

Countryside Living...

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

JOIN US FOR THE 2nd ANNUAL
PALM BEACH COUNTRY ESTATES

★ Fourth of July ★ Community Parade & Celebration

July 4th, 2013 11:00am-3:00pm

JOIN US FOR FREE FOOD, FUN, AND GAMES!

- **FREE FOOD** - Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, and Apple Pie served
- **PARADE** - Please Join the Parade! - Feel free to walk in the parade OR if you have an interesting vehicle (car, boat, tractor, lawn mower, bike, etc) and would like to include it in the parade, please do!
- **FLOATS:** If you have or want to make a float, let us know!
- **BIKE PARADE** - Kids and adults are invited to decorate their bikes for a small parade around the park walking path.
- **WEAR YOUR RED, WHITE, & BLUE!** - If you live along the parade route, please put out your American flags, come out, invite your friends and cheer for the parade participants!

PARADE ROUTE:

Parade will start at 11:00am at the Living Oaks Church on 64th Dr, go south to Donald Ross Rd, west to 69th Dr, and then north on 69th where it will end at the Margaret Berman Memorial Park at 155th Pl & 69th Dr (Parade participants should line-up at the church between 10:00-10:30am.)

◆Volunteers Needed◆

QUESTIONS?

Call Ken Trapasso at 561-578-9323

Officers and Committee Member

Officers:

President -	Chris Reinhardt	762-1281
	reinham@bellsouth.net	
1st Vice President -	Kevin Baker	748-3376
	Kevin.Baker@thetstreet.com	
2nd Vice President -	Sheri Murray	601-1647
	sheriRmurray@gmail.com	
Treasure -	Kevin Parkes	441-2855
	parkescpa@yahoo.com	
Secretary -	Ellen Meehan	401-9331
	ellen1981@live.com	

Committees:

Newsletter Editor/Advert. -	Sheri Murray	601-1647
	sheriRmurray@gmail.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 -	Tracey Lamport	707-9641
	tracelamport@comcast.net	
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 - pbcenw@aol.com

SIRWCD - www.sirwcd.org 747-0550

Equestrian - Beverly Bean 575-4411

bbeaninc@bellsouth.net

Community Historian - Mike Danchuk 626-2530

Wetjets@aol.com

Webmaster - Mark Powell (561) 460-8921

markapowell@gmail.com

PBC Fire Chief, Jeff Collins as Guest Speaker for July 9th DRLA Meeting

The Donald Ross Landowners board has invited the PBC Fire Chief, Jeff Collins, to come to our July 9th meeting to discuss PBCE problem of obtaining reasonable fire insurance rates, since most of our neighborhood is beyond the 5 miles from a fire station which puts those houses in the most expensive Fire Protection Class 10 (unprotected). Our landowners association has been doing a lot of work on this issue recently. We are looking at all possible solutions including a minimal fire station, real fire station, home sprinkler systems, state legislation, & federal legislation. He is sympathetic and understands our plight. What the Chief was willing to do was draft a letter describing the response time to PBCE that residents could submit to their insurance companies. His contention was that due to the lack of traffic & few lights the response time to PBCE is low in comparison to urban 5 miles settings. Please plan on attending this important meeting.

Message from the President

Some of this information may sound familiar, but I think it's worth repeating. It's been 8 years since we have had a major hurricane and I think a lot of people have become complacent in their hurricane preparations or some new Florida residents may not even know they need to prepare early.

The 2012 hurricane season tied for the third busiest on record, but you probably only remember one name from last year, Sandy. As Kathryn Sullivan, Ph.D., the acting NOAA administrator said, "As we saw first-hand with Sandy, it's important to remember that tropical storm and hurricane impacts are not limited to the coastline. Strong winds, torrential rain, flooding, and tornadoes often threaten inland areas far from where the storm first makes landfall." NOAA's Climate Prediction Center is forecasting an active or extremely active season this year. The Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook says there is a 70 percent likelihood of 13 to 20 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 7 to 11 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 3 to 6 major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of 111 mph or higher). These ranges are well above the seasonal average of 12 named storms, 6 hurricanes and 3 major hurricanes.

