

Countryside Living...

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

My Final Message from the President

As some of you may have heard, in December I resigned as President of the Donald Ross Landowners Association. While I've enjoyed being on the board right now there just doesn't seem to be enough time in the day to get everything done that I've committed to do. I thought, as my kids got older I'd have more time to myself, but it just hasn't worked out that way. They are both in high school now and it seems the older they get the more clubs and activities they are involved in.



When we first moved to PBCE in 2002 my daughters were 5 and 3. Before moving here my husband and I had lived in Palm Beach Gardens, Jupiter Farms and then had our kids in the Acreage. We specifically moved to PBCE because we knew the schools in this area and wanted our daughters to attend those schools. We also wanted to keep the country feel we were used to and wanted our daughters to grow up being close to nature and the environment.

When we first moved to PBCE we kept hearing about a park and playground that was going to be built. But year after year, still no park or playground. I'm not the type of person to just sit and wait and my kids weren't getting any younger. I wanted to have a community playground before they were too old to enjoy it. So I got involved. In 2006 a small group of us formed the Twisty Pines Playground Foundation. A 501(c)(3) specifically created to raise money for the playground. That same year the Donald Ross Landowners Association needed a new secretary and Mike Danchuk, the president of the board at that time asked if I would take the job. I thought this would be a great opportunity to keep up on what was happening with the park and neighborhood so I said yes. I was secretary for two years and in 2008, when Mike decided to retire, I became president.

This was a busy time for the Playground Foundation and the DRLA. As president of both organizations I was involved in fundraisers and meetings with Palm Beach County Commissioner Karen Marcus, Palm Beach County Zoning Department, Parks Department and SIRWCD regarding the future of the park. We also started clearing the park site of invasive or non-native vegetation by having volunteer park clearing days. First by hand, then some residents brought out their bobcats and backhoes. We were so happy to see those machines. Things really started moving on the park then and all because the community was coming together to make it happen.

Around this same time the neighborhood was having Jupiter water installed and there always seemed to be some kind of issue between residents and the contractor or the county. But we got through it and whether you're hooked up to city water or not it's really a nice feeling to have those fire hydrants close by. They even helped lower some residents insurance.

We replaced the old rotting wood front entrance signs with the new more modern sign through a community vote. Residents voted on three designs we came up with and the design that won was installed. Kevin Baker and I tore down the old green painted wood on top of the signs and patched the stucco and Sheri Murray and I painted the new colors. We then had electricity installed to the west wall so both our signs could be lit up at night. I took on the responsibility of maintaining the lights at the front entrance. This

Officers and Committee Member

Officers:

President -	Kevin Baker	748-3376
	Kevin.Baker@thetreet.com	
1st Vice President -	Carol-Sue Ryan	747-3233
	ca.sueryan@yahoo.com	
2nd Vice President -	Jason McFarland	951-9977
	jason.t.mcfarland@gmail.com	
Treasure -	Kevin Parkes	441-2855
	parkescpa@yahoo.com	
Secretary -	Ellen Meehan	401-9331
	ellen1981@live.com	

Committees:

Newsletter Editor/Advert. -	Carol-Sue Ryan	747-3233
	ca.sueryan@yahoo.com	
COP Patrol & Disaster Assistance -	Mike Ryan	762-3514
	alaei@bellsouth.net	
	Bill Bolds	626-7638
	Bbolds@bellsouth.net	
Neighborhood Watch -	Cindy Divine	744-8122
	Divinelabs@aol.com	
Park/Playground -	Sheri Murray	601-1647
	Chris Reinhardt	762-1281
	Sarah Applegate	741-1140
	Bob Berman	627-1118
Mom's Club -	Rose Moon	
	rdlouca@yahoo.com	
Neighborhood Beautification -	Ken Trapasso	578-9323
	trapassok@comcast.net	

Information:

Donald Ross/PBCE Landowners Association - www.mypbce.org



www.facebook.com/pages/Palm-Beach-Country-Estates-Neighbors

Park/Playground - www.twistypinesplayground.org

Neighborhood Watch - pbceiw@aol.com

SIRWCD - www.sirwcd.org 747-0550

Equestrian - Beverly Bean 575-4411

Community Historian - Mike Danchuk 626-2530

Wetjets@aol.com

Webmaster - Help Wanted...

Continued on Page 4, Presidents Message

C.O.P's on Patrol

Volunteers with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department Citizen Observer Patrol Bicycle Unit were on hand for a saturation patrol at Riverbend Park during the recent annual Pioneer's Day event. The Bicycle Unit volunteers regularly patrol their communities and parks throughout Palm Beach County providing extra eyes to report suspicious activity and to help citizens in need of assistance. The bike unit is just one of many Sheriff's Volunteer Units that serve Palm Beach County.



Left to right: Bruce Nole, Mike Ryan, Paul Hirsch, Carol-Sue Ryan, Dave Hendrick, Ron Stux, Richard Freshley, Verna Freshley

South Indian River Water Control District

Annual Landowners Meeting September 19, 2013

The Annual Landowners Meeting capped off the nominations and last day to submit ballots for Election of Board Supervisors. The only two nominations were for the two incumbents, Michael Danchuk, and Michael Ryan, both residents of Palm Beach Country Estates. Mr. Danchuk was first elected to the Board in 2001 and is the current board president. Mr. Ryan was first elected in 2010 and is seeking a second term.

The other big highlight of the evening was the District Engineer's Report. Our previous staff engineer was Lennart Lindahl who retired recently to become the Assistant Executive Director for South Florida Water Management District. The District's new engineer is Amy Eason. Ms. Eason has worked closely with Mr. Lindahl for many years, and gave an excellent report on the District's activities over the last year. No shock to any of us who live out here is that we had lots of rain. The District averages 65" of rain a year and that average includes hurricane years. From May to mid-September we've accumulated 46.3 inches of rain with no tropical storms!

OGEM paving projects should start late October to early November. Asphalt paving should start in December.

Manager of Operations, Mike Dillon, reported on the District's ongoing maintenance of the year. Mr. Dillon reported on canal cleaning progress and adjustment to drainage to alleviate the high rain amount incurred this year.

