



# Countryside Living...

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

## Message from the President

First, I would like to thank Palm Beach Country Estates' regular attendees of our community meetings. These neighbors get their voices heard and take an active role in organizing community events. Please join us at our next meeting on September 8th. We all have busy lives. This newsletter, with its meeting minutes, serves to keep everyone informed about the topics discussed at our meetings as well as provide resident-owned businesses a chance to ask for your patronage. Our last community meeting played host to a South Indian River Water Control District (SIRWCD) candidate forum that had no negative attacks, no rude interruptions, just candidates introducing themselves, and real questions posed from the audience. It was important to me to provide an unbiased, equal forum to welcome all candidates. Thank you to all four candidates for showing their support of Palm Beach Country Estates by attending. The candidates are accessible so if you have questions about who they are and what policies they stand for do reach out to them and ask. SIRWCD plans to mail ballots on August 14th. The turnouts of SIRWCD elections are notoriously low. Please make your voice heard by voting. If more of PBCE votes, our elected officials will have to take our concerns over their three year terms more seriously. Your last chance to vote will be by bringing your signed ballot to the SIRWCD meeting on Sept. 17, 2015. If you have not received your ballot by August 21st, call the district at 561-747-0550 to request a replacement. Be very careful when voting as in past elections hundreds of ballots were not counted as they were considered improper "over votes". The ballot will ask you to select up to two candidates. In order to comply with the FL statute that created SIRWCD, if you vote for two candidates one of those must be a west-side resident or else neither of your votes will be counted. East-side is PBCE, Egret Landing, and Jupiter Park of Commerce. For instance: Jason and I are not running, but if you wrote in Kevin Baker & Jason McFarland, two East-side residents, neither vote would count. Voting for one East-side resident and leaving the second choice blank will be counted, as will voting for two West-side residents. As two residents must be elected this cycle, any votes cast for non-residents won't be counted and a vote for an East-side resident paired with a write-in vote for a non-resident will cause both votes not to be counted. If you have questions or concerns about this process call SIRWCD. The laws establishing and governing SIRWCD are quite arcane. Candidates qualifying for the ballot need only to declare their residency status to SIRWCD. Shockingly,

*Continued on Page 2, President's Message*

## Officers and Committees

<u>Officers:</u>		
President -	Kevin Baker	748-3376 Kevin.Baker@TheStreet.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
Treasurer -	Kevin Parkes	441-2855 parkescpa@yahoo.com
Secretary -	Ellen Meehan	401-9331 ellen1981@live.com
<u>Committees:</u>		
Newsletter -	Kevin Baker - Editor	748-3376
	Carol-Sue Ryan - Advert.	747-3233
COP Patrol & Disaster Assistance -	Mike Ryan	762-3514 a1aei@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	
July 4th & Beautification -	Ken Trapasso	578-9323 trapassok@comcast.net
<u>Information:</u>		
Website -	<a href="http://www.mypbce.org">www.mypbce.org</a>	
Facebook Page & Group name -	Please Like & Join: Palm Beach Country Estates Neighbors	
Park/Playground -	<a href="http://www.twistypinesplayground.org">www.twistypinesplayground.org</a>	
Neighborhood Watch -	<a href="mailto:pbceenw@aol.com">pbceenw@aol.com</a>	
SIRWCD -	<a href="http://www.sirwcd.org">www.sirwcd.org</a>	747-0550
Equestrian -	Kerie Franco	762-7988 Kerie_Hudson@yahoo.com
Webmaster -	Volunteer Needed!!!!	





# Donald Ross Landowners Minutes

**Tuesday, July 14, 2015**

The July 2015 Donald Ross Landowners' Association meeting was called to order at 7:31pm by Kevin Baker. Also in attendance: 1st Vice President Carol-Sue Ryan, Secretary Ellen Meehan, and Treasurer Kevin Parkes. The 2nd Vice President Jason McFarland was unable to attend.

**Guest Speakers:** **1. Ken Trapasso** - Resident of PBCE thanked everyone who participated in the Fourth of July celebration, picnic and parade on Saturday 7/4. The event was another great success with hamburgers, pulled pork, hot dogs, apple pie, and ice cream and with excellent participation from residents - more than 300 people. Kevin Baker extended a special thanks to sponsors, donors, and volunteers including Ken Trapasso & family, Bob Berman, Bill Gillespie Plumbing, Brian Murphy, Vince Izzo Sr, Coastal Paving, Bill Rice family, Tim Brown, Hardy Ganes, Hooked on Driving, and Bill Richardson.

