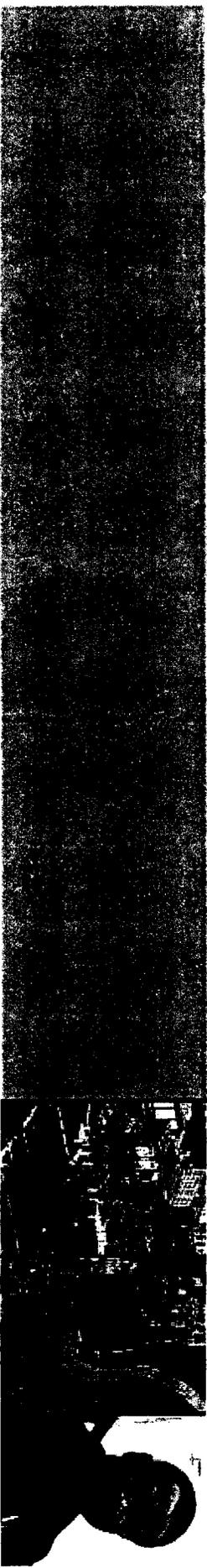
For community officials:

- Consider joining the Community Rating System (CRS) or increasing your CRS activities to lower premiums for residents.
- Talk to your state about grants. FEMA issues grants to states which can distribute the funds to communities to help with mitigation and rebuilding.



# Changes Coming to the National Flood Insurance Program – What to Expect

## Impact of changes to the NFIP under Section 205 of the Biggert-Waters Act



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# Changes are Coming to the NFIP

- **Congress passed the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (Biggert Waters 2012), which will:**
  - Make the NFIP more financially stable by raising rates on certain classes of property to reflect true flood risk; and
  - Trigger rate changes for certain properties within a revised or updated map area to accurately reflect the flood risk.
- **The changes will mean rate increases for many policyholders over time.**
- **Buying or selling a property, or allowing a policy to lapse may trigger rate changes.**
- **There are investments you and your community can make to reduce the impact of rate changes.**

# What is Changing?

- **Flood insurance rates**
  - Rates for most properties will more accurately reflect risk.
  - Subsidized rates for non-primary residences are being phased out now.
  - Other subsidized rates will be eliminated over time:
    - New policies sold after July 6, 2012 to cover previously uninsured properties; and
    - Purchase of a property, allowing a policy to lapse, repetitive loss or cumulative damage, or other events, could trigger rate changes beginning in 2013.
  - When a community adopts a new flood map, discounts like grandfathering will be phased out – meaning premiums will increase over time. Expected in 2014
- **Flood risks and the costs of flooding**
  - Weather patterns, erosion, and development are a few factors increasing flood risk in many communities.
  - Better science, improved tools and more data are providing more accurate definition of flood hazards.
  - More buildings and other infrastructure are being built in areas at risk for flooding and replacement costs continue to grow.

# Who Will Be Affected by Subsidy Changes?

- **Not everyone** – only 20% of NFIP policies receive subsidies – and an even smaller number will see immediate changes.
- Owners of subsidized non-primary residences in a Special Flood Hazard Area will see 25% increase annually until rates reflect true risk – began January 1, 2013.
- Owners of subsidized property that has experienced severe repetitive flood losses or that has incurred flood cumulative damage with flood insurance payments exceeding the value of the structure will see 25% rate increase annually until rates reflect true risk – beginning late 2013.
- Owners of subsidized business properties in a Special Flood Hazard Area will see 25% rate increase annually until rates reflect true risk -- beginning late 2013.
- Owners of substantially damaged or substantially improved subsidized property will see 25% rate increase.

# Who Won't Be Affected by Subsidy Changes?

- Owners of primary residences in SFHAs will be able to keep their subsidized rates unless or until:
  - You sell your property (new rates will be charged to next owner if they insure;)
  - You allow your policy to lapse;
  - You suffer severe, repeated flood losses; or,
  - You purchase a new policy (after July 6, 2012).