SIRWCD has a website full of useful information. It has

contact information for all of the board members and staff, as well as minutes for the meetings from the last several years. There's also information about improvement petitions, referendums, and much more. Visit at www.sirwcd.org. Monthly meetings are held at Jupiter High School on the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 PM.

I want to emphasize these are my personal observations of the events mentioned and are not the official opinion, nor record, of SIRWCD or its Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely

Mike Ryan, ryan@sirwcd.org, 747-3233



2014 DUES ARE NOW DUE

If you have not yet paid your January 2014 dues please do so and support your community.

Your dues help to offset the costs of the newsletter not covered by the ads, as well as pay for the maintenance of our front entrance and lighting, insurance, website, intersection street lighting, community events and special projects. Your membership gives you a vote during the May Annual Board Member Elections and voice on the issues that impact our community.

Please issue payment of \$35.00 to the:

**Donald Ross Landowners Association
P.O. Box 30638
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33420**

Donald Ross Landowners Minutes

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 7:31pm by Vice President Kevin Baker. In attendance: President Chris Reinhardt, 1st Vice President Kevin Baker, 2nd Vice President Carol-Sue Ryan, Secretary Ellen Meehan, and Treasurer Kevin Parkes.



Treasury Report: The association has \$11,000 in the operating account and \$11,000 in the legal account.

Secretary Report: The minutes from the meetings will be in the next newsletter. When we get a new webmaster the minutes will be posted on the website. **Old Business**

Trunk-or-Treat: The Halloween Trunk-or-Treat event (fifth annual) was a great success with 29 vehicles and 230 children participating. Thank you to participating trunks and the organizers.

Park and Playground: The Park is available for use by the residents for events. Contact one of the board members and SIRWCD to ensure no other events are scheduled.

Winter Festival: We would like to have a neighborhood Winter Festival in the new park area in January or February. Please contact the board if you can plan and organize or assist with this event.

www.mypbce.org: This is our community website. The website administrator has moved away so let us know if you can assist in administering this website.

Insurance: We continue to work on the urgent issue of the high cost of insurance. As we look at new ways to improve the ISO rating for our community to keep our prices down, individual residents can call different insurance companies if their rates go up - not all companies will look at the ISO rating the same. **Speeding on 69:** We will continue efforts to reduce speeding in PBCE and particularly on 69th. We will look into installing a "Thank You For Not Speeding" sign. Cars must yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk.

New Business

Guest Speaker #1: Officers from the Sheriff's Office District 3, which includes PBCE, addressed the residents on security in the neighborhood. There have been burglaries in PBCE but are relatively low compared to other areas in Palm Beach County. Deputies will be attending our meetings to keep us updated on policing efforts in our community. If you see anything suspicious or need to report a non-emergency, call the Sheriff's Office at 561-688-3400. You can also call Sgt. Hightower at 561 670-8210. You can email the officers at:

Sgt. James Hightower, Jr hightowerj@pbso.org

Deputy Keith Russell RussellK@pbso.org

Deputy Vance Harper, Jr HarperV@pbso.org

Guest Speaker #2: Marcia Lamel of the League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County made a presentation on the

Affordable Care Act and how it impacts you as an individual, family, or business. This is non-partisan presentation on the facts and details of the program and not the politics of the legislation. For ACA information they recommended: healthcare.gov or aarp.org. or calling 800-318-2596. Locally, excellent healthcare information is available at: pbclibrary.org/consumer-health. You can contact the League of Women Voters at: P.O. Box 6208, Delray Beach, FL 33482, 561-276-4898, or lwvpbc.org.

Guest Speaker #3: LTC Thaddeus "THAD" Hamilton is a Candidate for Florida Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services. He is a Democrat and is seeking support in his campaign and in the upcoming election. His priorities are education, jobs & the economy, the environment, and agriculture and consumer protection. For further information you can contact: thadcampaign@bellsouth.net, website thad2014.com, or phone 954-547-9115.

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PBCE Resident

New Board Members Sworn in at South Indian River Water Control District Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting

Jupiter, FL – Michael Danchuk and Michael Ryan were sworn in at the monthly board meeting of the South Indian River Water Control District (SIRWCD) Board of Supervisors on November 21, 2013. The board accepted the certified results from the Supervisor of Elections office with Mr. Danchuk receiving 1,057 votes and Mr. Ryan receiving 1,118 votes. Mr. Danchuk has served on the board since 2001 and Mr. Ryan since 2010.



Michael Danchuk was elected President, Tom Rice as Vice-President, and Jane Woodward as Secretary. In addition, the following committee heads remain in their positions – Tom Powell - Budgeting; Tom Rice - Communications; Michael Ryan - Parks, Recreation and Water; and Stephen Hinkle - Policies and Procedures.

Amy Eason, presented the District Engineer's report and reviewed the 17th Plan of Improvements bids for asphalt paving in Palm Beach Country Estates. Four bids were received with Lynch Paving submitting the low bid, which came in under design estimates. She asked the board for the authorization to proceed with the project and award the contract to Lynch Paving and the board approved it unanimously.

She added that the contractor for the open-graded emulsified bid OGEM project in Jupiter Farms has mobilized their equipment to begin construction.

Mrs. Eason reported that she had received and verified new petitions for construction of asphalt roadways on the following roadways in Palm Beach Country:

- 67th Trail N between 146th Road N and 149th Place N
- 74th Avenue N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 88th Trail N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N

The following roadway in Jupiter Farms has petitioned for the application of Open-Graded Emulsified Mix (OGEM):

- 164th Court N between Mellen Lane and Alexander Run

She added that several more petitions are being circulated by landowners, but had yet to be returned. The Board discussed whether there would be enough road mileage to move forward with referendums and noted that landowners circulating petitions need to get them in before the end of the year should they wish to proceed.

District Treasurer Charles Haas presented the proposal from Regions Bank for the financing of the 17th Plan of Improvements, noting a very favorable rate of 3.75% with a term of 12 years, which is within the parameters of the referendum. He recommended accepting the proposal and

the District Attorney, William Capko, had prepared a resolution authorizing the issuance of a promissory note to provide funds for the District's 17th Plan of Improvements. After discussion, the board unanimously approved the resolution. Mr. Haas estimated the closing would be in early December.

