

# Countryside Living...

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



## Park Development Continues

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

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

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

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

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

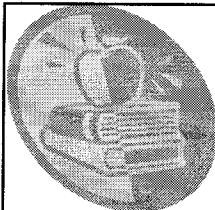


## Elections Coming Up

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

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

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



## Mirasol Elementary

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

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

## Officers and Committee Members

### Officers:

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

### Committees:

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

### Information:

Equestrian - Beverly Bean	575-4411
bbeaninc@bellsouth.net	
RV/Camping Club - Connie McCormick	744-2938
SIRWCD - <a href="http://www.sirwcd.org">www.sirwcd.org</a>	747-0550
Landowners Association - <a href="http://www.myPBCE.org">www.myPBCE.org</a>	
Park - <a href="http://www.twistypinesplayground.org">www.twistypinesplayground.org</a>	

## Mirasol Cont.

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



### Message from the President

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your years of support,

*Michael Danchuk-President*

### Donald Ross/ Jog Road Connection

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

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### Road Stabilization Test Approved

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

### Car Show Postponed

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

### Plumbers for Water Available

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

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

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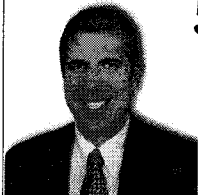
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## **Donald Ross Landowners Association**

### **Meeting 3-11-08**

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

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

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

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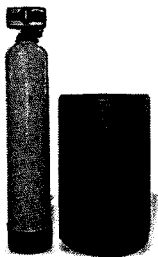
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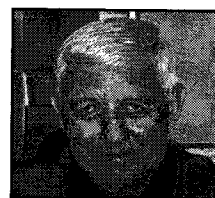
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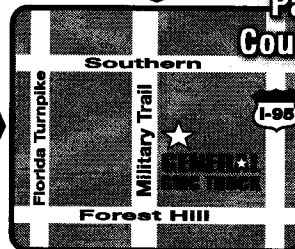
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## Twisty Pines Playground in PBCE

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF  
"GAMBLING" AND FUN TO BENEFIT THE  
TWISTY PINES PLAYGROUND, A PLAY-  
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**Min. Cont.** to contact him. Rick was thanked for his appearance. Mike said he was welcome to sit in on the remainder of the meeting. Rick said he usually sits in and he would stay. **Old Business - Roads** Mike said his biggest disappointment has been the roads, where people have contacted him about having their roads paved and nothing has been done. He said he has contacted the Soiltec Company because when he asked SIRWCD about it nothing had been set up regarding the proposed test. He said there was some disagreement as to how much the test would cost. He has contacted the company and the price for the test will be set. He said this coming Thursday is the scheduled water control district meeting and he will have them vote to do the test. A question was asked that last we had heard the test would be free. Mike said that is what he had heard at SIRWCD but now no one seems to know who gave that information. That's why he has taken on the responsibility to find out the cost of the test. **Water** - 2B has been certified. That's up to about 77th below to about 154th. These residents should be getting letters soon. A resident said he got his letter but there was a discrepancy in size of the line. One said 5/8 and the other said 3/4. Mike said to call 747-0550 to get it clarified. He said maybe it was a misprint. One resident thought it had been changed from one to the other. Mike said to check the website [www.sirwcd.org](http://www.sirwcd.org) and it would have the right information. **Park/Playground** - Mike said a lot of work has been done on the park site. He wanted to thank Tim, Kirk and Chris for all their hard work. The Landowners Association has spent \$2,400, most of that for debris removal. It's very expensive just for the debris removal. Mike said he estimated another \$1,000 for the remainder of the hauling. Kirk said that is probably a low number. There is still some clearing to be done and more debris to be removed. He said we also still need to remove the trees from the front entrance to the park site and set up irrigation for them. He and Tim are working on a list of items that still need to be done. Mike said he would like a vote of confidence from the residents present that we should continue using Landowners money on finishing the clearing and debris removal to move on with the park. All in favor were asked to raise their hands, residents raised their hands in approval. It was asked if anyone was against, no one raised their hands but one resident had a question. He wanted to know if the funds for the playground were set aside and were separate from the park. The playground has a separate account, which will be used to build the playground, but there are some shared expenses, like the site prep. The playground has basically matched the Landowners \$2,400 for site prep and debris removal. They have been sharing this expense. Chris said people who have been making donations for pickets and bricks or donations specifically for the playground, those have been kept separate from general park donations. She said right now there is \$8,313.93 in the playground account. Of that \$1,500 is specifically for the areca palms for the south fence line, and \$2,500 for a section of the perimeter fence. She said the areca palms and the fence on that south side are going to be one of the first things to go up because during the clearing we had to remove the invasive Florida holly or Brazilian pepper on that side which was that neighbors buffer for turnpike traffic and the park construction. She said the park site prep has been moving right along and should be ready for the playground February 2009 build date. The playground fund-raising committee is having a meeting at the Unity Church on 69th, on April 3rd at 7:30 p.m. if anyone would like to attend. She said she has an email list of anyone who has donated or volunteered that has provided their email to keep people up to date on what is happening, or what is coming up. If anyone would like to be on the list and get updates on the park and playground just let her know. Her number is on the newsletter. She said it's easier and faster to keep people up to date via email. She said if you go to [twistypinesplayground.org](http://twistypinesplayground.org) there is a contact email there also. Mike said there is also a grant coming up but it was for neighborhoods in need of redevelopment. But the way it was originally written we still might qualify. Mike and Chris are going to go to the meeting to see if we can qualify. **New Business** - No new members present. Arie is working on new welcome packets. She is accepting anything any neighborhood businesses wants to include in the packets. Just contact Arie Strobel. We are working on updating the Who's Who list on the PBCE website. Mike said we are getting a lot of new additions to the list. He said it is free to be on the list. If you want a link to your own company website it's \$100 for the year and a business card sized ad on the Who's Who list, including the link, is \$300 per year. You either have to be a resident or own property to be on the list. The water control district is having its annual picnic Saturday, April 5th in Jupiter Farms. The car/motorcycle show is tentatively May 18th. We need people to contact the board about participating. We had one a while ago and it was a big success. Landowner's board elections will be May 20th. The positions available will be President, 1st Vice President and Secretary. Mike said this is a great board. There is a lot of activity going on right now and now is a great time to be involved in your community. Mike reminded everyone he is not running. One resident wanted to know if there was ever a

