



Palm Beach Country Estates

Countryside Living...

A PERIODIC PUBLICATION OF THE DONALD ROSS LANDOWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC. AKA, DBA
PALM BEACH COUNTRY ESTATES LANDOWNERS' ASSOCIATIONSM

SCRIPPS TEAM MEETING A SUCCESS

On Tuesday, February 15th, the Donald Ross Landowners' Association hosted a Special Meeting for the Scripps Team from the City of Palm Beach Gardens. Approx. 90 residents attended. After a presentation about the Briger Tract, there was an informative question and answer period. An informal straw pole was taken and a small majority of those residents voting supported Scripps at Briger. A resident made a motion to send a letter to the

county stating the results of our meeting. After taking into discussion, the board chose to share the results of our meeting with Commissioner Marcus's representative via telephone conversation. It was advised at that time that our input as a community will be very valuable once a site for Scripps is established and further plans are made. We will keep you posted as this progresses. Another great reason to become a member of DRLA. Have your voice heard!

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Mary Hall is an energetic resident of our community who has lived in Palm Beach Country Estates since 1979. Mary has a special love for her community and for the peace and quiet she enjoys here. Mary is 72 years young and has raised a family in PBCE. She sees the benefits of growing up in a community such as ours in her own children. Commissioner Marcus encouraged Mary to become involved in her community years ago and as a result, Mary has

been keeping the corner of 69th and 155th clean... for about 10 years now! Mary is quite a sports enthusiast and is a big Gator fan. She also has a soft spot for the North Carolina Tarheels. Mary has a contagious zest for life and for what she believes in that presents a good example for those lucky enough to spend time with her. Hats off to Mary Hall for her dedication to our community and for her hard work!

GUEST SPEAKER MARCH 15, 2005 LANDOWNERS' MEETING: COMMISSIONER KAREN MARCUS

WELCOME, NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

We are proud to welcome two new board members to Donald Ross Landowners' Association. They are Jose Diaz-Arvesu, 1st Vice President and Mary Blasko, 2nd Vice President.

Hurricane Andrew. Jose brings solid professionalism to his position on our Board.

Mary has several accounting degrees and has her Master's Degree in tax. She looks forward to assisting in financial duties as well other duties of her position.

Jose has 10 years of experience serving on homeowners' associations in the Miami area with eight of those years as President. Jose was also Treasurer of his community Board during the aftermath of

Both Jose and Mary are great additions to our Association. We welcome their expertise, their time and dedication!

FINANCIAL RECORDS COMPUTERIZED

In an effort to extend our "open door" policy, Wynn Davis, our Treasurer, is putting the financial affairs of Donald Ross Landowners' Association aka/dba Palm Beach Country Estates Landowners' AssociationSM into a computer format for review by the Board and by members. At this printing, we are still waiting for the financial documents belonging to the Association to be turned over by the former Treasurer as per written Board and attorney's request.

costs of making copies of financial documents belonging to the Association. It was unanimous by the Board that Landowners' dues should not be used for this and that the Associations' documents should be returned in order to finalize and confirm the accuracy of the financial updates being compiled for community review.

This is the first time, to our knowledge, that the financial records have ever been computerized or compiled to be made available for review. Thank you to the hard working, qualified volunteers who have undertaken this tremendous project!

The former Treasurer has requested \$1,230.00 from the Association dues to cover his

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OFFICERS

President	Angela Powell-Craney	575-3756
Vice-President 1	Jose Diaz-Arvesu	630-3944
Vice-President 2	Mary Blasko	747-4388
Secretary	Lisa Janero	743-3747
Treasurer	Wynn Davis	743-3622

COMMITTEES

Entrance	Kirk Humphreys	748-4595
Community Festival	Lisa Janero	743-3747
Community Festival	Scott Rice	723-5552
Park	Bob Berman	627-1118
Welcoming Committee	Arie Strobel	748-6784

ASSISTANTS

Jennifer Corcoran	research
Beth Brunman	research
Troy Wilkinson	web
Matilda Nieves	web

EQUESTRIAN

C.O.P. Mounted Patrols	Jeannie Millette	747-1913
Equestrian Information	Beverly Bean	575-4411

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The Donald Ross Landowners' Association AKA/DBA Palm Beach Country Estates Landowners' AssociationSM has been recognized and respected as the Association representing its members and this community for 25 years. Your current Board stands strong and united in our commitment to serve this community.