For those residents who lived in the neighborhood or in the area during the 2004 and 2005 seasons you know the type of damage and problems our neighborhood faced after Frances, Jeanne and Wilma. Trees and branches were down everywhere, some roads were flooded, and power was out for days.

I was very proud the way our community handled the situation. Neighbors helped neighbors. Residents with chainsaws and front-end loaders came out to help clear the roads and helped neighbors with downed trees. Residents got together and had barbeques to cook up thawing meat in freezers. Resident FPL



workers and electrician's did what they could to restore some of the power or identify and report problems.

Palm Beach Country Estates is not in a mandatory evacuation area but, some of the roads in our neighborhood do flood. After Frances (cat. 2 at 105 m.p.h. at landfall) and Jeanne (cat. 3 at 120 m.p.h. at landfall) some roads and yards were flooded for days. Some roads were impassible for low cars. Power was out from 2 days to almost a week in some areas of the neighborhood. I've lived in Jupiter/Palm Beach Gardens all my life and have been through more hurricanes than I can remember but, if a category 4 or 5 was headed our way my family along with all our pets have plans to leave for a few days. (Storms are rated 1-5, with a major storm as a category 3, 4 or 5.)

If you do choose to stay, be prepared for power outages. Wash all clothes and dishes before the power goes out. You'll go through a lot of clothes cleaning up the yard or fixing the house and you don't want a sink full of dirty dishes when the power goes out and you have no water or airconditioning. If your still on a well and the power goes out, so does your water. Clean out a bathtub with liquid bleach and fill with water. You can use this extra water for cleaning dishes, washing up after working in the yard or filling the toilet tanks to flush. But, if you have pets or kids, a full tub can be a safety hazard. Keep the door closed at all times. If you don't have a gas grill, you might consider getting one or at least a small charcoal one. When the meat in the freezer starts to thaw you can cook out. You can also prepare and freeze foods ahead of time to cook or re-heat on the grill such as soup, stews, or other meals. Water can be heated for boiling food, making coffee or tea, heating baby bottles or for bathing.

The easiest way to prepare for a tropical storm is to create a family plan. Don't forget to include your pets in your plan. Put together a simple hurricane survival kit and prepare your yard and home.

Your family plan should include an out-of-state friend or family member as a family contact, so all your family members have a single point of contact. Sometimes when phone service is

Continued on Page 4 Hurricane Info

South Indian River Water Control District

Palm Beach Country Estates residents are encouraged to attend the SIRWCD monthly meetings. The meetings are informative and pertinent to our community.



The remaining regular monthly meetings of the Board of Supervisors of the South Indian River Water Control District will be held on the dates listed below at 7:30 p.m. at the Jupiter High School, 500 N. Military Trail, Jupiter, Florida 33458 for the fiscal year October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013.

June 20, 2013

July 18, 2013

August 15, 2013

September 19, 2013**

** Annual meeting (Jupiter High School Cafeteria)

Gemini
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GOODYEAR
PBCE RESIDENT SINCE 92
ASK ABOUT THE PBCE DISCOUNT

Donald Ross Landowners Minutes

Minutes - May 15, 2012

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 by President Chris Reinhardt; Also in attendance: 1st Vice President Kevin Baker, 2nd Vice President Sheri Murray, Secretary Ellen Meehan, and Treasurer Kevin Parkes.



Guest Speakers: Two guest speakers addressed the community: 1. Susan Bucher the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections spoke regarding the SIRWCD voting process. 2. Robert Taylor of Hazen & Sawyer Environmental Engineering spoke about the Jupiter Water Survey results. See the newsletter and mypbce website for a summary of the information.

Treasury Report: The 2013 dues letter was mailed and most donations have already been received. The association has approximately \$22,000 in the operating account and \$9,500 in the legal account.