## When Will Changes Occur?

- **Now – Changes underway:**
  - Full-risk rates will apply to property not previously insured, newly purchased, or to a policy which is repurchased after a lapse.
  - Premiums for older (pre-FIRM) non-primary residences in a Special Flood Hazard Area will increase by 25 percent each year until they reflect the full-risk rate – began January 1, 2013.
- **Later in 2013:**
  - Premiums for pre-FIRM business properties, severe repetitive loss properties (1-4 residences), and properties where claims payments exceed fair market value will increase by 25 percent each year until they reflect the full-risk rate.
  - Normal rate revisions which occur annually, and increases will include a 5% assessment to build a catastrophic reserve fund.
- **Late 2014:**
  - Premiums for properties affected by map changes will increase over five years at a rate of 20 percent per year to reach full-risk rates.

## Why the Changes to the NFIP?

- 1968: Congress created the NFIP to make affordable flood insurance generally available (flood damage is not covered by most homeowners' insurance policies) and to decrease Federal disaster assistance expenditures.
- To participate, communities adopt and enforce floodplain management measures for all new development.
- For structures built before FEMA mapped the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) (called pre-FIRM properties), the NFIP made flood insurance available at subsidized rates that did not reflect the true risk of flooding.
- 45 years later: Flood risks continue, and the costs and consequences of flooding are increasing.
- Artificially low rates and discounts no longer are sustainable.
- In 2012, Congress passed legislation to make the program more sustainable and financially sound over the long term.

# What Can I Do to Lower Costs?

- **Home and business owners:**
  - Talk to your insurance agent about your insurance options
    - You'll probably need an Elevation Certificate to determine your correct rate
      - Higher deductibles might lower your premium
  - Consider remodeling or rebuilding
    - Building or rebuilding higher will lower your risk and could reduce your premium
    - Consider adding vents to your foundation or using breakaway walls
  - Talk with local officials about community-wide mitigation steps
- **Community leaders:**
  - Consider joining the Community Rating System (CRS) or increasing your CRS activities to lower premiums for residents.
  - Talk to your state about grants. FEMA issues grants to states which can distribute the funds to communities to help with mitigation and rebuilding.

## What Do I Need to Remember?

- **Many changes are coming to the Flood Insurance program**
  - Congress acted to make program stronger financially.
- **On many more policies, flood insurance rates will reflect full risk.**
  - Insurance rates will rise on some policies; and
  - There are specific actions which will trigger rate changes.
- **Talk to your insurance agent about how changes may affect your property and flood insurance policy.**
- **Building or rebuilding higher can lower your flood risk and could save you money.**
- **FEMA can help communities lower flood risk and flood insurance premiums through:**
  - CRS program;
  - Various mitigation grants; and
  - Technical advice on building and rebuilding to mitigate future flood damage.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

160 W. GOVERNMENT STREET, SUITE 308 PENSACOLA, FLORIDA 32502

RICK SCOTT GOVERNOR

HERSCHEL T. VINYARD JR. SECRETARY

March 22, 2013

Sent via e-mail to: commissioner5@gulfcounty-fl.gov

The Honorable Warren Yeager, Chairman Gulf County Board of County Commissioners 1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Boulevard Port St Joe, Florida 32456

Dear Chairman Yeager:

Temporary staging areas for hurricane-generated debris must be approved by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Department) in order for the owner/operator of the staging area to receive Public Assistance funds from FEMA. Pre-authorization of any proposed hurricane-generated debris temporary staging sites should be requested to ensure the site is authorized prior to a storm event.