Mr. Haas also presented a cell site lease purchase proposal from Unicom for \$330,000 to buy out the District's remainder of the cell tower lease with Verizon. Mr. Haas noted the District would make a minimum of \$633,885 over the remaining 18-year term of the lease and there could be the potential for additional revenue if more providers secured space on the tower. After discussion, the Board directed Manager of Operations, Michael Dillon to decline the offer.

Mr. Dillon reported that the District had purchased a new mower assembly for the Kobelco excavator and they can now reach across the canals to clear vegetation.

SIRWCD serves Palm Beach Country Estates, Jupiter Farms, Egret Landing and the Jupiter Park of Commerce. For more information contact the District office at 747-0550.

Presidents Message

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includes purchasing and replacing broken light fixtures and burnt out bulbs. I've always enjoyed seeing the holiday lights at Abacoa and across Donald Ross at Eastpointe so my daughters and I also put up holiday lights at our front entrance so our neighborhood wouldn't be left out. If someone would like to take on this task I have a box of lights I can pass on.

I'd also like to pass on the newsletter duties. I collect and research information, write the Presidents Message and other articles, design and create the community newsletter. I send the file to the board for approval and then the printer to be printed and mailed to the community and to the PBCE web master to be put up on the PBCE website. The other members of the board have said they would take on the writing duties, we just need someone to put everything together. I can pass on all the ads and artwork files.

Your new board consists of Kevin Baker who moved up from 1st Vice President to President, Carol-Sue Ryan who moved up from 2nd Vice President to 1st Vice President. Carol-Sue was appointed 2nd Vice President after Sheri Murray retired in September. Jason McFarland was appointed 2nd Vice President. Kevin Parkes and Ellen Meehan will remain as Treasurer and Secretary. Thank you Kevin, Carol-Sue and Jason for taking on the new jobs!

Thanks to everyone who has helped on the board, with events and fundraisers. I plan to stay on the board of the Twisty Pines Playground Foundation until the remaining amenities have been built. So you can't get rid of me that easily.

See you at the next event or fundraiser.

Chris Reinhardt

Donald Ross Landowners Minutes

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Guest Speaker #4: Kenneth Trapasso of Security Cameras of Palm Beach addressed the residents regarding security cameras and demonstrated the state-of-the art equipment available. For more information call 561-578-0557 or go to: www.securitycamerasofpalmbeach.com. You can also email at ken@securitycamerasofpalmbeach.com.



Meeting was adjourned 9:18pm

Submitted by: Ellen Meehan, Secretary

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 7:36pm by President Chris Reinhardt. In attendance: President Chris Reinhardt, 1st Vice President Kevin Baker, 2nd Vice President Carol Ryan, Secretary Ellen Meehan and Treasurer Kevin Parkes.

President Report: Our 2nd Vice President Sheri Murray has decided to resign the position and Carol Ryan has been appointed by the board to fill the position. Thank you to Sheri for all her years of service on the board and to Carol for accepting the position.

Treasury Report: The association has \$24,000 with \$14,500 in the operating account and \$9500 in the legal account.

Secretary Report: The minutes of the July meeting are on the website and will be in the next newsletter along with the September minutes.

Old Business

Neighborhood Watch: Crime and burglaries have decreased lately with just a few incidents in PBCE this summer. The sheriff's department has been diligent in attempts to stop the pillowcase burglary ring and it seems to be helping in our neighborhood. The recent incidents of boat thefts has also decreased. We're always looking for new volunteers for our COP program. Road and Canal Maintenance: It is the job of SIRWCD to arrange for cleaning the debris in and around the Canals. Yard Waste and debris should not be left at the end of canals because the county usually will not pick it up unless it is in front of the homeowners' properties. Park and Playground: The park is open for business and residents are welcome to use the park for events. Contact the Board and SIRWCD to let them know if you plan on having a large event just to ensure that there is no conflict with other events. There is electricity at the park but not consumable water.

Insurance Costs: We are still looking into all possible alternatives for reducing the cost of insurance for PBCE residents particularly the issue of fire trucks having the closer access of 5 miles or less to PBCE residents. One of the options we're looking into is having the fire station in Jupiter (off Indiantown) access PBCE via the C18 canal which would require a bridge over the canal for emergency vehicles only. Any and all possible options are being investigated.

Trunk or Treat: We will be having the trunk or treat event again this year on Saturday, October 27th.

New Business

Excessive Speeding: One resident who lives on 69th Drive is very concerned about the amount of speeding taking place on 69th along with other traffic violations such as passing stopped school buses. The authorities were contacted and a study was conducted on actual driving speeds on 69th. A discussion ensued regarding the results of the traffic study. The resident would like to have speeding tables on 69th and is looking into the possibility. We will be trying all methods possible to stop the problem and avoid this ultimate step of speeding tables. Residents must obey all traffic laws in PBCE.

Meeting was adjourned 8:22pm

Submitted by: Ellen Meehan, Secretary

Minutes, July 9, 2013


Meeting was called to order at 7:37pm by Vice President Kevin Baker. In attendance: President Chris Reinhardt, 1st Vice President Kevin Baker, Treasurer Kevin Parkes, and Secretary Ellen Meehan. 2nd Vice President Sheri Murray was unable to attend.

Guest Speakers: Two guest speakers presented at the meeting:

1. Fire Chief Jeff Collins spoke to the residents regarding the cost of insurance in PBCE and the relationship to the fire stations. See the Newsletter for a summary on this topic.

2. Alan Schlesinger spoke to the residents regarding his political campaign. He is running to be the Representative for Florida District 18 and addressed the issues of healthcare, government efficiency, and the economic crisis. More information

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

JOIN THE LEAGUE
Be a Voice for Citizens! Be a Force for Change!

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, political organization that promotes political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and acts on selected governmental issues.

WHO ARE THE MEMBERS?
Membership in the League of Women Voters, the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country, is open to men and women of all ages. Our members make a visible difference by serving as community leaders using their experience to create positive, lasting change in our communities.