**2. PBSO** - The Sheriff's Office addressed the community regarding crime in PBCE. They were happy to report that so far this summer there has only been

one reported incident in PBCE - a case of mail box vandalism. The PBSO said the criminal activity has been higher in Jupiter Farms this summer.

**3. SIRWCD** - The four candidates running for the two seats on SIRWCD Board of Supervisors addressed the residents. The elected Supervisors will serve a three-year term.

Kevin Baker explained that SIRWCD adjusted its decision on the residency status of Mike Danchuk, President of the Board. Mike was a PBCE resident for many years but currently does not reside in PBCE. So, this current election therefore requires that both elected supervisors must own property in the district. To abide by the law, at least one supervisor must be elected from the West side of the district, Jupiter Farms; the second elected supervisor must reside in Jupiter Farms or Palm Beach Country Estates (East or West). Kevin Baker also noted the latest SIRWCD policy change where Jupiter Farms and PBCE policies were split. In Jupiter Farms petitions are 35% of residents with 50%+1 of affected landowners required to pass referendums. In PBCE petitions are 35% of residents with majority of those voting decid-

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## President's Message

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the SIRWCD attorneys have declared that it is not their job to confirm residency status. All candidates are expected to have established declared residency, in leased or owned district property, at the time of the election. Florida statute provides a tiny ten day window after winners are declared to file lawsuits if your chosen candidates did not win. Lastly, we are going to be starting over with the Who's Who listing on our website. If you would like your business to be included, please email all details to Carol-Sue Ryan at ca.sueryan@yahoo.com.

See you at the next fun community event!  
Kevin Baker

## Neighborhood Watch

Think Safe! If you see Suspicious Activity Call: PBSO Non-Emergency Dispatch: 561-688-3400. If you see a crime in progress call: 911.

COP Program Mike Ryan: a1aei@bellsouth.net or Bill Bolds Bbolds@bellsouth.net. Please consider joining the COP.

### Living Oaks Ministries



Sunday Worship Service 10:30AM

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# Donald Ross Landowners Minutes

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ing on referendums.

Each candidate was asked to speak for five minutes followed by five minutes of Q&A.

A) **Tom Rice** (East candidate)

Has served on the Board since 1989 and is in process of moving residency into PBCE

B) **Steve Hinkle** (West candidate)

Has served on the Board 3 years and has lived in Jupiter Farms 20 years

C) **John Meyer** (West candidate)

Resident in Jupiter Farms for 21 years; worked for the S. Fla Water Management District

D) **Rick G. Lee** (West candidate)

Is a local business & PBCE homeowner and is in process of moving residency into Jupiter Farms

Treasury Report: The association has \$16,000 in the operating account and \$12,000 in the legal account. Report approved.

Secretary Report: The minutes of the May meeting were available and will be published in the PBCE Newsletter. Report approved.

**Old Business - SIRWCD:** Mike Ryan confirmed that the Water District is having elections this summer for two Board Positions and all residents should look into it, get informed, and please vote. The Annual Landowners meeting will be in September; all landowners are encouraged to attend this informative meeting. Bob Berman added that there will be some work along the main canals in late July/early August so some of the canal banks and paths will be closed. Tom Rice reminded everyone that the new website is up and running and to check it out: [www.sirwcd.org](http://www.sirwcd.org).

**COPs Neighborhood Watch:** The volunteers were thanked for their efforts which appears to help with only one vandalism report in two months. Bob Berman encouraged residents to complete the training and become volunteers since more help is needed. Mike Ryan reminded everyone that the COP volunteers can do House Checks on your home if you are going to be away. Also, the PBCSO has zero tolerance for graffiti, so if you see any, call and report the graffiti and it will be removed.

**Park and Playground:** The Twisty Pines Foundation is currently finishing the bricks at the park entrance. Donors who purchased pickets will be given bricks



since there is no picket fence. Additional available funds will go towards playground equipment. Then we will be looking for funding for the exercise equipment and then some additional benches for the pavilions. THEN the park will be FINISHED!