Secretary Report: The minutes of the February meeting are online and in the March Newsletter.

Old Business

Neighborhood Watch: Mike and Carol-Sue Ryan and the new PBCE Community Outreach & Safety Committee will host a Bicycle Safety Clinic on June 1st at 9am at the church. Please sign up early and get a new helmet. There have been several boat-related crimes lately in PBCE, and 4 recent home burglaries, 3 which could be related to the recent pillowcase burglary ring. Report potential crimes in progress to 911 or call the non-emergency number, 688-3400 with information. A new officer, Detective Bergin, has just been assigned to our neighborhood.

Park: The playground is open and regularly utilized; the Grand Opening Celebration in April was a big success. A letter of congratulations was sent to PBCE from our Representative, Patrick Murphy, and read to the landowners. We have decided not to put an actual picket fence around the playground since residents like the open plan the way it is now. We will put the sold pickets near the Memorial at the entrance. If you see any issues regarding inadequate grounds maintenance in the park, please immediately contact Mike Dillon at SIRWCD. **Front Entrance:** Cornerstone Landscape Management has been hired to maintain the PBCE front entrance. We are accepting bids for re-landscaping the front to improve on the appearance. The east side of the entrance has irrigation water but the west side does not.

New Business

PBCE Committees and Volunteers: We are looking for more neighbors in PBCE to step up and volunteer to chair

and join committees like we used to have such as Neighborhood Watch, Beautification, Fund Raising, Welcoming, Park & Playground, Events, Mom Group, etc. Please contact anyone on the board if you can assist.

Park: A resident questioned the possibility of having public bathrooms at the park. We are currently not zoned for bathrooms - not even portables - but can look into it in the future as our park amenities continue to expand.

Insurance and Fire Zones: Kevin Baker researched the issue of fire zones and the cost of homeowners insurance. A private organization out of New Jersey sets all the parameters for fire zones and the zoning regulations currently state that if you are over 5 miles from a fire station, nothing else matters (such as hydrants and driving time) and you are automatically rated a Class 10 which puts you in the high insurance bracket. We asked our

Continued on Page 4 DRL Minutes



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PBCE Resident

Donald Ross Landowners Minutes

Continued from Page 3

Representative to look into any possible adjustments that could be made to this regulation. **Crosswalks:** Residents complained there was too much traffic on 69th Dr. and crossing the road from the sidewalks on 150th and 155th was dangerous. They suggested we request crosswalks on the corners of 150th and 69th and also at 155th and 69th, near the Park. After a county review the crosswalks were approved and should be completed within a few weeks.



Meeting was adjourned 8:58 p.m.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was called to order at 9:00 p.m. by Kevin Baker. Elections were held as required in the by-laws. Resident Ken Trapasso addressed the residents. He nominated Tim Brown for 2nd Vice President, but Tim wasn't present to accept the nomination. He then indicated his interest in running for President due to his opinion that the current board is not doing a good job and accomplishes too little. He then withdrew his nomination. There were no other nominations and Chris Reinhardt was re-elected as President, Sheri Murray was re-elected as 2nd Vice President and Kevin Parkes was re-elected as Treasurer. Meeting was adjourned 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by: Ellen Meehan, Secretary

Hurricane Information

Continued from Page 2

disrupted it's easier to call out of state rather than in. The out of state contact can then call the others. Don't forget to call that person after the storm to let them know you are ok.