WHY SHOULD I JOIN?
Through participation in League projects, you will:
· contribute valuable service to the community
· gain knowledge and experience through the study and discussion of timely and important topics
· discover new interests, develop new skills and learn about crucial issues in your community
make professional contacts and develop lasting friendships as you meet others in League who share your interests

HOW MUCH TIME DOES IT TAKE?
It's up to you! Many members choose to support the League only with their annual dues. Your membership alone gives us the political influence needed to build a voice for citizens and a force for change. We cover a broad spectrum of issues and concerns; you may choose to become involved in one or more of them by actively participating in a group study, or listening to a panel of experts at a meeting or just reading about them in one of our publications.

WHAT DO I GET?
You automatically become a member of LWV Florida and LWV of the United States. You will receive their publications along with the newsletter from the Palm Beach County League of Women Voters called *Voter* which is usually published 10 times each year. You will have the knowledge that you are adding your voice to a powerful force of members from all 50 states, Washington DC, the Virgin Islands, and Hong Kong.

HOW DO I JOIN?
It's easy! Contact us at 561-276-4898 or complete application at www.leagueofwv.org. We'd be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Donald Ross Landowners Minutes

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can be found on his website schlesingerforcongress.com or by calling his office 772-245-0181.

Treasury Report: The association has \$21,500 in the operating account and \$9,500 in the legal fund.

Secretary Report: The minutes of the May meeting were approved as published in the July Newsletter.

Old Business:

PBCE July 4 Celebration: Thank you to Ken and Debbie Trapasso for organizing our second annual July 4 parade and celebration in our community park. Attendance was excellent, and the event was very successful. Thank you also to Bob Berman for his assistance and donations and thanks to everyone who volunteered and helped out with this fun event.



Neighborhood Watch: Mike Ryan reported that our deputy for this area has been reassigned but the COPS program is still running well. There are still incidents from the pillow-case burglary ring but many offenders have already been arrested. Police went house-to-house talking to boat owners regarding recent boat thefts in the area and they are working diligently to stop this recent crime wave.

New Business:

PBCE Budget: A resident questioned how we plan to spend the \$21,000 in our budget. We usually start out with this approximate amount of money each year and spend about \$3000 per newsletter and \$4000 on insurance. Currently the extra money is being spent on the July 4 celebration, front entrance maintenance and electricity, lighting at some intersections, and future neighborhood cleanup events. We usually do spend all the funds in the budget each year with just a small rollover at year-end.

Bill HB 855: Governor Scott vetoed the bill HB 855 which would have allowed SIRWCD to spend funds on improvements to our park. Now we will have to find other ways to work with the county and SIRWCD, along with fundraising, to make improvements to our park.

Front Entrance: A resident asked why the flattened reflector poles at the front entrance median have not been repaired. Palm Beach County is in charge of these roads and we have requested that the flattened poles be removed and not be re-installed since they will just get run over again, and again, and again.

Facebook: Be sure to like the page and join the "Palm Beach Country Estates Neighbors" group on Facebook to get neighborhood updates and postings.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:16pm

Submitted by Ellen Meehan, Secretary

Donate your safe, clean reusables to Resource Depot's New Location

Resource Depot is a Palm Beach County 501c3 not-for-profit organization that benefits education, the arts and the environment. All donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by federal and state law.



Your donation helps...

TEACHERS stretch their budgets by receiving free classroom supplies...STUDENTS learn to use their imagination and expand their problem solving capabilities by creating with unique project materials...and we help preserve our ENVIRONMENT by keeping these items out of the landfill for one more use, or perhaps forever!

Give those items you no longer need a second (or third, or even fourth!) life by bringing them to Resource Depot! What sorts of items do we accept? The short answer is "anything clean, safe and reusable with a classroom in mind."

Things we love...

- Office supplies
- Tiles and tile samples
- Wallpaper sample books
- Carpet squares (12x12 or larger)
- Paper of all shapes, sizes, types and colors
- Writing utensils (in working order, please!)
- Art supplies and mediums of all types (in usable condition)
- Craft materials such as buttons, ribbon, yarn or beads
- Science lab supplies and equipment
- Styrofoam pieces (large styrofoam makes great sculptures!)
- Educational supplies (ex.- tangrams, classroom posters)...and supplies in quantities that could benefit an entire class



Please note, the list above is not inclusive...these are just a few examples to help you get started. Please contact Mike Way at mway@resourcedepot.net or 561.882.0090 if you have a question about your item!

Items we accept on a limited basis or not at all...clothing other than school uniforms or smocks, knick knacks, figurines and other "garage sale" type items (please take these to a thrift store)...electronics, furniture, household goods and appliances (please contact us to discuss your specific items)...plastic packaging materials (please recycle these at home)...medicine containers (please dispose of these per your pharmacist's guidelines).

Donations are welcome all week long...we're here Monday - Friday for donation drop offs.

Shopping Hours: Tue, Wed, Thu 11am-5pm Sat 9am-1pm

2510 Florida Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL 33401,

Tel: 561-882-0090 Fax: 561-882-0091

Trust Fund Set Up For The Orphaned Daughters of PBCE Resident Kimberly Lindsey

I'm sure by now most of you have heard of the tragic news that one of our neighbors has been murdered, leaving behind three orphaned daughters. Kimberly Lindsey was a nurse at Bak Middle School of the Arts and lived with her daughters on 154th. She was killed by her ex-husband who then, a few days later, died of an overdose. It hasn't been determined yet if the overdose was accidental or a suicide.

The two older sisters, Sarah, 20, and Sofia, 18 have been granted guardianship of younger sister Savannah, 16. All three are still students. Sarah goes to University of Florida in Gainesville, Sofia goes to Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers and Savannah goes to Cardinal Newman High School.

These young girls will have a lot to deal with. Their aunt and uncle have offered to take on the huge responsibility of taking the three girls in. But, the girls will need money to finish school, tuition, dormitory or rent, books, food, clothes, etc.

According to a 11/5/13 Palm Beach Post article, a trust fund has been set up for Lindsey's three daughters. Anyone who wants to contribute can send a check or money order to: Daughters of Kimberly Lindsey Trust to Mitchell Kitroser PA, 8895 N Military Trail, Suite C-201, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410 or online using PayPal, at <http://www.daughtersofkimtrust.com>.

It would be nice if the PBCE community came together to help these girls in this very difficult time. Please consider a donation to the girls' trust fund.

