



Countryside Living...

A PERIODIC PUBLICATION OF THE DONALD ROSS LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.



Park Development Continues

Volunteers have recently had several meetings as they prepare for extensive fund raising to help cover the costs of the Twisty Pines Playground. During this time the property is continuing to be cleared, debris removed, and

shortly the palms will be planted along the southern side to buffer the park from adjoining neighbors.

Park committee members are also meeting with staff from the Palm Beach County Park department to assist us with the design of the areas around the Playground.

Estimates are currently also being obtained to have the trees in the front entrance moved to the park, before the road construction starts.

Currently the plans are to have the build day for Twisty Pines Playground in the beginning of the year in 2009.

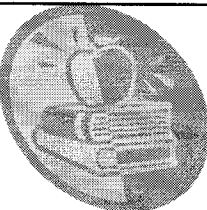


Elections Coming Up

Elections are scheduled for openings on both the Palm Beach Country Estates Landowners Association and the South Indian River Water Control Boards. The Landowners Association will be filling 3 positions in its annual meeting on May 20. The openings are for President, 1st Vice President and Secretary. Current candidates that have announced they will be running are Chris Reinhardt, current secretary has announced she will run for President. Kevin Baker, currently 1st Vice President, will be running for 1st Vice President. No one has announced to date the will be running for the open Secretary position.

South Indian River Water Control Board will have one opening that will be filled at its annual meeting in September. Currently Tom Powell who is on the SIRWCD Board has announced his intention to run for re-election on the Board.

Anyone interested in running for these positions can contact the respective associations for more information.



Mirasol Elementary

The following information is provided as a result of an email we received from Maureen Werner, the new Principal of the new Marsh Pointe Elementary School. The School Board officially accepted the name Marsh Pointe Elementary School this evening at the meeting.

I am just relieved that I can move forward with setting up our bank accounts, school logo, marquee, official stationery, etc. We've been stuck in a holding pattern without the official adoption. We are the Marsh Pointe Elementary Panthers and our school colors are sky blue and yellow. I want to thank everyone for their ideas and suggestions and I liked every combination that you came up with. It's now going to be exciting to get everyone registered. Hopefully, you've seen the dates and times for our extended hours in the near future. These should also be posted at the front desk at each of the feeder schools. Please continue to spread the word to those not on this e-mail distribution list yet. You've all been a big help thus far and the community participation rate is outstanding! Registration dates are: April 28th, April 30th, May 5th and May 8th from 2:30-6:30 pm. You do not have to fill out the lengthy packet on the afternoon that you attend. Pick it up, take a brief tour

Officers and Committee Members

Officers:

President - Michael Danchuk	626-2530
1st Vice President - Kevin Baker	748-3376
2nd Vice President - Stephanie Duncan	575-7956
Treasure - Lynn Horne	972-4029
Secretary - Chris Reinhardt	743-8725

Committees:

COP Patrol & Disaster Assistance- Bill Bolds	626-7638
Entrance - Kirk Humphreys	748-4595
Beautification - Valerie Rozzo	743-3290
Car Shows - Scott Rice	723-5552
Helping Hands - Pam Malone	743-9912
Newsletter Editor/Advert. - Nicole Campbell	626-2530
Welcoming - Arie Strobel	748-6784
Sidewalks - Mike Danchuk	626-2530
Mom's Club - Sara Nakashian	748-7744
Disaster Response Team - Bill Bolds	626-7638
Parks - Bill Meyers	745-6632
Bob Berman	627-1118
Kirk Humphreys	748-4595
Chris Reinhardt	743-8725
Tim Brown	748-0709

Information:

Equestrian - Beverly Bean	575-4411
bbeaninc@bellsouth.net	
RV/Camping Club - Connie McCormick	744-2938
SIRWCD - www.sirwcd.org	747-0550
Landowners Association - www.myPBCE.org	
Park - www.twistypinesplayground.org	

Mirasol Cont.

of the school, take the packet home to fill out and then return it when you are able to do so. I must say, though, that the sooner I get the information, the sooner I can make some serious budgetary decisions. Also, to answer some of the immediate questions, We will have a school band and chorus, Safety Patrol for 5th graders, After Care and a Student Council. Once I meet with my entire faculty I will have a better grip on some of the other activities that the teachers will sponsor. Some mentions have been Chess, Environmental, Fitness, Academic Games, Math and Science Exploration, etc. These teachers bring a plethora of experiences and ideas from their current schools! Can't wait to make it happen. Once again, thank you for your continued support, cooperation and enthusiasm for the future of our Marsh Pointe Elementary Panthers! I feel the "Panther Pride" already! Congratulations! The school number is 366-6800!