Your hurricane kit should have at least 1 gallon of water daily per person for up to 7 days. At least enough food for up to 7 days including non-perishable packaged or canned food, snack foods, juice boxes or bags, sports drinks (it will be hot out during clean-up) foods and supplies for pets, infants or the elderly, non-electric can opener, cooking tools, a gas grill and fuel for cooking or heating water. Aluminum foil and pans for cooking, paper plates and cups, plastic utensils, ice for coolers. Refrigerators will not stay cold for long and milk and other perishables can be stored longer in a cooler with ice. Also have a first aid kit, basic over-the-counter medications, and an extra month or two of essential prescription medications and supplements. Some other essentials include duct tape, plastic sheeting, tarps or plywood for repairing windows or roofs, tool kit, flashlights, battery operated radio and NOAA weather radio, battery operated fans (it will be hot) and plenty of batteries. Fully charge cell phones with extra battery and a traditional (not cordless) telephone set. Fill the cars up with gas and any extra gas cans. Gas stations

Continued on Page 5 Hurricane Info

Living Oaks Ministries Presents: Vacation Bible School

A colorful graphic for a Vacation Bible School. It features Noah's Ark in the center, with various animals including an elephant, a giraffe, and a sheep. The text "God's Promises Never Fail" is written in an arch over the ark. Below the ark, the dates "July 15-17" are displayed in large, bold letters. Underneath the dates, the time "6:30-8:00 pm" and the age range "Ages: 4-11" are listed. At the bottom of the graphic, it says "Music, Crafts, Games, Water-slide Bounce House, and More." and "Free".

God's Promises Never Fail
July 15-17
6:30-8:00 pm
Ages: 4-11
Music, Crafts, Games, Water-slide Bounce House, and More.
Free

Contact Pastor Larry for more information:

www.livingoaks.org
561-627-9288

Hurricane Information

Continued from Page 4

may be out of power for a while or may have delivery problems. The Abacoa BP gas station and Publix have generators but the lines will be long and they may have delivery problems.

Have some cash, with some small bills. Banks and ATMs may not be available for extended periods.

Make sure that all of your supplies are protected from insects, rodents, bright light and moisture by packing them in heavy-duty plastic totes or specially built survival food storage systems. Make sure all food, water and other supplies are ready when you need them and safe from contamination by sealing them off completely from insects, rodents and water damage.

Bring pets indoors well in advance of a storm - reassure them and remain calm. Make sure that your pets are current on their vaccinations just in case you do have to evacuate. Have a current photograph. Keep a collar with identification on your pet, incase a door or window is damaged and they escape. Even my cats, who are strictly indoors wear a collar and tags during a hurricane in case they get out. Have a leash on hand. Walk pets on a leash until they become re-oriented to their yard. Often, familiar scents and landmarks may be altered or your fence could be damaged and pets could easily be confused and become lost. Also, downed power lines, reptiles and fire ants brought in with high water, wild animals and debris can all pose a threat for pets after a disaster. After a disaster, animals can become aggressive or defensive - monitor their behavior.

During the worst part of the storm go to a safe room or the safest areas in your home. Stay in an interior room such as a bathroom or walk-in closet. Stay away from windows, skylights and glass doors. In case your house is damaged keep a hammer and screwdriver close by (to break through debris) and an air horn (to signal for help). Determine escape routes from your home and places to meet outside.

To prepare your yard, all major cutting of vegetation, such as major trimming or tree removal should be completed December through April, long before June 1, the beginning of hurricane season. While there are no storms in the area, cut back all trees and weak branches that could contact buildings. Thin your foliage so wind can flow freely through branches, decreasing the chance that trees/plants will be uprooted. Place tree trimmings at the curb on Tuesday, our regular scheduled bulk waste collection day and follow the 6/50 rule (i.e. six feet in length and each piece cannot exceed 50 lbs. in weight). Containerize small pieces of vegetation such as pine needles, pine cones, coconuts, leaves, twigs, etc., in bags or cans that weigh less than 50 lbs. Clean your yard of any items that could become missiles in a storm such as old lumber, broken lawn furniture, etc.