possibility of a connection road between Jupiter Farms and PBCE for the purpose of fire trucks. Mike said no because the traffic would be too bad. Even Jupiter Farms didn't want a connection road. He said studies were done ten years ago and they estimated that Jupiter Farms road could be increased to six lanes and 150th would be a four lane road. The resident wanted to know because her insurance is so high. She had asked a firefighter and he said it takes sixteen minutes to get out here in case of a fire. Which is far too long considering all the wooden houses out here. She wanted to know if there was a possibility of discussing with the county the possibility of a fire station out here. Mike said that could be a possibility with the Jog Rd. connection going in. The resident said she had spoken to a fire chief and at one time the cattle bridge was used to bring fire trucks into PBCE. Mike said SIRWCD uses the bridge for their equipment but a fire water truck weighs so much more than a grader. Mike said the issue is getting an engineer to certify that the bridge is capable of holding a fire truck. Chris said there is a fire station in Mirasol that might be close enough once Jog Rd. has been opened. The resident said because she is in zone 10, which is farther than 5 miles away from a fire station, even with the fire hydrant, she doesn't get a discount. Zone 9, which is less than 5 miles, has seen a large decrease in insurance rates due to the hydrants. A resident asked if we had heard anything about when Jog construction was going to start. Mike said he hasn't heard anything. A resident said Felix has damaged his paved road. Mike said they are responsible for repairs. He said they are not at the point yet where they are ready to go through and do the entire final repair work. Brandy will check and see what still needs done. Mike said Felix would not get their final check until all repair work has been done. One last reminder about the May 20th elections. A motion was made to close the meeting. Motion was seconded. Meeting ended at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Chris Reinhardt, Secretary*

### **Palm Beach Country Estates WHO'S WHO**

We are continuing to update our Who's Who in PBCE list for our residents. Please email Arie Strobel with your business information. Her email is [ArieStrobel@comcast.net](mailto:ArieStrobel@comcast.net) or call 748-6784 or fax at 575-4135. You can also contact any Board member with your information. To insure accuracy please check the website [www.mypbce.org](http://www.mypbce.org) to make sure your information has been properly placed or updated. We would like to have email addresses for all listees to make it easier to communicate. If you see listings that are no longer valid, are no longer residents, have bad phone numbers, or have other errors please bring them to the attention of the Landowners Board.