Thank you,
Chris Reinhardt

Living Oaks Ministries

Sunday Worship Service 10:30AM

We welcome you to join us!

Ministries available for the whole family.

Please check us out on the web!

www.livingoaks.org

14156 64th Drive N, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418



YARD SALE FUNDRAISER

Where & When:

**Margaret Berman Memorial Park,
corner of 69th Dr. & 155th Pl.
in Palm Beach Country Estates
Saturday, March 1, 2014
7 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

**The William T. Dwyer High School
Marching Panther Band will be
holding a community/family yard
sale as a fundraiser for the band.**

**Check your closets, attic and garage.
The Dwyer Band is looking for donated
items to sell at the yard sale. Please
drop off your items early, between 6
and 6:30 a.m. Saturday morning. If you
can't make it to the park on March 1
you can drop off your items early.
Contact Chris Reinhardt at 762-1281
or reinhardm@bellsouth.net
for more information.**

**We need volunteers to help run the
event. Please contact Stefanie Reist at
btmehp@comcast.net or
561-254-3048 or Rick Hoagland at
rhoaglan@bellsouth.net or
561-602-8946 to volunteer.**

**Don't forget to come out and shop
on March 1 and help support the
W.T. Dwyer Band!**

Palm Beach County Tax Collectors Office: *Fall-Winter Update*

The Palm Beach County Tax Collectors Office is trying to keep the community informed on issues involving their office and services they provide and has asked to be included in community newsletters. Anne M. Gannon, our Constitutional Tax Collector has sent out monthly updates that I have summarized to include in the newsletter.



Chris Reinhardt

Our gorgeous year-round climate attracts many who want to escape winter. Fondly referred to as "snowbirds," they contribute a lot of revenue to our local economy.

Tourist Development Tax

Our office collects Tourist Development Tax. If you rent accommodations to others for six months or less, you must pay Tourist Development Tax. The tax rate is 5 percent of the rental amount. Payments are due on the 20th of each month. If you need additional information, call (561) 355-3547 or email clientadvocate@taxcollectorpbc.com.

New in 2014: Beginning January 1, all Tourist Development Tax returns must include a Rental Unit Reporting Schedule. Forms can be downloaded at www.pbctax.com or pick one up at any service location.

Property Tax Payments

February is your last chance to receive a property tax discount. Payments received in our office by February 28 have a 1 percent discount. March payments have no discount. Taxes paid after March 31st are delinquent and charged late fees and interest.



save!

Apply today!

Catch a Break.
Sign up for the Installment Payment Plan and receive a discount.
Hurry, offer ends April 30.



ANNE M. GANNON
CONSTITUTIONAL TAX COLLECTOR
Serving Palm Beach County
Serving you.

Application online at www.pbctax.com

Catch a Break! Property owners can pay property taxes in four installments by applying for the Installment Payment Plan (IPP). Apply by completing the application and submitting it to our office by April 30. The first

installment must be paid on or before June 30 to remain on the plan. The remaining installments are due in September, December and March. You'll automatically be renewed by making the June payment each year. Plan participants receive a discount slightly under 4 percent. Apply online or pick up an application at any service center. Catch Some Savings Pay property taxes by January 31 to take advantage of the 2 percent discount. Avoid the lines by paying online. Search for your property and make your payment in the comfort of your home! We accept e-checks (free), and major credit cards (fee applies). Our office has been working hard to process your property tax payments. During November we collected \$2.29 billion of the \$3.025 billion billed for 2013 property taxes. This is a \$59 million increase over collections in the same month last year, thanks in large part to the preparation that allowed our office to begin collecting payments early.

2014 Tax Planner & Services Guides are Here!

The popular guide has helpful information on property tax, business tax, tourist development tax, motor vehicles and the REAL ID requirement. Inside you'll also find a calendar complete with important dates and reminders, so you'll never miss a deadline. View it online or pick up a copy at any of our service centers. If you need additional copies for your neighborhood or organization, just email your request to ClientAdvocate@taxcollectorpbc.com

REAL ID Deadline

An estimated 5.6 million travelers landed at Palm Beach International Airport in the past 12 months.

Our county is a prime destination choice for the Americas and worldwide. Many travelers prefer to fly over other transportation options. Air travelers know that since the terrorist attacks on 9.11, our airport security measures have increased dramatically. Driver licenses are the most often produced identification for air travel security checks.

That's why I want to share information about Real ID and why you need to have one. Congress passed the Real ID Act to improve the integrity and security of state-issued driver licenses and identification cards. The law is the direct result of the 9/11 terrorists. They were able to obtain valid state-issued driver licenses and IDs, which gave them credible identification necessary to live in our communities and board commercial flights.

You must be REAL ID'd by:

Dec. 1, 2014	Dec. 1, 2017
if you were born AFTER Dec. 1, 1964	if you were born BEFORE Dec. 1, 1964

Thirteen of the 18 terrorists lived and hatched their plot in South Florida.

The Department of Homeland Security, through the Real ID Act, requires every person bring specific and original documents to prove birth, social security number and residence. Florida was the first state to issue Real IDs in 2010.

We're counting down to the first REAL ID deadline and working to help everyone prepare. If you were born after December 1, 1964, you'll need a REAL ID by December 1, 2014. Everyone else has until December 1, 2017. A REAL ID will be required to board a commercial flight or enter a federal building. Don't wait until the last minute!

Check Your License/ID Card. If your license or ID card doesn't have a star in the upper right hand corner, you need a REAL ID. **Save Time.** Make your driver license appointment or check wait times online at www.pbctax.com or text 'waitpbc' to 41411. **Bring the Right Stuff.** You cannot become REAL ID'd online or through the mail! You must come in to a service center with the right documents.

Identification, bring one (original or certified copy):

Certified U.S. birth certificate (not hospital issued birth certificate)

U.S. passport in current name

Certificate of naturalization

Consular proof of birth abroad

** Additional required documents if you've legally changed your name:*

U.S. passport in current name OR

Original or certified copies of all marriage certificates OR court orders that show your name change(s) (uncertified photocopies are not valid)

Documents Showing Social Security Number, bring one (original):

Social Security card

W-2 form

Paycheck stub showing full Social Security number
1099 Form

Residential Address, (not post office box) bring two:

(Remember, both of these documents must be in your name.)