Our goals of "open-door" policies and resident input, communication and education are being achieved through a proactive and positive approach. We are proud to have accomplished a great deal for the community in a relatively short time, including:

✓ Updated Bylaws, making way for member input not previously included.

✓ Creation of a new and improved website, www.pbce.org

✓ Expanded relationships with governmental agencies on federal, state and local levels.

✓ Providing opportunities for resident information and education through Special Meetings and guest speakers including PBSO, Pastor White of Worship Center Baptist Church, local candidates and representatives prior to the

general election in November, Solid Waste Authority after the hurricanes, John Street, Director of Riverbend Park and the Scripps Team from the City of Palm Beach Gardens.

✓ We are proud to announce our very special guest speaker for our upcoming meeting on March 15, Commissioner Karen Marcus. More presentations regarding community issues are in the planning stages.

✓ Increase in resident communication and involvement through website, phone and good old fashioned visits.

✓ Dramatic increase in meeting attendance.

✓ Expanded relationships with neighboring communities and their associations.

✓ Publication of a new and improved Countryside Living newsletter, THE newsletter of Donald Ross Landowners' Association and Palm Beach Country Estates with factual, productive, and informative information dedicated entirely to our community.

✓ Expanded committees and assistants as per resident input.

✓ "Suggestion Jar" at each meeting, inviting resident suggestions.

✓ Increased advertiser support in Countryside Living newsletter.

✓ Active participation by Board members in the conduction and planning of community and special meetings.

✓ The first Informational table representing our Landowners' Association at SIRWCD Family Landowners' Day.

We, your Landowner's Board choose to lead by example, volunteering for you in a united productive and professional manner to achieve your goals for the community. You, the residents have control of your community through accessibility, communication and involvement. We look forward to continuing to serve you as your board and to being the unified voice for Palm Beach Country Estates residents.

Thank you for the outstanding support you have given the Board in the last weeks through your encouraging phone calls and communications. Hearing you say, "Keep up the good work!" makes every effort worthwhile. You, the residents of Palm Beach Country Estates are after all, our special interest and it's with strength, unity and integrity that we stand by that!

I thank you for your continued support and as always, encourage your comments.

Respectfully,
Angela Powell-Craney

575-3756

VOLUNTARY DUES AND GENEROUS DONATIONS APPRECIATED

Thank you for paying your annual voluntary dues of \$25. Your extra donations are also greatly appreciated. A very special thank you to two residents who each gave a \$500.00 donation to the Donald Ross Landowners' Association. We are so grateful for everyone's support!

NEW SIGNS ON THE WAY!

Keep an eye out for fresh, new signs used to announce our members' meetings. Thanks to yet another generous resident, we are able to have new signs made for Donald Ross Landowners' Association aka/dba Palm Beach Country Estates Landowners' Association. Look for these to announce our March 15th meeting!

PROTECTING THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY

The Board has service marked the name Palm Beach Country EstatesSM and Palm Beach Country Estates Landowners' AssociationSM to insure that these names are to be used in conjunction with the community and to provide the community the protected right to continue using these names now and in the future. These names were reviewed by the State and awarded to the Donald Ross Landowners' Association after a detailed State

review. The Board had originally requested that the name Palm Beach Country Estates be designated as a demographic area for everyone's use, but the State, after using their own criteria, awarded its' use to the Association. The Donald Ross Landowners' Association, the official voluntary Association for the community for 25 years, has a consistent history of using these names in printed and legal documents, signage and other forms of representation.