### **Garbage Pick Up Changes**

Changes will be occurring in the unincorporated areas of Palm Beach County regarding vegetation pickup that will affect areas such as Palm Beach Country Estates and Jupiter Farms. Starting after May residents will only be able to put out 6 cubic yards of debris at each pick up before having to pay additional charges. Therefore if you are going to be doing extensive pruning it is recommended that you complete it by the end of the month. For more detailed information, you can review the minutes of the March 11th, Landowners meeting, where the Solid Waste representatives were guest speakers.





### Dog Thefts

The following information has been received by some residents from an AKC newsletter that some residents have gotten:

The American Kennel Club<sup>7</sup> warned pet owners and breeders about an alarming rise in dog thefts in recent months and offered tips on keeping pets safe with an appearance on NBC's Today Show earlier this month. From parking lots to pet stores and even backyards, more dogs are disappearing. In the first three months of 2008, the AKC has tracked more than 30 thefts from news and customer reports, versus only ten for all twelve months of 2007. Media reports have chronicled the escalation of these "dog-nappings" from all around the country. Incidents have included armed robbers entering a breeder's home, tiny puppies being stuffed into purses at pet stores and most recently, purebred pets being snatched from cars in parking lots and even shelters.

The AKC offers the following advice:

**Don't let your dog off-leash:** Keeping your dog close to you reduces the likelihood it will wander off and catch the attention of thieves. A Saint Bernard that had wandered away from his owner in Nebraska was snatched up right off the road.

**Don't leave your dog unattended in your yard:** Dogs left outdoors when no one is home for long periods of time can be potential targets, especially if you live in a rural area and the fenced-in yard or dog runs are visible from the street.

**Keep purchase price to yourself:** If strangers approach you to admire your dog during walks, don't answer questions about how much the dog cost or give details about where you live.

**Breeders need to be aware of home visits by potential puppy buyers:** Criminals posing as would be "puppy buyers" have visited breeder homes to snatch dogs, while other homes have been burglarized when the owner was away. From Yorkies in Los Angeles to Bulldogs in Connecticut, thieves have targeted young puppies of these highly coveted breeds.

#### **Recovery**

**Protect your dog with microchip identification:** Collars and tags can be removed so make sure you have permanent ID with a microchip. Keep contact information current with your recovery service provider. Several pets have been recovered because of alert people scanning and discovering microchips. For more information and to enroll your pet in a 24 hour recovery service visit [www.akccar.org](http://www.akccar.org).

**If you suspect your dog has been stolen:** Immediately call the police / animal control in the area your pet was last seen.

**Have fliers with a recent photo ready to go if your dog goes missing:** Keep a photo of your dog in your wallet or on an easily accessible web account so that you can distribute immediately if your pet goes missing.



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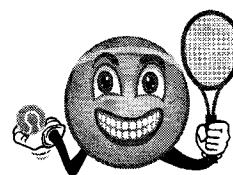
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### Welcome Packets

We are preparing welcome packets for new residents of our neighborhood. Packets will be distributed at the Landowner's Association meetings. If you would like to include a business card, promotional item, special offer, etc., for new (or existing) residents, we would love to have them for the packets. All items can be delivered to Arie Strobel at 16388 75th Avenue North for inclusion. She will compile the packets.

### 2008 Dues are Due

If you have not yet paid your 2007 dues please do so and support your community. Please issue payment of \$35.00 to the:

Donald Ross Landowners Association, P.O. Box 30638, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

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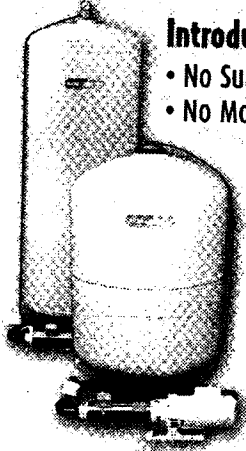


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**\*\*Annual Land Owners Meeting\*\***

**May 20, 2008 at 7:30 PM at Living Oaks Ministries Church on 64<sup>th</sup> Drive**