Deed, mortgage, payment booklet, or rental agreement
Florida vehicle registration or title (order a duplicate through the Constitutional Tax Collector)

Utility bill or hookup/work order

Mail from financial institutions including checking, savings, or investment account statements

Florida Voter Registration Card

Current automobile insurance policy or bill

Customers who reside with someone who do not have documents in their name can provide one proof of residential address from the person with whom they reside and self-certify by completing the certification of address form as the second proof (download form to the right).

Proof of Insurance Goes Digital

Ever been pulled over and get caught without your insurance card? If so, you probably received a ticket and paid a fine for not having proof of insurance.

Well, not any more.

A new law in Florida allows drivers to use an electronic device to show proof of insurance on a traffic stop.

It also allows drivers to use an electronic device to display proof of insurance when registering a motor vehicle.

Dont Text and Drive

Remember, starting October 1, 2013, you can receive a ticket for texting while driving. Let's keep our roads safe, don't text and drive.

Wishing you a healthy 2014.

Sincerely,

Anne M. Gannon

Constitutional Tax Collector



Gillespie Plumbing

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We need your help and participation!

We are looking for residents who are interested in being more involved with the community and might be willing to help in any of the following positions:

1. Newsletter Editor/Designer
2. Newsletter Contributor/Columnist
3. Webmaster for mypbce.org
4. Committee Chair/Helper for PBCE Events:
 - Earthday/Community Clean-up
 - Winter Festival
5. Other Committees or Activities
6. Neighborhood Watch email alerts

Please come to the upcoming meeting or contact one of us on the Board if you are interested in any of these positions.

The next PBCE Donald Ross Landowners meeting will be Tuesday, March 11, at 7:30 p.m. at the Living Oaks Ministries Church on 64th Drive. All residents are encouraged to attend.

Citizen Observer Patrol

Citizen Observer Patrol Update 10-13
Unit 103 Jupiter Farms / PBCE



It seems our area has been visited again by the pillowcase bandits. Their typical MO is to knock on the front door. If someone answers they have some lame story of why they are there and then leave. If this happens call the Sheriff's Dept. right away at 911. Try to get a description of the person and their car. If you shoe them away they will just go a couple blocks away and try again. If no-one is home they'll go around back and smash a sliding glass door in and enter your home. They tend to go for money, guns, and jewelry and leave.

Please report all crimes and suspicious people to the Sheriff's Dept. even if they seem insignificant. This helps the Sheriff's Dept. establish patterns that help solve crimes and catch the crooks. The Non-Emergency number is 688-3400.

Citizen Observer Patrol is a top notch organization that provides a great service to our communities and there are many time slots to fill to do a more thorough job. We have several new volunteers – Thank You! Please consider joining your neighbors to help keep our community safe.

COP is more important than you know, and easier than you think!

Sincerely,
Mike Ryan

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Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program



Almost every home has some type of chemical product that can be hazardous if not used, stored, or disposed of properly.

When they are no longer needed or usable we refer to them as "Household Hazardous Waste", or HHW for short.

Garage and Workshop

- Antifreeze
- Automotive Batteries
- Automotive Body Fillers
- Brake Fluid
- Diesel Fuel
- Engine Cleaners
- Engine Degreasers
- Flares (Marine, Road)
- Fluorescent Light Bulbs
- Gasoline
- Oil (automotive)
- Oil Filters

Hobby & Misc. Supplies

- Computers

• Televisions

- Batteries - All Kinds
- Ammunition
- Gun Cleaners
- Fireworks
- Flea Powder
- Lighter Fluid
- Nail Polish Remover
- Photo Chemicals

Lawn and Garden

- Fungicides
- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Pesticides
- Weed Killers

Home Maintenance

- Ammonia
- Bleach
- Fluorescent Light Bulbs (from thermostats)
- Mercury Thermometers
- Mineral Spirits
- Paint (oil based)
- Paint Thinners

Outdoor and Pool

- Chlorine
- Muriatic Acid
- Pool & Spa Chemicals
- Propane Cylinders

Jupiter, North County Transfer Station (unattended) Located on west side of Military Trail, just north of Donald Ross Road, the facility is located behind Abacoa Publix plaza. 14185 Military Trail (SWA Road)

Monday – Friday: 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM Saturday: 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM

The 4th of July Parade & Celebration was a huge hit !

The second annual 4th of July was a spectacular event. Our parade had more antique cars, fire trucks and participants than last year. We had a great crowd of people along the parade route, cheering and waving flags.

Our event was held at The Margaret Berman Memorial Park. We served hamburgers, hot dogs, wild boar, watermelon apple pie and ice cream. There was a bounce house donated by Berman Real Estate and a bicycle parade around the park. A special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. John Perez for bringing their 1912 diesel engine for all to view. The engine is the largest and oldest in the state of Florida. It was a great treat for me to see and everyone else too.

A Special thanks to the following local business's and families for donating to our event; Coastal Paving (Kurt Hiller), Berman Real Estate (Bob Berman), Porsche Mechanic Bill Rice and Family, The West Agency (Cathy Lee West), Gillespie Plumbing (Bill Gillespie), The Window Doctor, Hardies Parties, the Brown Family, Vince Izzo and the Trapasso Family.

To all who helped at the park, thank you so much! A Special thanks to Vince Izzo and Kurt Hiller for cooking. Thanks to Kevin Parkes for slicing all that watermelon and David Randell for taking pictures. A big thanks to Faith for scooping all that ice cream and Veronica for serving all day. All the volunteers who helped, thank you so much for making the day a great success. To all the people who donated at the park thank you. Thanks to the Donald Ross Land Owners Association.

A special thank you to my wife and family for helping to make this event happen. All their hard work planning, shopping and serving all day.

As for me I want to say thank you to everyone for helping and coming to support our neighborhood. It was great meeting all of you and I hope we can continue to have neighborhood events at our beautiful park.

Thank you,
Kenneth Trapasso

The Donald Ross Landowners Association would also like to thank Ken Trapasso for organizing such a great event. This is Ken's second year organizing the 4th of July Celebration and he and his family have done such a fantastic job we hope they continue to coordinate this fun filled event for the community.