Please notify the Department of the proposed sites that will be utilized by the County as a temporary staging of any potential hurricane-generated debris during the 2013 hurricane season. Please provide the following information for each proposed temporary staging area:

- 1. Description of the staging area design,
2. Plans for operation of the staging area,
3. Type of waste accepted (construction and demolition (C&D) debris or yard trash and tree debris, etc.),
4. Address,
5. Latitude and longitude,
6. Directions from major roadways if site is not located adjacent to a major roadway,
7. Aerial photo and site location map,
8. Name, telephone number, and e-mail address for site manager, and
9. Name, telephone number, and e-mail address for the County's main contact person

The Department pre-authorized the following sites for the 2012 hurricane season. If any of these sites are also proposed for the 2013 hurricane season please provide updated contact information including: name, telephone number, and e-mail address for the site manager and the County's main contact person.

Table with 3 columns: WACS ID, City, Description. Row 1: 100877, Wewahitchka, GULF COUNTY: 80 ACRES ADJACENT TO WETAPPO FARMS-HIGHWAY 22, EAST OF WETAPPO CREEK BETWEEN TWIN PINES DRIVE AND SHORTY KEMP ROAD.

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6004	Port St. Joe	GULF COUNTY: FIVE POINTS CLASS III LANDFILL-0.75 MI E. OF HWY 71 2MI NE OF
6010	Wewahitchka	GULF COUNTY: WETAPPO COMPACTION TRANSFER STATION -5 MI W WEWAHITCHKA ON SR22

The Department has also prepared a guidance document on the establishment, operation, and closure of staging areas for hurricane-generated debris. This guidance includes recommended practices, which you are expected to follow as much as practicable, as well as additional requirements from the Emergency Final Order. A copy of this guidance document is available on the following internet link:

[http://www.dep.state.fl.us/mainpage\\_em\\_files/0922\\_debris\\_guidance.pdf](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/mainpage_em_files/0922_debris_guidance.pdf)

If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte Cope at (850) 595-0657, or by e-mail at [charlotte.a.cope@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:charlotte.a.cope@dep.state.fl.us).

Sincerely,



Dawn Templin, P.E.  
Solid Waste Section

DKT/cac/m

c: Don Butler, Gulf County, [boce@gulfcounty-fl.gov](mailto:boce@gulfcounty-fl.gov)  
Joe Danford, Gulf County, [solidwaste@gulfcounty-fl.gov](mailto:solidwaste@gulfcounty-fl.gov)





March 28, 2013

Carmen McLemore  
Gulf County Comm  
1000 Cecil G. Costin SR. Blvd, Room 302  
Port St. Joe, FL 32456

Dear Carmen McLemore:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that, on or about May 1, 2013, Mediacom will be implementing the following rate adjustments:<sup>1</sup>

Product:	Old Rate:	New Rate:	Net Change:
Local Broadcast Station Surcharge	N/A	\$ 2.00	\$ 3.50
Family Cable	\$ 2.15	\$ 3.65	\$ 1.50

The decision to make price adjustments is always a difficult one, especially as our Nation continues to recover from a lengthy recession. Contrary to public perception, we are very reluctant to raise video prices because when we do, we lose subscribers. However, cable and satellite companies are constantly being pressured by the programmers we buy from to pay more for the channels we carry. Mediacom is no exception as our overall programming costs rose by over 12% in the past year. In fact, every penny of this increase will be passed on to the programmers.

The fees we pay to retransmit local broadcast stations like ABC, CBS, FOX and NBC are by far our fastest growing programming cost component. Outdated federal laws give the local broadcast stations monopoly power over network and syndicated programming within their respective market areas. Over the past few years, many broadcasters have used their monopoly powers to demand 100%, 200% and even 300% rate increases during contract negotiations. This has driven up cable and satellite rates and forced American consumers to pay billions of dollars for "free" over-the-air television.

<sup>1</sup> Depending on the terms of their contract, certain customers on promotional rates may or may not receive this rate change at this time.