Once a storm has been named, do not cut down trees or do major yard work. Do not begin construction projects that produce debris. Once a watch or warning has been issued, do not trim vegetation

of any kind. Mass cutting places a tremendous burden on the normal collection process and there is not enough equipment or manpower to collect the additional material before the storm makes landfall. You could put not only yourself at risk but your neighbors as well. Do not take materials to the curb, transfer stations or landfill during a watch or warning period. Services may be suspended and facilities closed early to prepare for the storm. Secure any lawn furniture, potted plants, building material or anything else loose in the yard that could become an air born missile or move them to the garage or shed. After the storm has passed please be patient. Keep household garbage, recycling and vegetative and /or construction storm debris in separate piles. SWA's number one priority is the collection of household garbage. Securely containerize all household garbage in plastic bags or cans to avoid animals and place curbside on Tuesday or Friday morning.

No one wants to be in a hurricane, but the key to riding out the storm is being prepared.

Chris Reinhardt - President DRLA

(Information from wptv5, NOAA, SWA, and PBC websites)

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Citizen Observer Patrol

Citizen Observer Patrol Update 3-12
Unit 103 Jupiter Farms / PBCE



Palm Beach Country Estates had a rash of boat related items stolen this past month. Electronics and lower units were stolen in a couple day period. One of the items reportedly showed up in Pennsylvania when the new "owner" tried to register it for warranty.

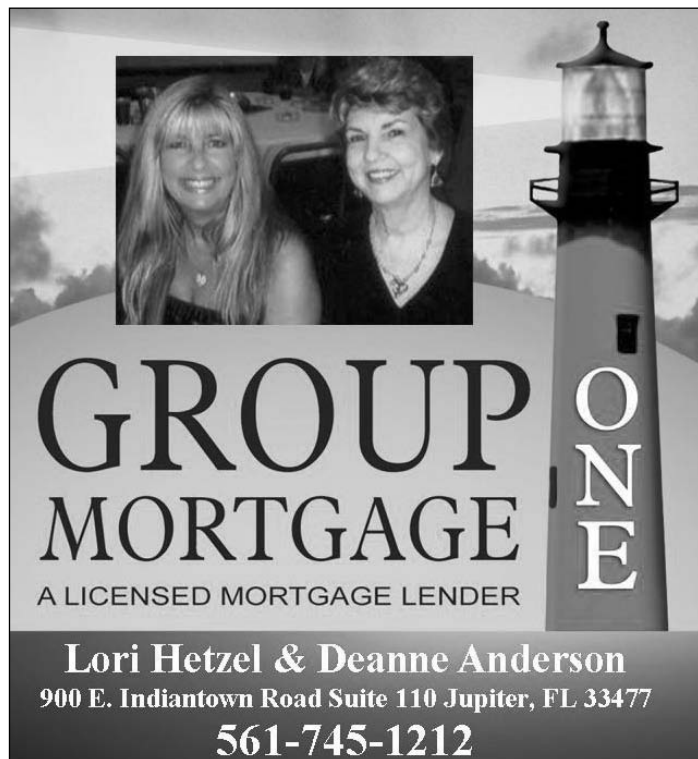
We also had four burglaries, three of which were forced entry and possibly more of the Pillow Case Gang.

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. Please consider joining your neighbors to help keep our community safe.

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

Sincerely,
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Jupiter Water Hook-Up Financing Still Available

Palm Beach Country Estates Potable Water Hookup Agreement Extended with Town of Jupiter

The South Indian River Water Control District entered into an Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Jupiter to provide water service to Palm Beach Country Estates on June 21, 2005, and at the time, had negotiated a reduced hookup rate for landowners who wished to connect to the system. This reduced rate was set to expire in seven years at the end of June 2012.

District Treasurer Chuck Haas met with David Brown of the Town of Jupiter Water Utilities Department at the request of the Board of Supervisors. The Town was willing to not only extend the reduced hookup rate for Palm Beach Country Estates landowners, but also offer financing for the hookup fee.

The District had previously established a hookup financing program for landowners, but this offer expired in June 2009.

The continuation of the agreement is an amendment to the original Interlocal Agreement between the Town and the District, where they will continue to provide financing incentives to Palm Beach Country Estates residents to hook up to the system. The agreement will continue for a period of three years, with the option to renew for another three years. The District will continue to include future connection fees as a non-ad valorem assessment on those landowners' property taxes. As with the original agreement, there is no annexation requirement.