Message from the President

Well this will be my last message as president. After about 20 years on the Board, that I totally enjoyed, I feel it is time to move on and get more new people involved. That is why I have been making it clear that I would not be running in the upcoming election. I hate imposed term limits or anything else that forces people to do things. That has always been my philosophy on how things should be, and were done, in Palm Beach Country Estates. I wish more politicians would consider term limiting themselves voluntarily, to get new ideas into the system. New leaders will make some learning mistakes, but one great new idea could justify all the small stumbles.

We have many new people moving into the Estates. A lot of them have no idea of the things that have been accomplished by volunteers and donations. Our association dues have always been low for a reason. We only raise money when residents want to contribute to a cause. I have never seen a problem in raising funds when residents felt they wanted something done and we needed money.

In the coming years I hope to contribute to our community by being a historian of sorts, and make scrapbooks of the things that we have done, showing how far we have come in Palm Beach Country Estates. I believe by remembering the past we can duplicate what has worked, and avoid making the same mistakes twice. Sometimes I wish our elected officials spent more time studying history for this reason. Therefore if you have any unusual pictures of events in Palm Beach Country Estates, that you feel others may be interested in, please bring them to my attention.

I also hope to work on a project that I feel Palm Beach Country Estates may be ready for, and I have been setting up the preliminary ground work for. As a result of the expansion of Donald Ross Road a lot of our front entrance will be eliminated. The eastern sign, will still remain, however it is on private property, and therefore could also someday be removed. I have for years thought of getting residents involved in purchasing this property and building a club house for the Estates on the property. This way we could incorporate an upscale entrance design, while having a facility that we could use for meetings and other activities by residents. In recent discussions I have had, the current owner has told me he would consider selling the property for this use, so now I am looking into the feasibility such a project. But again this is a venture that should only be done by those that want to invest in it. My plan is to set it up so all in PBCE can benefit, but only those that really feel strongly about it will make a financial commitment. I will provide more information and whether it is feasible as we get farther along.

I truly feel we live in the best place in northern Palm Beach County. You have some very dedicated individuals that have already stepped up to the plate and offered to run for the Board. Please stay active and support your Landowners Association and your community, and lets work together to preserve what Palm Beach Country Estates is.

Thank you for your years of support,

Michael Danchuk-President

Donald Ross/ Jog Road Connection

The Donald Ross Road/Jog Road construction has been delayed while the County has been getting Army Corp of Engineers approvals. The project will take over a year to complete once started, and will incorporate the sidewalks that are planned on Donald Ross Road. It will be up to the contractor to decide where to start, either at Hood Road going north, or Donald Ross heading south, so it is currently unknown when we will actually see construction. Currently it is anticipated that construction project will start towards the end of the year, and take about one year.

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Road Stabilization Test Approved

The Board of the South Indian River Water Control at their March meeting approved the test of a dust reducing and stabilization product on a section of road next to the district office in Jupiter Farms. It is hoped that the product known as Soiltac will be effective in reducing dust, and limit the washboards and ruts that occur on roads that have not been paved. If it works this could be an alternative to residents that do not want their roads paved, and the cost would much less than having pavement. Michael Danchuk has been working with the manufacturer on getting the test set up, and the company has agreed to provide the material for the test at a reduced cost. The product is currently used in many rural and park areas by the government, as well as overseas in high impact areas such as airport runways.

Car Show Postponed

The Palm Beach Country Estates car show originally scheduled for May 18, 2008 has been postponed. It will be shortly rescheduled for a new date. Anyone interested in participating should contact Scott Rice 723-5552 or Michael Danchuk 339-3485.

Plumbers for Water Available

Several local plumbers have come forth with special pricing to help those that want water lines hooked up. As a service to our residents we are providing their contact information. This information is also on our website under important information.

Enterprise Plumbing Services; Jen 744-7540; Gillespie Plumbing Services-339-6135 or 339-9269; Zicaro's Plumbing 515-0535

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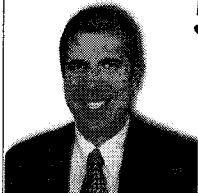
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Donald Ross Landowners Association