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MINUTES JANUARY 18TH, 2005 COMMUNITY MEETING

Draft Minutes for review and approval at March 15th, 2005 meeting.

Angela Powell-Craney opened the meeting at 7:35. Board members were introduced: Angela Powell-Craney, President; Kirk Humphreys, 1st Vice President; Robin Lauramore, 2nd Vice President; Lisa Janero, Secretary and Wynn Davis, Treasurer.

Angela announced the windchime door prize to be given away at the end of the meeting.

Angela explained that there had been a delay with delivery of the newsletter due to postage funds for our bulk mail account being placed in the wrong account at the post office. Some residents said they had received their newsletter while others had not. A resident volunteered to make copies of minutes from the previous meeting for the purpose of approval.

Treasurer's Report

It was stated that the operating account had \$4664.92 and the legal defense fund had \$1,275.59.

Guest Speaker

John Street, director of Riverbend Park. Mr. Street gave a Power Point presentation showing maps of the park and its various passive recreational uses. There are limited areas for vehicular traffic. There are hiking, biking and equestrian trails in the park along with picnic areas and educational activities. The Loxahatchee River runs through the park providing canoeing. This portion of the river is the only federally designated Wild and Scenic River in the State of Florida. Mr. Street told of the 6,000 year old history that has been documented in the park and surrounding areas. The Seminole Indians have a rich history in Riverbend Park.

Mr. Street told those attending the meeting that our community has a unique opportunity; due to our close proximity to the park, we could have direct

access to the park if we as a community choose to act responsibly and care for the park and its surrounding areas. There has been documented vandalism traced to PBCE which if continued, could prevent our community from having connectivity into the park.

The park is open at this time for special group activities. The park should be open entirely in a year. Mr. Street ended his presentation by inviting any and all residents to call him to arrange for a tour of the park and by reminding residents of our opportunity to have unique access to the park if we so choose.

Old Business

Robin Lauramore stated that the paving of 145th had begun off 69th Drive.

Kirk Humphreys stated that the final contract for water had not yet been signed.

Robin stated that she checked into having a commercial mailbox in the front of the community. The Post Office claimed that PBCE does not have enough outgoing mail. If you are interested, this can be pursued further by speaking with your mail carrier.

New Business

Angela pointed out that there is now a "Suggestion Jar" along with the sign-in sheets and it is there for resident input. (anonymous if so desired)

Angela stated that the new Bylaws were up on the website www.pbce.org for everyone's review. The original Bylaws are also there for comparison. Voluntary Dues letters went out with the last newsletter. The dues remain at \$25 per year. The new Treasurer, Wynn Davis was announced. Her qualifications are impressive as she has worked as an accountant for Greg Norman for several years at Great White Enterprises.

Angela mentioned that one morning while running out along the C-18, she and her husband came across a blue toilet, a TV, etc. which had been dumped along one of our internal canals bordering the piece of Riverbend Park on our side. Next they came upon a Jeep parked in the woods, a fire still smoldering on the cattle bridge, beer cans and bottles and sheets of plywood blocking passage onto the bridge along with several sheets thrown into the canal. There were three teenage boys belonging to a Jeep nearby who were promptly reminded of the dangers of fire, littering and of the possibility of their being found by the sheriff's deputies that frequent the area.

A turning lane is being constructed at the corner of 69th and Donald Ross Road. Angela mentioned that the Board will be attending a meeting at Commissioner Marcus's office regarding this intersection and the Jog Road extension in late February.

The issue of the presence of survey markers along 69th came up. These markers are for sidewalks. The survey markers put the proposed sidewalks in the same location as the water pipes for city water once that project gets underway. If the sidewalks/pathways were put down, they would have to be removed in order to put in the water pipes therefore the sidewalks/pathways will be on hold until after the water pipes go down to make for a more cost effective project.