The new hookup fees are only slightly higher than the original fee agreement negotiated by the District seven years ago.

For 3/4 in. meter service, the fee is \$3,911.28, and for 1 in. meter service it is \$9,387.05. This is substantially less than Jupiter's current schedule of fees, which are over \$5,000 for 3/4 in. service and \$12,000 for 1 in. service for connect-ions west of I-95.

Palm Beach Country Estates residents may still pay this reduced hookup fee up front if they wish or may finance the hookup fee through the Town of Jupiter.

The Town is offering a 20-year term at 5.5% for an annual assessment of approximately \$328.00 for 3/4 in. meter service or \$786.00 for 1 in. meter service. A deposit and application fee is required and cannot be financed.

The amendment to the Interlocal Agreement was prepared by the District Attorney, William Capko and was approved by the Board of Supervisors and the

Town of Jupiter.

"If this agreement had expired, our landowners who wished to connect in the future would have had to pay the current Jupiter water connection fees, so this represents a savings of over 20%," said Board of Supervisors' President Tom Powell. "In addition, the financing program offers residents an option to pay over time."

If you have any questions, call Jupiter's Water Utility Dept. at 561-741-2300 - Press 0.

(Information was reprinted from SIRWCD website)

Park Update

Playground Grand Opening

On April 14, 2013 we had the Twisty Pines Playground Grand Opening Celebration!

It was a huge success and hundreds of neighbors from Palm Beach Country Estates came out to celebrate the grand opening. Angie Toro presented a congratulatory letter to the PBCE Association on behalf of Congressman Patrick Murphy. There was food, games and fun for all. There was even an official ribbon cutting ceremony that all the kids participated in and a good old fashioned tug-a-war. It was great to see so many neighbors come out and enjoy the beautiful day and get to know our new park and playground.



Guest Speaker Summary From The May Landowners Meeting

Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections

Susan Bucher, the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections, graciously took the time to meet with the residents of PBCE at our Annual Meeting in May to provide us with information specifically relevant to this neighborhood. There are 85 Special Districts in Palm Beach County and PBCE is governed by the South Indian River Water Control District (SIRWCD) which also governs Jupiter Farms, Egret Landing, and the Jupiter Commerce Park. Special Districts are unique forms of government providing services not normally furnished by other governments such as water management and road maintenance.

SIRWCD is the only special district which has its election ballots counted by the County Supervisor of Elections; all the other 84 special districts hire non-partial private accounting firms to count their ballots and run their elections. This situation is a result of legislation passed years ago in Tallahassee with Doc Myers. In the recent past, there has been challenges when SIRWCD held elections without enough advance notice or at the same time as other busy elections where there was not enough staff to effectively

manage the work volume. (By law, the Elections Office constitutionally mandated priority is federal, state and county elections.) In addition, there were incidents of conflict with SIRWCD's legal counsel and allegations of improper procedures where ballots may have been opened by the district before reaching the elections office, which would be against the law. So, Ms. Bucher's office requested there be a signed contract with SIRWCD stipulating the exact elections procedures and requirements that must be followed.

These procedures are currently being followed and both SIRWCD and the Office of Elections are properly holding elections. Ms. Bucher simply wants the residents to be aware that this district is following an archaic election system not being used elsewhere in the state. SIRWCD has the option to request Tallahassee change the old legislation and allow their elections to be handled by private contractors. Currently, SIRWCD has expressed a strong desire to keep the system as is and allow the elections office to count the ballots and run the SIRWCD elections. Ms. Bucher states that her office will always continue to abide by the letter of the law but wants residents to be aware of the options. She also indicated that the preference of the Elections Office would be for SIRWCD to conduct their elections in the same manner as the other special districts which would allow her



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office to focus on the federal, state, and county elections. Residents can contact the office via email at: Mailbox@pbcelections.org, or call the North Office at 561-624-6555. The website is www.pbcelections.org.

