

# Palm Beach Country Estates

A PERIODIC PUBLICATION OF PALM BEACH COUNTRY ESTATES LANDOWNERS

Established 1980

### PALM BEACH COUNTRY ESTATES



# **HOLIDAY IN THE PARK**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH 11:00am-2:00pm

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If you would like to volunteer, please contact event organizer April Lundgren at (561) 315-4715

Or to have a booth at the event, please reach out to Greta Foriere at (561) 667-7897

# 2026 MAINTENANCE **CONTRIBUTIONS**

Huge THANK YOU to residents that have already made 2026 maintenance contributions! If you have not already done so, please do. This voluntary contribution will be 100% used for maintenance and security. Our goal is 100% of landowner participation.

Homepage: www.pbce.org

to pay by credit card. Or, to pay by mail, make

check payable to:

**PBCE Landowners Association** 

15610 69th Drive N.

Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

Zelle: PBCEgroup@gmail.com

The website is also where to go to sign up for email updates about events, and other important neighborhood announcements.

# TREASURER'S REPORT as of 12/10/2025

**Operating Account** \$31,570.00 General Fund

Save Our Sidewalks \$2,126.54 Balance

**Community Legal Fund** 

\$2,256.22

(Detailed reports available at regular meetings and vear-end financial statements at www.pbce.org)





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### PBCE Landowners Meeting Minutes for 11/13/2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm. All four board members were present along with 22 residents and 6 guest speakers.

<u>Sheriff's Report</u>: After the pledge, Deputy Woods introduced Deputy Drew Forde, who will also be coming to our future meetings. There were two burglaries of vehicles with unlocked vehicles being used to open garages. A Range Rover was stolen & recovered. "Lock your

vehicles", reminded Deputy Woods, "especially if your vehicle is known to have mirrors that retract only upon locking." There were 63 traffic stops for speeding and stop signs over the last two months. In another warning, as we enter peak gift shopping season, be aware of any cars following you from the Mall or other stores. If something is suspicious, do protect yourself but if you can avoid the problem don't take matters into your own hands, call & report the suspicious activity. For your home, close fence gates, use lights, and trim shrubs. Don't leave guns in your car.

Guest Speaker: Matthew Lane (561) 373-1182, School Board Member for District 1, spoke about Palm Beach County Schools being an "A" rated School District with a 96% graduation rate and the best choice for students in Palm Beach County. Other stats: \$5.9 billion budget, the 10th largest in the USA, 183 schools, 33 million meals annually, largest PBC employer, largest PBC police force, a therapist/counselor in every school, 335 technical education programs, and PBC schools are state champions in 14 different sports. Asked about security, Mr. Lane explained that schools have single points of entry and locked doors. As 40% of students don't go on to college, the school district does have programs to teach workforce skill trades like automotive and welding via regional training centers like Park Vista and Seminole Ridge. Chad Kennedy, Executive Director of South Indian River Water Control District, announced that SIRWCD has a new inhouse CFO that is slated to save money from the previously contracted position. The CFO will track the \$6 million budget used to keep the water in our Minutes Continued on Page 5







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Minutes Continued from Page 3

canals moving, the canal banks mowed, and the roads graded. The District did win upwards of \$1.5 million in 100% reimbursable NRCS grant money for clearing activities. A request was made to mow around fire hydrants, but the large scale tractors are not designed to do that work. If you need work done by SIRWCD, put in a ticket on their website. There is currently about a 100 ticket backlog that is targeted to be cleared by year-end. The \$1000 culvert pipe



replacement program continues. PBC Code allows for a maximum of 2 culverts per property with no exception for corner lots to have more. If your stop sign or street sign has fallen over or is otherwise in need of repair, enter a ticket to have SIRWCD correct this. PBC provides the signs to SIRWCD which does the installation. Presi-

dent Eric congratulated Bob Berman & Beth McElroy on their elections to the SIRWCD Board.

Assistant Fire Chief David Woodside and Division Chief Shon Broedell talked about our new fire station being constructed at 6519 Donald Ross Road. The exterior of the home will remain but the interior is being rebuilt. The station will probably retain the number 16 as that is the one being taken over by the Town of Jupiter. When asked if sirens will be going off continuously, they explained that lots of stations are located in neigh-



borhoods and PBC Fire Rescue wants to be a good neighbor. So, the fire trucks will only use the sirens when needing to clear a way through traffic. A flashing light is expected to be built on Donald Ross Road. The station will be operational on October 1, 2026. It will have a canopy built for the fire engine, rescue vehicle, and brush truck. The station will be manned 24/7 unless all the firefighters are out on a call. Kevin Baker thanked the fire chiefs for bringing their fire trucks to our Trunk or Treat and July 4th Parade events and asked if the station will have a community room. The new station will not have a community meeting room due to security concerns. Sound Wall Update: First VP Greta shared the good news that Representative Meg Whitman confirmed that funds for our sound wall have been committed in the upcoming five year budget. The money will come from Turnpike Tolls collected. The wall will be 22 feet tall. Construction is expected to begin in July 2028 in anticipation of the Turnpike expansion to 3 lanes in each direction.

Loxahatchee River District (LRD) Update: Governing Board Member Kevin Baker explained that LRD track pathogens in Jupiter wastewater which is currently showing a significantly decreased levels of Covid and Flu but rising levels of RSV and Norovirus. Kevin pitched free or reasonably priced activities available through the LRDRiverCenter.org including November guided nature hikes, boat safety classes, composting classes, & nature journaling events. December offerings include learning to build a wilderness shelter, Pine Glades Natural Area swamp tromp, Masten Dam guided hike, & Kids Archery 101 classes.