Beverly Bean asked the Board to check into multi-use pathways as a more cost effective surface that allows for better drainage as opposed to asphalt or concrete. She stated that these alternate surfaces are also more user friendly for pedestrians. Mike Danchuk stated that sidewalk monies have been approved for 2 years on Donald Ross Road. He stated a concern that the monies could be shifted elsewhere if the project is out off too long. (*see editor's note below) Ms. Bean stated the costs for sidewalks seem to be

about the same as a multi-use pathway with drainage improvements in a Swales to Trails concept. Angela stated that a resident had called her with a concern about a yard that had not been cleaned up since the hurricanes and that the neighbors were concerned about rodents and snakes in the overgrowth. It was stated that the beauty of living here is our freedom, however if one believes there is a hazard to the community, Code Enforcement could be called to investigate. (this according to Commissioner Marcus's office) Angela stated that she has received several calls complimenting the Association on a job well done. She also stated that there have been many concerns voiced about speeding on the dirt roads. Many in the audience agreed. There was a request for drivers of all ages to observe the speed limit as children, pets and adults play there.

Robin advised about For Sale By Owner precautions. Do not alert anyone calling to see your home that you will be at work or away from the house at any given time. This invites burglaries.

Welcome, New Residents

Val and Stephanie Delioqui
Oscar and Clara Soto
Paul and Wendy Milazzo
Juan and Ivette Zuniga

The minutes from the November Landowners' meeting were distributed. A motion was made to approve the minutes and was seconded. The windchime door prize was won by Alfreda Wilder. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm. Homemade cookies were served.

*editor's note:

Angela confirmed with Commissioner Marcus's office that the monies for the sidewalk/pathways projects are secured for our community regardless of a delay.

*Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Janero, Secretary*

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DUES ARE DUE FOR 2005.

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Make check(s) payable to: Donald Ross Landowners' Association. Please designate "Association Member Dues" or "Legal Defense Fund" on the check(s). Mail to: Donald Ross Landowners' Association, P.O. Box 30638, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33420

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WHY DID YOU CHOOSE PBCE AS YOUR HOME? _____

WHAT IMPROVEMENT/CHANGE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN PBCE? _____

SIDEWALK UPDATE

The Board has scheduled a meeting with the County to review engineering plans, drainage, and dates for construction of sidewalks / pathways along 69th. The Association has been

working on community sidewalks for many years. The Board is building on this foundation with continued effort to acquire sidewalks / pathways throughout the community.

DATE CHANGED FOR MEETING

Please note that normally our meetings are the second Tuesday of every other month, however to accommodate our guest speaker, Commissioner Karen Marcus, the meeting is scheduled for the third Tuesday, March 15th, 2005.

MEETING SIGNS MISSING

It was noted that the signs used to announce our Landowners' Meetings were missing the evening of the special meeting hosting the Scripps team on Tuesday, February 15th. When asked about the missing signs on February 23rd, Bob Berman

stated that he is the owner of the signs and now has them in his possession. There is currently a request being made for proof of ownership as these are the signs that have been used consistently by the Association for several years.

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COMMUNITY FESTIVAL UPDATE

According to the official community newsletter *Countryside Living*, September 2002, the County approved plans for improvements to our front entrance at 69th, along the right-of-way, through the Landowners' Association. Volunteers put in trees, irrigation, lighting and landscaping; dues and monies were allocated by the Association toward the approved project. The Community Festival, coordinated by the Association, was held in this area last year. Mr. Berman has sent a letter to the Board forbidding use of the area for the Community Festival as he stated he owns the festival as well as the land. The Community Festival is on hold until the issue is resolved.

"Who's Who" How To...

Please register your "Who's Who" information to our new website, www.pbce.org for the most current listings. Confirm and select your category and contact us through this website if you do not see your name. All residents are welcome to have a community listing.

CLASSIFIED AD CONTACTS:

Call our Secretary, Lisa at 743-3747 and she can assist you when placing an ad in your community newsletter *Countryside Living*. If you prefer via e-mail notify us at www.pbce.org. Remember, that if you are under 18 years old your classified advertisement is FREE.