Town of Jupiter - PBCE Water Service

Mr. Robert Taylor, Jr., of Hazen & Sawyer Environmental Engineering attended the PBCE Annual Meeting to present the results of the recent water survey conducted by the Town of Jupiter. Residents of PBCE received the survey in the mail and were given a credit on their water bill for completing the survey. The purpose of the survey was to gauge satisfaction with Jupiter Water from current customers and also gather additional information from current customers (approximately 900 in PBCE) and non-customer residents (approximately 450).

Overall Jupiter Water was very pleased with the results since PBCE residents generally reported high satisfaction ratings with all of the following:

- the quality and cleanliness of the water
- the taste of the water
- water residue, hardness/softness
- adequate water pressure
- water service maintenance and pricing
- customer service

Some other interesting information that they were able to gather included:

- * over 65% of the current water customers responded to the survey
- * 94% of the responding residents are homesteaded
- * 62% of customers say the cost of water service is cheaper with Jupiter Water

The main reasons stated for not being a water customer were:

- happy with current system
- hookup too expensive
- monthly bill cost
- on-site system still new/will transfer when current system dies

The Town of Jupiter plans to use this information to promote the excellent quality of their water and their company

and to continue expanding in the area. You can contact the water company at 561-741-2300. The website is www.jupiter.fl.us.




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Submit your camera ready adds to Sheri Murray at:
sherimurray@gmail.com
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And don't forget about our Who's Who list on the mypbce.org website.

What Are Those PBSO Towers On 69th & 155th?

Pillowcase Burglar Gang Recap

December 11, 2012

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department asked to met with the residents of PBCE to update us on recent burglaries occurring in our area. Residents need to be aware of the situation and contact that sheriff's department at 561-688-3400 if you witness anything suspicious or have any information.

Pillowcase Burglaries Alert Summary:

A very organized gang of criminals out of Broward County have been in operation for almost two years committing home burglaries up the east coast primarily in neighborhoods near I-95 with numerous burglaries in Broward, Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie counties. Since some of the burglaries have been out of state and some of the items have been fenced in New York, there is a RICO investigation and the FBI is involved. In this area some of the most targeted neighborhoods are Jupiter Farms, Palm Beach Country Estates, Square Lakes and Juno Isles. In PBCE, there has been 11 burglaries in the last six months with 6 of them thought to be part of this pillowcase gang.

There have been between 120-140 individuals identified and over 20 arrested but the burglaries continue. The burglaries occur between 8:30am-2pm Monday through Friday - primary work and school hours. The individuals involved are young African-American males in newer-model rental cars sometimes with a female driver. They are usually in a group of three or four and the car windows are often tinted dark. They will knock on the front door to see if anyone is home. If no one answers the door, they back the car up into driveway. They have not been violent and if someone answers the door, they will just ask for a fictitious person or ask for directions and then leave and go to the next road. If nobody is home they will go to the back of the house and smash the sliding glass door or windows. In the house they proceed directly to the master bedroom and look for cash, jewelry, guns and small electronics. The suspects usually take a pillow case from the bed to hold the items stolen. They are in and out very quickly and will often rob several houses sequentially. Fences and dogs do not generally deter them but they tend to leave quickly if a security alarm sounds, and security or hurricane glass often prevents their entry.

Residents can best protect themselves by using a security alarm system, use security glass, use locked gun safes,

lock your doors, and keeping valuables in safer locations. If you have iphones, ipads, etc., register them - if they are stolen they can be tracked via gps. If you see something suspicious, try to get the car tag if possible and contact 911 or the sheriff's department.

The sheriff's department and all of law enforcement are working diligently to stop these criminals. For this reason, they are meeting with neighborhood associations to increase awareness with the issue. The two officers who talked to our residents are Daniel Shea and Ken Matlock. We thank them for their time and effort.

If you see a crime in progress call 911. The Non-Emergency number is 688-3400.