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Beginning in May, Mediacom will institute a Local Broadcast Station Surcharge equal to fee increases the local broadcast stations in your market have demanded we pay to them since the start of 2012. By bringing more transparency to the unjustified fee increases being taken by local broadcast stations, we hope to draw the attention of consumers and their elected representatives to this rapidly escalating problem. As the saying goes, sunlight is the best disinfectant and we hope shedding more light on this issue will force lawmakers in Washington to fix this outdated regime.

Unfortunately, local broadcasters aren't the only programmers causing cable and satellite prices to rise. Other channel owners, especially national and regional sports networks, are insisting on huge rate increases that are driving up the cost of Family Cable. One look at the skyrocketing rights fees announced with recent deals and it is easy to see that the marketplace for live televised sports is out of control. The television rights to the Los Angeles Lakers and Los Angeles Dodgers recently sold for \$3 billion and \$7 billion respectively. These are just two in a long list of examples of the unrestrained spending that has become the hallmark of the sports programming business.

Since the programming community has been unwilling to exercise even the slightest measure of self-restraint when it comes to reigning in their spending or increasing their price demands, Mediacom has taken the fight to Washington. We have asked the Federal Communications Commission and Members of Congress to protect senior citizens, low-income households and rural residents from practices that are rendering pay television unaffordable for more and more Americans. We even started a petition asking President Obama for help (see <http://www.change.org/petitions/white-house-protect-tv-viewers-from-broadcast-blackouts-and-unfair-price-increases>). We invite the leaders of your community to do the same.

Despite the business challenges we face, Mediacom appreciates the opportunity to continue to serve your community's telecommunications needs. If you have any questions, please contact me directly at 850-934-7701 or [dservies@mediacomcc.com](mailto:dservies@mediacomcc.com).

Yours sincerely,

David Servies  
Vice President, Area Operations

# St. Joseph Bay Humane Society

## AN URGENT APPEAL

Dear Friends,

**As Director of the St. Joseph Bay Humane Society for the past 5 years, I sincerely THANK YOU for your faithful partnership in fulfilling our mission of relieving animal suffering, preventing animal cruelty, promoting humane education, and enhancing the animal and human bond.**

I am proud to look back on our exceptional accomplishments and eager to surge forward alongside you to another year dedicated to saving lives and second chances!

But, before we do...let us first reflect on the true reason why **"we give our all"** to save the innocent lives that need us!" In 2012 over 950 unwanted, abused and neglected animals needed our help! This was over 200 more animals than 2011! **Because of your financial contributions and support, we were able to rescue, treat and rehabilitate the ones the needed us the most!** As you read these astonishing stories, remember without you, these triumphs would not be possible!

**They are counting on us for care, compassion and hope!**

### *Hero...a brave will to live*

A volunteer drove up with a little black lab mix puppy in the back seat of her car; she walked into the Humane Society without a word. With tears coming down, she could only motion to me to follow her out to her car. As I walked over to her back seat, she mumbled the words "this is the saddest thing I've ever seen". I took a deep breath and prepared myself. I opened the car door...there was a puppy, sitting there with his tail wagging. When he looked up at me, I was horrified! And amazed this puppy was still alive! A collar or wire had been embedded deep into his neck, cutting the flesh as he grew. It was no longer there, but the life-threatening injury circling his neck was. He was young and must have spent most of his life on the end of a chain, dying a slow and painful death! Despite this, he had a HEROIC strength and will to live! Now it was up to us! We provided Hero with the medical treatment and humane care needed to save his life. He joined our DAWGS in Prison class where he finished his rehabilitation while receiving obedience training to prepare him for his new life! Hero is a DAWGS in Prison Graduate and is deeply loved by his new family!



TO SAVE LIVES

Providing the medical care to help dogs like Hero is a tremendous challenge. Our intake numbers continue to increase! Each year, we encounter more and more animals that need us! So many of them are abandoned, abused, injured and scared! Without our supporters, saving these lives would not be possible!