**MyPBCE.org Website:** We will be working on the Who's Who section of the community website which is very outdated. PBCE resident owned business & service listings should be sent to: [pbcegroup@gmail.com](mailto:pbcegroup@gmail.com) or [ca.sueryan@yahoo.com](mailto:ca.sueryan@yahoo.com).

Facebook: Be sure to like and join Palm Beach Country Estates Neighbors on Facebook which remains very active and informative. It is a closed group so you should contact Kevin Baker to confirm you are a PBCE neighbor to join the group.

**New Business - Stop Signs:** Mike Ryan suggested that the Association might want to check to see if lines are supposed to be painted on the paved roads where there are stop signs to allow for improved safety and adherence to the law.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm

Submitted by Ellen Meehan, Secretary

## Tuesday, May 19, 2015

The May DRLA meeting was called to order at 7:32pm by Kevin Baker. Also in attendance: 2nd Vice President Kevin McFarland, Secretary Ellen Meehan, and Treasurer Kevin Parkes. The 1st Vice President Carol-Sue Ryan was unable to attend.

**PBSO:** The Sheriff's Office reported that there were two burglaries in PBCE since the March meeting; suspects have been arrested. There were also four miscellaneous thefts. School will be out soon so more groups of teenagers will be around. Call the sheriff if you see anything suspicious and keep your valuables, house, and car locked. Be aware that the traffic police are out and active; obey the traffic laws!

**ANNUAL MEETING - Election:** Annual elections were held as required in the by-laws. Kevin called for any proxy votes to be turned in, covered the achievements of the Board for the previous year, and encouraged residents to run for office. Kevin Baker was re-elected as President, Jason McFarland was re-elected as 2nd Vice President and Kevin Parkes was re-elected as Treasurer.

Annual Meeting adjourned 7:42pm.

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## Donald Ross Landowners Minutes

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**MAY MEETING:** Called to order at 7:43pm by President Kevin Baker.

Guest Speaker: Pam Keith, candidate for the U.S. Senate, addressed the community about her campaign and her ideas focused on citizens working together with less polarization. She is with the Democrat Party and you can learn more at her website: [pam-keithforsenate2016.com](http://pam-keithforsenate2016.com).

**Guest Speaker: Francisco Rodriguez**, PBCE resident, made a presentation on the Seven Direct Benefits of Backyard Food. He covered the advantages of growing more local food in PBCE such as local ecology, better food quality, improved health, creating exchanges, working together, and reduced food waste. You can get more information on the website: [www.pbccountryestates.com](http://www.pbccountryestates.com)

**Treasury Report:** The association currently has approximately \$22,000 in the operating account and \$11,000 in the legal account. The dues letter went out recently with a very positive response - there are approximately 450 voting DRLA members.

**Secretary Report:** The minutes of the meetings will be posted on the website and in the newsletter.

**Old Business - Neighborhood Watch:** Our COPS program continues to run well and needs additional volunteers. If you can donate at least 3 hours/week, please consider volunteering for this valuable neighborhood service.

**SIRWCD: Kevin Baker** updated the community about the SIRWCD meetings in March, April and May. SIRWCD is changing some of their policies including those for paving roads. SIRWCD sent out a poll survey to residents to find whether residents prefer a 50% + one requirement for paving roads. There were other various topics relevant to PBCE discussed in the May workshop - voting will occur at the June meeting. All SIRWCD meetings are open to the public; the next meeting is June 11, 6pm, Jupiter High School.

**Park and Playground:** The Park and Playground effort is moving along. The racquetball court and basketball court are being painted - with special graffiti-proof paint. We are working on getting more benches donated for the pavilions. Exercise stations are wanted for the park which will require additional fund raising. We welcome any residents interested in organizing more community events in our park.

## Re-elect to SIRWCD

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**Communication:** We still plan to update our website, [MYPBCE.ORG](http://MYPBCE.ORG); Kevin Baker is finishing an Adobe Dreamweaver course to be able to administrate the site. You can like our Facebook page: Palm Beach Country Estates Neighbors. Once you request to join, you might want to send Kevin a private message to confirm that you are a legitimate neighbor in PBCE.