Thank you Ken!



HELP WANTED!

We need someone to help coordinate our Great American Cleanup 2014. This years national event is being held on Saturday, April 12, with additional dates available,



Organize your family, neighbors, friends, church or civic organization members to volunteer for cleanup and fix up projects to improve the community and preserve our environment.

Make plans now to join thousands of volunteers of all ages across America who will be taking part in efforts to clean up and improve their local communities. In celebration of Earth Day month, local activities of the Great American Cleanup include a massive removal of litter and illegal dumping from our public spaces - neighborhoods, roadways, waterways, parks, schools, etc. Additional community improvement activities may include tree plantings, recycling activities, painting over of graffiti or run-down buildings, etc.

Demonstrate your individual responsibility by taking part in this annual effort to make Palm Beach County neighborhoods and public spaces a safe, more enjoyable place to live, work and play!

The Great American Cleanup, a project of Keep America Beautiful, is coordinated locally by Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful Inc. and the Solid Waste Authority.

Community Service Hours Given! If we register in time we will receive commemorative t-shirts or other promotional items free to volunteers while supplies last.

Please contact one of the board members if you are able to help coordinate this event.





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Report on Homeowners' Insurance by Kevin Baker

The first speaker at the July 9th meeting was Palm Beach County Fire Chief Jeff Collins. He most recently served as the PBC Fire Marshal & Deputy Chief of the 1500+ employee department in his 17-year firefighting career. Chief Collins is the President of the Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association.

Chief Collins came to speak about the numerous calls his department gets about the distance Palm Beach County homes are to fire hydrant water supplies and fire stations due to very high homeowners' insurance quotes. Insurance companies are basing Fire Protection Class grades as determined by a private group called ISO, a division of Verisk Analytics, Inc. (VRSK). ISO grades fire departments on how they receive calls, what equipment they have, how many firefighters on engines, how many firefighters get to the fire scene, and on the water supply available to each home? Even though it should, ISO does not care about response time as it does not impact their Fire Protection Class definitions. ISO awards

grades from Class 1 being the best protection to Class 9 being the least protection within 5 miles of a fire station and Class 10 being considered "unprotected", regardless of all other factors, if the home is more than 5 miles from a fire station. ISO has recognized improvements to be proud of at Palm Beach County Fire Rescue and upgraded the county from Class 4 to Class 3 for homes within 5 miles of a station that have an adequate water supply.

Chief Collins explained that 84% of his calls are for emergency medical rescues unrelated to fires. He made the case that in homeowners' insurance policies the main risk being covered is liability and fire should account for only about 5% of risk. That way, even in a so-called "unprotected" area the cost of fire insurance should be a few hundred more not a few thousand more in insurance premium.

As for response time, the Chief contended that ISO measures 5 miles based on rush hour in Washington D.C. or New York City where that distance could take a half hour in travel time. Comparatively, from Station 16 to Palm Beach Country Estates could take 5 minutes. The Chief called ISO "archaic" for not taking response time



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into consideration and is working through his Fire Chief's Association to get ISO to change or to push changes through Tallahassee using their lobbyist.

The Chief was asked how Palm Beach Country Estates could get its own fire station. Unfortunately and fortunately we do not have a high enough call volume in our neighborhood to justify the minimum fire station of 4 full-time firefighters. The Palm Beach Country Estates Landowners' Association thanks Chief Collins for speaking at our meeting.

Kevin's Advice: If your homeowners' insurance policy is too expensive now or they try to get you to agree to a huge increase in premium, there are ways to save money. First, shop around. Call other insurance companies for a quote. It is important to know that the ISO class assigned by your insurance company is not fixed. Some insurance companies consider homes in PBCE beyond 5 miles to be Class 9 instead of 10. Some insurance companies don't even use ISO Fire Protection Class grades. The best way to prevent higher insurance rates is to let insurance companies know you will leave them for a competing company by actually leaving. Second, consider reducing "Ordinance or Law" coverage to zero. It only pays after an unlikely claim matches up with an even less likely change in Florida law. Lastly, consider having fire sprinklers installed in every room & closet in your home. Check with your insurance company to find out how much that will save. If sprinklers raise your home to Class 4 instead of Class 10, the savings might be able to payback the cost of the sprinkler system in a few years. Dilo Fire Sprinkler Installations (561-748-7255) offered me a 13-fire sprinkler head system complete for \$4150. Our Town of Jupiter water supply has more than enough water pressure to run the system.

Be well,

Kevin Baker

PBCE Mom's Club

New meetings and playdate for the PBCE Mom's Club! Come join us for playtime at the Twisty Pines Playground in the Margaret Berman Memorial Park.

Parents, grandparents and caregivers, join us with your 0-to-elementary age children for the PBCE Mom's Club. Feel free to post playdate to the Facebook page or group.

Contact Rose Moon at rdlouca@yahoo.com for more information.



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And don't forget about our Who's Who list on the mypbce.org website.

Pântano Trail Improvement Project

For release on: November 18, 2013

Palm Beach County will be initiating trail improvement activities on Pântano Trail, a 10-mile long multiuse trail within the Northeast Everglades Natural Area (NENA). Construction will occur on 5.5 miles of the trail from Riverbend Park in Jupiter south along the western canal bank of the C-18 Canal and west along the northern canal bank of the C-18W Canal through Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area. Access onto Pântano Trail from Riverbend Park and from trails within Loxahatchee Slough will be closed to the public during construction. Signs will be posted when trail access is closed. Construction is expected to be completed by June 2014. Access to Riverbend Park from Bluegill Trail is currently closed and will be reopened next month.

Improvements will include a hardened surface for cyclists and hikers, shade shelter, bike racks at trailheads to the Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area, way-finding signage, and equestrian hand pump water well.