**With your contribution today, more animals like Hero will have a second chance! We need your commitment to continue to save more lives from abuse and neglect!**

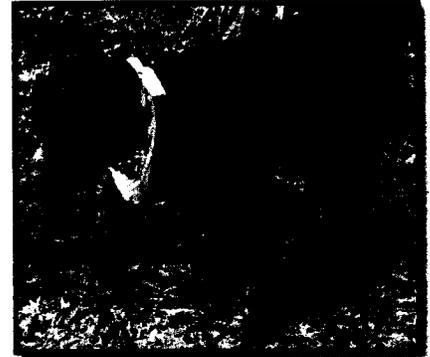
In our commitment to save as many lives as possible, we rely on rescue partners to help us rehabilitate and adopt out our pets. Here is a story of one such dog, destined to die without this help!

#### **A dog named Orson**

When Orson hobbled into the shelter, this gentle, friendly pure-bred chocolate lab was extremely dehydrated, malnourished and suffering from his painful injuries. His fourth leg was lifted up by his side and he only had limited use of his third one. After the vet's exam we learned Orson needed surgery on both of his back hips. On one side, he had been hit by a vehicle and on the other had been shot, with the bullets shattering his hip joint. On top of these injuries, Orson was also sick with advanced heartworm disease.

With the extent of his condition, we were facing thousands in medical cost and almost a year of extensive surgeries and rehabilitation to help Orson.

We knew the stakes were high, but Orson had fought this long...and now it was up to us to continue his fight! This is what we did! With the help of our rescue partner, Orson is happily living with his foster family near Tampa where he is receiving the very best medical care and treatment until he is ready for his new loving family!



Your contributions make it possible to fund these life-saving transports to rescue organizations for dogs like Orson! **PLEASE MAKE A DONATION TODAY!**

2013 has begun and our mission continues! We need your continued commitment as we move through another year of saving lives. One such life was a special New Year's kitty we named Uno.

#### **Uno....Number One of the New Year**

Uno was discovered while living as a stray, surviving off of trash out of a nearby dumpster. He was a tiny little thing, scared of the outside world! Uno was found by two of our dedicated staff members who spent countless days doing everything they could to catch him. And one morning they found him shivering, wet and cold in the ditch near his "dumpster home." This time when they went to grab him, he didn't move, fight or try to run away. Uno was brought into the shelter extremely flea infested, malnourished and starving for a meal. Despite the uncertainty of his new life, Uno must have known we were here to help! He lapped up his food, endured his bath, vaccine and medication regimen and never stopped purring through it all!



I share with you these victories to **THANK YOU** for the lives that you have saved! And to remind you, that our work is not done! Each year more and more unwanted pets need us! With an already stretched budget, we struggle tirelessly to raise funds, care for, and find loving homes for these animals. **Without your donations, our work would not be possible! Every contribution counts!**

**YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!** Your gift **TODAY** of any amount will help to offset the overwhelming cost we're burdened with for our animals care and support.

Thank you again for your compassion and dedication to these animals that so greatly enrich our lives!

Sincerely,

*Melody*

Melody Townsend, Shelter Director

**OUR PETS NEED YOU! DONATE TODAY!**

1007 Tenth St., Port St. Joe, FL 32456

850-227-1103 / townsend.hsdirector@gmail.com

SJBHumaneSociety.org / dawgsinprison.com

**COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN WITH YOUR GENEROUS DONATION TODAY!!!**

1007 Tenth St., Port St. Joe, FL 32456

**DONATIONS CAN ALSO BE MAKE ONLINE AT: [SJBHumaneSociety.org](http://SJBHumaneSociety.org)**

*When making your pledge, please remember the faces and stories of the pets' lives you are saving!*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Please charge my VISA MASTER EXP: \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

One time gift (and/or) Please debit my monthly gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, starting \_\_\_\_\_ until I cancel.

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to help my contribution go further by signing up to receive my correspondence via email

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to continue receiving correspondence by mail

I would like to receive additional information about: \_\_\_\_\_