Meeting 3-11-08

Meeting was called to order at 7:35pm. Mike Danchuk, President, called the meeting to order. Board Officers Kevin Baker, 1st Vice President, Stephanie Duncan, 2nd Vice-President, Lynn Horne, Treasurer and Chris Reinhardt, Secretary were present. **Treasurer's Report**- Lynn reported there is \$4,668.00 in the operating account, Mike added that he had about \$9,300.00 in dues that he has received. He also said he was glad to report a lot of these are from residents who have not paid their dues in 3-4 years. He said there have been nice comments on the renewal forms and he said resident participation is what has kept this association strong. He also said there is about \$2,200.00 in newsletter ad billings that just went out. **Secretary's Report**- Minutes of the 11-13-07 and 1-15-08 meetings were printed in the February newsletter and were available at the meeting. Mike asked for a motion to approve the minutes for that meeting. Motion was approved. **Speakers** - John Archambo and Rich Kurz from the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County were here to speak. John said in unincorporated Palm Beach County, every five years they go through a competitive bid process for the collection of household and yard waste. The SWA assesses everyone in Palm Beach County, cities and unincorporated areas for the disposal costs. They operate transfer stations, landfills, waste energy facilities, recycling and compost facility all for \$126.00 per year for that service. The collection rates have been one of the lowest compared to other counties. They analyzed the trend in the market and realized other counties had substantial increases in the past few years. Up to 80%. Seeing this trend the staff met to try to minimize the increase in Palm Beach County. They didn't want to sacrifice services but realized there would have to be a balance in services. In the unincorporated areas the word unlimited in the contract became an issue. The average home in Palm Beach County has about 7 cubic yards of yard debris per year. In the unincorporated areas the haulers were seeing 20-30-60 cubic yards in one load. To maintain the level of services and keep the prices reasonable the staff recommended to the board that the unincorporated areas have a maximum of 6 cubic yards of yard waste per week. Yard waste to them meant grass clipping, tree and bush trimmings. He said after the 2004-2005 hurricanes people were putting down whole trees, roof and fence materials and because of the word "unlimited" the haulers had to take it and absorb the extra cost. Also construction debris like sheds and roofs were being put down at the curb. They never anticipated this kind of debris. That's why they limited it to 6 cubic yards per week countywide. 6 cubic yards is approximately three refrigerators side by side. Which is 312 cubic yards per year. A question was asked, what if a house goes over the 6 cubic yards in one load or has a dead pine tree that needs to be removed. He said if you hire a company to do the tree cutting ask them how much to remove the tree. Or if you cut your own down they have to be in segments of 50 lbs or less, stacked at the curb. He suggested only putting 6 cubic yards down and keeping the rest in your yard until the next pickup. He said the second option is they will have a mailer coming out with a name and number for a private company who charges \$65, plus \$18 per yard for removal. He said this is a special, locked in rate. The third option is calling a company in the yellow pages for a competitive bid. One resident said he could do 6 cubic yards in just one day with basic yard trimming. Most of the audience agreed. John said we have to realize that the cities in Palm Beach County put out practically no yard waste or very little if they do. He said the average is 4 cubic yards, but we are assessed 7 cubic yards to allow a little extra for the unincorporated, large lots like PBCE, Loxahatchee, Jupiter Farms and the Acreage. A question was asked "when does this go into effect?" He said the assessment starts October 1st, but the 6 cubic yard rule starts June 1st. He said they are running TV and radio ads stating all major trimming should be completed by April 30th. He said every year during June or July, when a storm is approaching they will get a call from someone saying they need a pile picked up. He said residents have all winter and spring to do this type of trimming. They need everyone to work together and not create this type of hazard during hurricane season. A resident asked what if he has more than 6 yards? John said the hauler is required to take at least 6 yards. He will then tag the rest with a bright colored tag and pick it up next week. John said all loose leaves and trimming should be bagged or containerized. He gets complaints all the time about the mess the trucks