The PBSO towers are portable telemetry license plate readers, they are not for speeding. We also have a PBSO deputy posted in the neighborhood 24/7 for the next few weeks in marked or unmarked cars. The PBSO is working very hard to try and catch this gang.

PBCE Mom's Club

New meetings and playdates for the PBCE Mom's Club!

Parents, grandparents and caregivers, join us with your 0-5 year olds for the PBCE Mom's Club.

Contact Tracey Lamport for more information:
561-707-9641 Traceylamport@comcast.net



Living Oaks Ministries

Sunday Worship Service 10:30AM

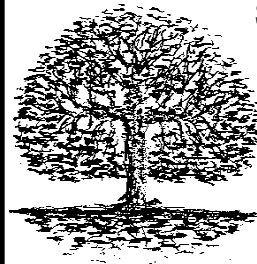
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Palm Beach County Tax Collectors Office: *June, 2013 Update*

The Palm Beach County Tax Collectors Office is trying to keep the community informed on issues involving their office 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

PBC Tax Collectors Office Update, June 2013 **REAL ID DEADLINE**

The federal REAL ID Act of 2005 set new standards for driver licenses and state identification cards. Everyone is must have a REAL ID to board a plane or enter any federal building in this country. You have time to get a REAL ID. The deadline depends on your birth date. If you were born after December 1, 1964, you have until December 1, 2014. Everyone else has until December 1, 2017. Visit pbctax.com for more information.

INSTALLMENT PAYMENT INFORMATION

Nearly 26,000 property owners in our county enrolled in the 2013 property tax Installment Payment Plan. The first payment deadline was July 1. If you missed this payment, you'll be removed from the plan. This means you will need to pay your 2013 property taxes during normal tax season beginning November 1, 2013 through April 30, 2014.

Our office will mail the second installment payment bills on August 31. That payment is due on or before September 30.

LOVE FISHING?

Don't forget you need a crawfish permit for mini-lobster season July 25 & 26! Learn more at pbctax.com/hunting-fishing.

The regular eight-month lobster season is always August 6 through March 31. This season also requires a permit. Guidelines for measuring lobsters:

- Each harvester must have a gauge made for measuring lobster while harvesting in the water.

- All lobsters must be measured in the water and released unharmed if too small.
- Lobster carapace must be greater than 3 inches.
- All recreationally harvested lobster must remain in whole condition while at sea.
- Tails can only be separated on land and must be greater than 5 1/2 inches.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Texting and Driving Passes on 4th Try

Beginning October 1, 2013, you can get a ticket for texting while driving. The new law makes texting while driving a secondary offense. Police officers will be allowed to use drivers' mobile phone records in a court case only when texting causes a crash resulting in death or personal injury. This was the fourth year that texting legislation was up for passage.

The law includes typing or reading a text while driving. It also covers tablet computers and mobile phones, but excludes talk-to-text features and use of navigation maps. Texting while stopped at a red light is permitted.

Tax Free Shopping Weekend Passes

Mark your calendars! For the fourth straight year, the Florida Legislature approved a three-day back-to-school sales tax holiday from August 2 – 4. Items exempt from state and local sales tax:

- clothes, wallets, handbags, backpacks, shoes and some other items (up to \$75)
- school supplies costing \$15 or less
- computers, tablets and accessories such as keyboards and monitors that cost \$750 or less

I wish everyone a safe and fun 4th of July. As we celebrate American independence, take a moment to remember our soldiers who are protecting our freedom. Let's pray that our troops will soon be home and out of harm's way.

Sincerely,

Anne M. Gannon

Constitutional Tax Collector

Phone number: 561-355-2264

Mailing Address:

Palm Beach County Tax Collector

Post Office Box 3715

West Palm Beach, FL 33402

Email: clientadvocate@pbcgov.org

Website: www.taxcollectorpbc.com

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****Land Owners Meeting ****

Tuesday, July 9, 2013 at 7:30 PM at Living Oaks Ministries Church on 64th Drive



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