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VANDALISM IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

On the evening of January 29, 2005 more than one police report was made regarding mail being taken out of a residence mailbox and either thrown about the roadway or placed in a mailbox other than their own. One police report contains information that

their mail was put into another person's mailbox and that the mailbox was then set on fire damaging approximately \$30,000 worth of incoming checks and the mailbox. Due to the dry season this could have resulted in a serious fire. This is a felony

offense and the persons are responsible can be severely prosecuted. Please notify the Board of any complaints so that they may be logged and printed in the newsletter.

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PBCE EQUESTRIAN INFORMATION

SENATOR ATWATER COMMENDS RESIDENTS...

On February 19th, 2005, Palm Beach Country Estates was presented a Ring of Connectivity, on horseback, from Swamp Owl, the Seminole Representative of Riverbend Park. The Ring was accepted by Beverly Bean in behalf of the bordering PBCE equestrian community and was carried as a symbol of unity of cultures and communities, respect for the environment and preservation of the history of horses on these lands. After attaching the first feather representing PBCE, the Ring was jointly carried on horseback by Swamp Owl and Ms. Bean as they led horses and riders from historic Riverbend Park to Jupiter Farms, where the second symbolic eagle feather was added. Nearly 100 horses came together at this moment, riding from their homes, with the procession continuing on to include horses and riders along the new Greenway from Wind in the Pines, Caloosa, the Acreage and the next day connecting Palm City Farms and Okeechobee riders. The Event connected parks, preserves and 7 communities, with riders from 3 counties. The Ring was carried for 2 days and nearly 50 miles along a portion of the new soon to be State designated Ocean to Lake Greenway from PBCE to Lake Okeechobee.

The Connectivity Ring was made in the Seminole tradition of a medicine wheel, representing the four directions of our earth, the four colors of mankind, the sacred circle of life and our connection to nature through the symbolic eagle feathers, attached by each community. Unlike carrying the torch for the Olympics, which happens every 4 years, this historical event cannot be duplicated. However, the values can be celebrated in years to come through continuing Events, and can help teach others to become respectful stewards of the land.

When the final connection was made between Lake Okeechobee and the Eastern communities, the crowd burst into applause. The Connectivity of the Ring was brought to competition with more applause as it was presented back to Swamp Owl, who carried it in the spirit of the Event for the dedication to Riverbend Park, where it will be displayed with a story about the Event in the proposed Interpretative Center. Channel 20 filmed the Event for 2 days to create an historical documentary. They also included stories told by Swamp Owl, around the campfire Saturday night at J.W. Corbett, while children, guests and campers with their horses listened in awe.

During the Sunday Celebration and BBQ at DuPuis, Senator Jeff Atwater gave a heartwarming speech commending community efforts and the importance and value of this historic Event as he stated "And all of this hard work, still shaving out time from your family, to go out and make something like this happen today... to watch the treating of that unification circle with the feathers today, is me recognizing what you have been working for all this time."

A presentation was made by the DEP Office of Greenways and Trails from the State; a Representative from Senator Pruitt's office was present as well as other state and local dignitaries and including govt. officials from three counties. The excellent BBQ was cooked by Kim of K Bar K from his mule driven, authentic replication of an 1800s chuck wagon, who was one of the many volunteers who asked to help.

Senator Atwater stated it best when he said: "Your gift, I really believe, was not just the joy and the friendships and the hospitalities that you're sharing with one another. I really think the success of today is that this vision is now going to be possible for many, many more to enjoy." He concluded: "People will not know that you stood here on this day and made it happen, but just in years to come, will share in the good fortune that you did it. And so, I simply say... thank you. On behalf of the 17 million other Floridians who weren't here today... thank you for believing that our future is still really connected with the quality of life of our past and that you are not willing to let it go..." Community Connection, Inc., originating in PBCE, has spent several years of volunteer effort toward the connectivity of trails, natural areas and communities, allowing healthy, low-impact activities... right from home.

Donald Ross Landowners' Association, Inc.
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