<u>Halloween Event Recap</u>: Ashlee Dixon was thanked for an excellent Trunk Or Treat event. Ken Trapasso reported that the Traditional Door to Door Trick or Treating went very well too.

Holiday In The Park: April Lundgren announced that our Winter event will be on December 13 from 11 am to 2 pm and include food, activities, vendors, crafts, and voluntary food donations. Contact April to volunteer to help with setup and contact Greta to book a vendor spot.

<u>New Business</u>: A new park entrance sign is in the works as well as Christmas lighting & other decorations. Sidewalks along Donald Ross Road and 69th Drive North are to be pressure cleaned.

Old Business: The easement for a future PBCE sign at 64th Dr & Donald Ross continues to be held as there is potential for PBC Fire Rescue to purchase the corner lot.

<u>Treasurer's Report</u>: April Lundgren, CPA, posted the latest monthly financials to the website for total transparency showing where all the money goes in our efforts to keep everything looking nice.

<u>2026 Maintenance Contribution Drive</u>: President Eric thanked the residents that have sent in their 2026 contribution and reminded the rest that there are postage paid envelopes and the dropbox at Bob Berman's office.

<u>2nd VP Position and Volunteers</u>: All of the board members are unpaid volunteers. The 2nd VP position remains open. If you would like to serve in that role, please reach out to one of the current board members.

Thank you: President Eric thanked Pastor Larry expressing gratitude for Living Oaks hosting us in their community meeting room. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm. Secretary Bob Berman

### \*\* Land Owners Meetings \*\*

Thursday, Jan. 8th & Mar. 12th - 7:30PM at Living Oaks Church.

# SIRWCD Update

Notes from the December 4th, 2025 SIRWCD meeting: SIRWCD has established a new Water Quality Monitoring Plan. Executive Director Chad Kennedy reported that the overall water quality is "Good". In the new plan, overlapping sites with the Loxahatchee River District (LRD) water testing



have been cut and testing will now be quarterly instead of monthly. This reduces the water testing program cost to \$16,000 annually from \$64,000. The nine sites to be tested will be reported using LRD software & website contributing to the cost savings. Mr. Kennedy thanked LRD for helping to make this happen. SIRWCD will no longer test for sucralose but has added testing for turbidity, as cloudiness could be a warning sign of canal bank erosion. Additional structures will be built to store more water in Jupiter Farms as slower drainage increases water quality before it reaches the river and allows for

more water percolation to recharge the Surficial aguifer from which residents draw water with their wells. Refinements are being made to the Service Request system for better tracking and communication. The fastest way to get help from SIRWCD is to fill out the form at sirwcd.org/service-request. SIRWCD began a board conversation about the rules for road paving and will continue the discussion in January with potential changes to the policy. Elimination of financing of road projects under \$5 million was proposed as well as potentially having a separate policy for PBCE although neither seemed to be the consensus of the board. It was explained that corner lots can benefit from a paved road even if the existing driveway does not exit onto that road because at some future date, a driveway could exit onto that road. In another policy raised for the January review, SIRWCD spent \$17,000 in 2025 on paving petitions that didn't meet the currently required 90% Yes-vote threshold. Had the paving projects passed, this expense would be recouped from the benefiting landowners. Each of the SIRWCD board

members read off the counts of PBCE & Jupiter Farms folks on each side of these issues so do email them as your voice will be heard.









#### Living Oaks Church

Sunday Worship Service 10:30AM

We welcome you to join us! Ministries available for the whole family.

Please watch our service on the web! www.LivingOaks.org

14156 64th Drive N. PBG, FL 33418

# **CREATIVE HALLOWEEN SPIRIT ABOUNDS!**





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# HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL OF PBCE!

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#### Officers and Committees

#### Officers:

President - Eric Freeman 616-889-4451

President@pbce.org

1st Vice President - Greta Foriere 561-667-7897

VP1@pbce.org

2nd Vice President - Open

VP2@pbce.org

Treasurer - April Lundgren 561-315-4715

Treasurer@pbce.org

Secretary - Bob Berman 561-627-1118

secretary@pbce.org

#### **Committees & Information:**

Newsletter -	Kevin Baker - Editor/Ads 561-389-1645	
Park -	Ken Trapasso	561-578-9323
	Tim Brown	561-676-5527
	Bob Berman	561-627-1118
Playground -	www.twistypinesplayground.org	
	Chris Reinhardt	561-762-1281
	reinharm@bellsouth.net	
Beautification -	Ken Trapasso	561-578-9323
Flags -	Fred Seitz	631-965-3460
Website -	www.pbce.org	
Official Facebook Grp	Palm Beach Country Estates LANDOWNERS	
COP Patrol -	Bob Berman	561-627-1118
SIRWCD -	www.sirwcd.org	561-747-0550
Webmaster -	Bob Berman	561-627-1118
FedEx HOME DELIVERY Lost Packages - jbs.sam.dsi@gmail.com		
Save Our Sidewalks -	pbcegroup@gmail.com	
Speeding -	Lisa Sesler LisaSe	sler@gmail.com
Fire Station & Trunk or Treat - Kevin Baker Shanngrila@gmail.com		
Turnpike Soundwall -	Greta Foriere & Gary Johnson	
Food Bank -	Caroline Brown carrijb	05@gmail.com

Association Meeting: Thursday Jan. 8th 7:30 PM at Living Oaks 14156 64th Dr N.

To be added to the PBCELA website Who's Who list, email pbcegroup@gmail.com your PBCE resident owned business contact information.