This will be the third NENA trail project constructed in Palm Beach

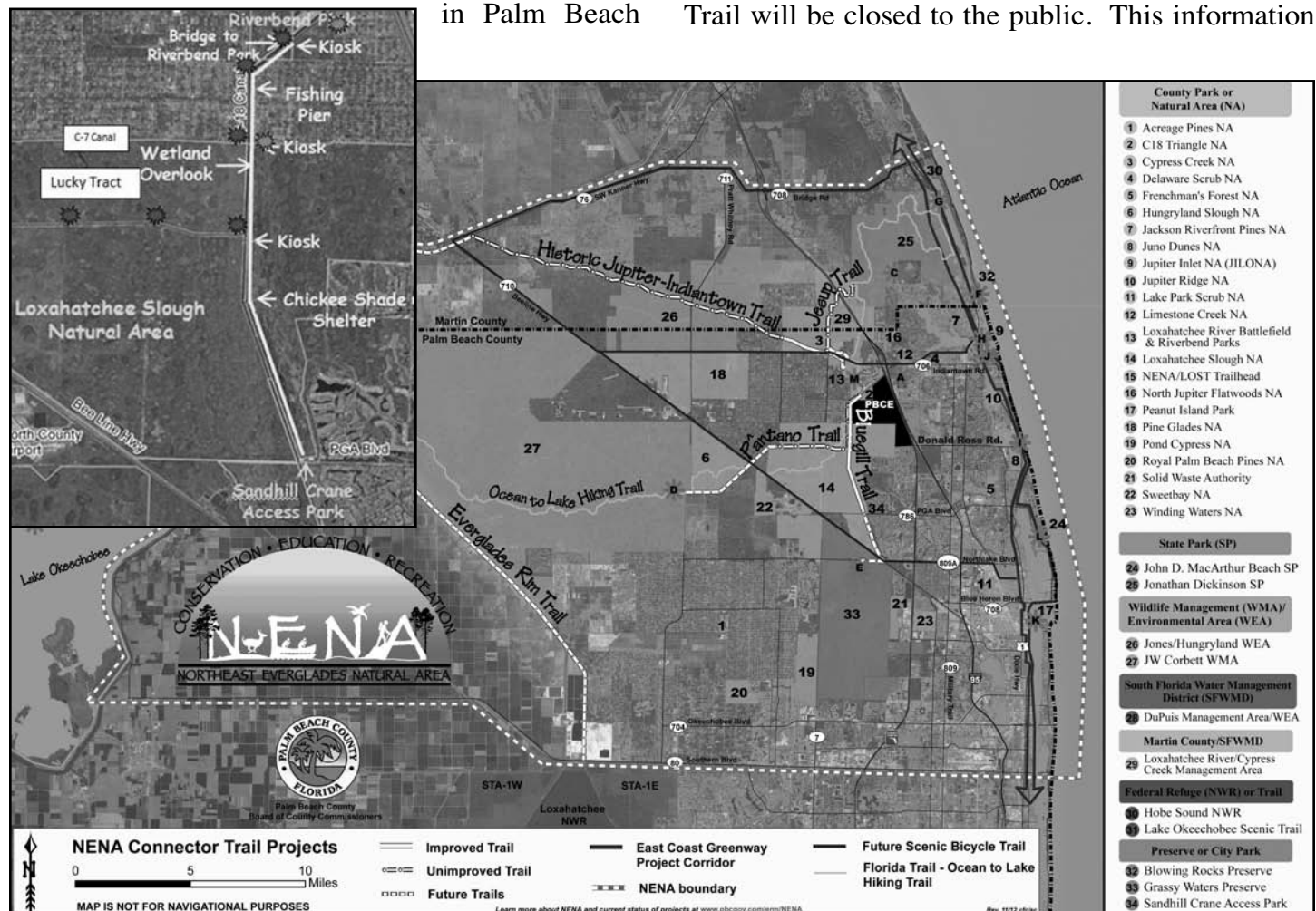
County. NENA is a collection of conservation lands (165,000 acres) as well as activity and education centers in northern Palm Beach County and southern Martin County that provides residents and visitors with a wide range of nature-based outdoor recreational opportunities.

For more information about the project and NENA, please visit www.pbcgov.org/erm/nena.

Contact: Sally Channon, 561-233-2429, schannon@pbcgov.org

Attention NENA Stakeholders,

Beginning in February 2014, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) will conduct an invasive exotic tree removal project along the eastern side of the C-18 Canal (Bluegill Trail) adjacent to Palm Beach Country Estates. The project limits run from the northern boundary of the Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area north for 1.4 miles to the low bridge (between the blue stars – see embedded map below). The project is scheduled to be completed by June 2014. During the course of the project, access along this area of the Bluegill Trail will be closed to the public. This information



has also been posted on ERM's webpage at www.pbcgov.org/erm/nena/bluegill-trail/index.htm. For further information regarding this project, please contact Debbie Thompson, SFWMD Right-of-Way, at 561-791-4100 ext. 4110 or Steve Fairtrace, SFWMD Vegetation and Land Management, at 561-682-6473.

Also please note that portions of the western side of the C-18 Canal (Pantano Trail) from Riverbend Park south (between the red stars) are closed until approximately June 2014 due to the construction of trail improvements. However, the public can still access the trails within the Loxahatchee Slough/Lucky tract for hiking and horseback riding from SIRWCD's C-7 Canal. For more information go to www.pbcgov.org/erm/nena/pantano-trail/index.htm.

We regret any inconvenience that these trail closings will cause. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me using the information in my business card below.

Ginny Powell, Environmental Program Supervisor
Palm Beach County Department of Environmental
Resources Management
2300 North Jog Road - 4th Floor
West Palm Beach, FL 33411
Phone: 561-233-2452
www.pbcgov.com/ERM
www.lwli.org
Like ERM on Facebook:
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Trunk-or-Treat Fun For All

Thank you to everyone who attended our 5th Annual Halloween Trunk-or-Treat and assisted with the successful event. Over 260 children participated as treaters and 29 residents brought trunks. Congratulations to the winner of the Best Trunk Award, the Whitmer family (Trunk #18)!!

Thanks to Valerie Rozzo for creating the awesome Best Trunk Award basket. It looked great! Thanks to everyone who helped at the welcome/sign in table, Kim Pierce, Kevin Baker, Carol-Sue Ryan, Ellen Meehan and Haily and Amanda Reinhardt. There were some really creative trunks, trailers, trucks and golf carts. We couldn't have done it without you and the kids had a great time.



Carol-Sue Ryan presenting the Best Trunk Award to the Whitmer family.



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