leave behind. He said when they use the clam grabbers they can't pick up all the small loose things. Palm fronds can be put down whole. One resident asked if the SWA could put into their mailer something about lawn or landscaping services not dumping their trimmings in front of other people's houses or vacant lots. John said they have to be careful about what general information they put into their mailers. He suggested if we have our own newsletter we let people know about the problem and to keep an eye out. A resident said he has trees dying every month from the insects and not just until April. He said he has to cut them to keep the infestation from spreading to other trees. John said if there is an infestation or we have a lot of trees to cut down he suggested calling a company and some could do the chipping right then and take it away. Or if the owner does it to keep the sections at less than 50 lbs. John said he has heard complaints that the clam trucks can pick up more than 50 lbs so why don't they just do it. He said it's not that the clam truck can't do it, they can, it's when the truck gets back to the transfer station the load has to get pushed up a hill down into a tractor trailer and when it hits that trailer it's going to cause damage. And we the taxpayer have to pay for that damage. A resident asked in the event of a hurricane are they subsidized for more pickups or is the cost transferred onto us. He said during the 2004-2005 hurricanes they worked 7 days and week. They have to adhere to very strict guidelines to qualify for FEMA reimbursement. He said FEMA sends in ground crews to monitor the removal. John also asked if anyone has 20-30 acres they would like to rent to SWA to use after a storm for a temporary debris storage area they are running short on sites. He said they had 95% reimbursement because they followed all the rules. He said that was approximately \$62 million dollars. He also said as bad as it was we were very lucky during those storms. He has seen much worse. He said knowing your neighbors and people in your community who might need help after a storm is very important. A question was asked about illegal dumping. John said they work with the sheriffs department. He said to get a license plate and call the SWA and they will tell the sheriffs department. Rich left information: call the Sheriff Department at 688-3000 first to get a case number, then call Anna Howard at SWA, 697-2700 ext. 4718. John said haulers drive the neighborhoods for 2-3 month before putting in their bids. He said for the collection our old rate was \$9.42 the new rate will be \$42.71. They are 5-year contracts. He said this was the lowest bidder. Our new company will be Republic Industry. He said they even made it easier for companies to bid because so few companies are bidding. He said in comparison, what we were paying for \$9.42, the city of West Palm Beach, where they have automated service and limited yard debris removal, residents were paying \$19.00 per home. A typical automated service is where a home is only allowed one 95-gallon container that the truck picks up while the driver stays in the cab and that's it. Everything has to fit inside that container. He said recycling has increased the life of the landfill 10-12 years. He said recycling really does make a difference. He said we should encourage all our neighbors to recycle. Mike said his concern is that this increase is 141% and they are limiting our services. John said if they didn't limit the amount of the pickups the price would be much higher. Mike said he is worried about the increase in illegal dumping this may cause. He said some landscapers did put the trimmings in front of the owner's house to be hauled away. Now they may just dump it somewhere else. If someone illegally dumps in front of a vacant lot the owner is responsible to pay for the removal. John said we have been paying much lower rates, with more services, for the past 15 years as compared to other areas. This increase was inevitable. Mike thanked John for coming. Mike reminded everyone there are elections coming up in a few months and if any candidate wanted to come and introduce themselves to the community they are welcome. Mike said the Association doesn't support any particular candidates, but they are welcome to come and give a short introduction speech. He then introduced State House Democratic candidate for District 83, Rick Ford. Rick said he feels it's time for a change in the Florida House and for some proactive leadership. He feels representatives should go out and meet the people and find out what they want and need, not just sit in some office.

He said there a lot of problems in the state that need addressing and this legislature is not addressing them. He said he spent three days in Tallahassee for the opening of the legislative session and he said they are seriously in need of adult supervision. He said those who really do want to make changes have a difficult time due to the influence of the insurance companies and special interests in Tallahassee and on the legislature. He said there seemed to be a disparity between the majority and minority party to the point of disrespect for each other. As he was watching from the house floor, someone would be speaking and everyone else would be grouped together chatting and not paying any attention. He feels we need someone who will address our problems such as the insurance problem, schools, funding the class size amendment, reforming the FCAT, and looking beyond Amendment 1, which passed in January dealing with the tax problems. He feels the \$240.00 dollars that we are supposed to be saving in taxes isn't going to make that much of a difference to us in comparison to the millions of dollars it cut from the schools budgets to fund that amendment. He said there are other ideas out there regarding the tax problem. One is making a uniform exemption for homestead and non-homestead homes indexed to the percentage of the home instead of a set value. So as the value of your home grows so does your exemption. He said this proposal might be on the ballot if it is passed in Tallahassee. He said he would like to be our representative and he was leaving some informational material for anyone who wanted it. He said there are two ways to get on the ballot. One way is to pay a lot of money the other is to collect signatures. So he was leaving ballot petitions for anyone who wanted to sign. He said this is just to get his name on the ballot, by signing you are not committed to voting for him. He said one of his personal issues is universal health care. He believes Medicare should be extended to cover all. Not just those over 60. He said he has a Power Point presentation if at a later date anyone is interested. He said more people are becoming involved in politics because of the close race last election in the state. He has an opponent in the Democratic primary, so does Republican Carl Domino. He said things are very much in flux. If you look at the national level people are ready for a change. He said the country and the state have been going in the wrong direction. It's time for a change. A question was asked if we had a single payer system we wouldn't of had such a high increase in our SWA bill because the old health care wouldn't be included. Rick said yes. He said employers would have a slight increase in Medicare but the health care premium would go down and they could pass that savings on. As an example, he said 30% of his wives gross pay goes to paying health insurance. Her employer has to match that. If she could pay only 5% she would have 25% extra disposable income to bring home. Rick said yes. He said employers would have a slight increase in Medicare but the health care premium would go down and they could pass that savings on. As an example, he said 30% of his wives gross pay goes to paying health insurance. Her employer has to match that. If she could pay only 5% she would have 25% extra disposable income to bring home. So would her employer. This would also take this issue off the bargaining table during union negotiations. He said if anyone would like him to speak more about this issue

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