**Insurance/Fire Station:** We continue to look into every possibility available to get a closer fire station to PBCE and reduce the cost of insurance for our residents.

**Front Entrance:** Thank you again to resident Hal Brunman who finished building the new Sandhill cranes on our front entrance signs to replace the previously stolen birds. He was able to make our new signs at a significant cost savings and they look great. Kevin Baker assisted Hal on the installation.

**New Business - PBCE 4th of July Celebration:** Residents Ken and Deb Trapasso has volunteered again to organize our 2015 4th of July celebration to be held in the Margaret Berman Memorial Park. Watch for

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# Donald Ross Landowners Minutes

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announcements and signs for this event. Residents interested in volunteering can contact Ken at trapas-sok@comcast.net.

Meeting was adjourned 8:40pm.

Submitted by: Ellen Meehan, Secretary

## Tuesday, March 10, 2015

Meeting was called to order at 7:35pm by President Kevin Baker. In attendance: President Kevin Baker, 1st Vice President Carol-Sue Ryan, 2nd Vice President Jason McFarland, Treasurer Kevin Parkes, and Secretary Ellen Meehan.

**Security Report:** The Sheriff's Office presented their update to the PBCE community. There has been nine residential burglaries in PBCE since the last meeting and a few incidents of vandalism. Residents need to remain vigilant. Be aware that good video cameras make a difference; cheap cameras often don't provide much useful data. There have been fewer automobile break-ins and no recent boat thefts.

Guest Speaker: Kenneth "Bud" Howard, the Director of Water Resources for the Loxahatchee River District, provided a detailed update on the health of our river and water conditions in our area. Overall water quality is very good because of our pristine water sources. For additional information, visit the website [www.loxahatcheeriver.org](http://www.loxahatcheeriver.org).

**Treasury Report:** The association has \$7000 in the operating account and \$11,500 in the legal account. The 2015 Dues Letter will be sent out shortly.

**Secretary Report:** The minutes from the previous meetings were printed in the new March Newsletter. Minutes were approved as printed.

**Old Business - Park:** The Park Committee met immediately previous to the DRLA meeting. The progress on the park is being reviewed and the next stages of completion are being addressed including the pavers, pavilions, racquet ball courts, and the fitness trail. We are hoping to avoid taking deposits for using the park and hope that residents will diligently clean up their garbage. Twisty Pines Foundation currently has about \$5100 in their account. So more fund raising will be needed to finish the Park.

**Front Entrance:** Thank you to Resident Hal Brunman who presented an example of the new cranes to go on our front entrance signs to replace the previously stolen birds. The material he is using is significantly

less expensive than replacing with the original material.

**Communication:** We are still looking for a website administrator familiar with Dreamweaver to manage our website. We will look into one of the Board Members taking a course in Dreamweaver. Residents of PBCE continue to be active on our Facebook page, Palm Beach Country Estates Neighbors, with sharing of useful information. We ask that residents remain respectful so we can avoid structured rules for posting.

**Fire Station:** A resident again addressed the issue of high property taxes due to the high fire protection class of most homes in PBCE. There is no immediate solution to the problem since the Florida Government adopted the current policies.

**SIRWCD:** The 23rd Annual Landowners Family Day hosted by SIRWCD will be this month in Jupiter Farms. It is open to all residents of PBCE. The next SIRWCD workshop meeting will be March 26th at Jupiter High School. They will be specifically looking at  
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# Re-Elect Stephen Hinkle for SIRWCD Supervisor

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- All Landowners Deserve the Same Property Rights in the District
- Involved with the Community
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## Donald Ross Landowners Minutes

*Continued from Page 5*

the Special District Rules regarding referendum votes. Neighborhood Watch: The COPs volunteers continue to be active and visible patrolling the neighborhood. Overall incidents of crime in PBCE still remain relatively low but there are still those few cases so use caution and protect your property. Residents are encouraged to call the sheriff's department if they witness any suspicious activity.

**New Business - Annual Meeting:** Our next meeting is our Annual Meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of May. We will have our election of officers.

Neighbors Working Together - the new organization for growing your own food in PBCE is hosting a presentation on Thursday at the Borland Center. Please see the website or Facebook for additional information.

Meeting was adjourned 9:00pm

Submitted by Ellen Meehan, Secretary



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