



The Fountain

Cape Haze Community Newsletter

Volume 14, Issue 3

May 2010

Hurricane Caravan Coming

Are you ready for the upcoming hurricane season? It's not a matter of "if" - It's a matter of "when" the next hurricane will be upon Charlotte County and this year is predicted to be an active season.

To help citizens prepare, Charlotte County is offering two presentations featuring local Television Meteorologists. Topics will include Storm Surge Threat, Family Preparedness, Debris Clean-up and Insurance. There is no charge and reservations are not needed for either session.

Wednesday, May 12

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Tringali Recreation Center
3460 N. Access Road
Englewood

Saturday, May 22

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM*
Charlotte Harbor Event Center
75 Taylor Street
Punta Gorda

*The Saturday, May 22 presentation is an extended program in conjunction with a local newspaper's event.

For further information, contact Charlotte County Emergency Management by phone, 941-833-4000, or e-mail at emergency.management@charlottefl.com or check the website at www.charlottecountyfl.com/emergency.

Giant Palm Weevil Invasion is Spreading



First reported in the November 2009 issue of *The Fountain*, our neighborhood is hosting a deadly fiend, the Giant Palmetto Weevil, aka *Rhynchophorus cruentatus*

Fabricius, and they are on the move. A few more beautiful canary island date palms have succumbed and now there are reports of several infestations in coconut palms, having been weakened by our winter's cold temperatures and winds.

Previously canary island date, washingtonia, and a few other palms were thought to be the only victims, so this new information is worrisome. The palms face little chance for survival once the bug is established within.

So, what to do? If you have these palms on your

property, it is imperative to have them treated twice a year {spring and fall} with a mixture which kills larvae, juveniles and adult weevils. Check with a large tree landscape specialist – they should have the needed product.

And if you see unusual frond yellowing, especially around the top {heart} of the plant, have the tree immediately inspected. If an infection is found, treat without delay! More than likely the plant has been mortally wounded and will need to be removed.

Dead and dying plants should be removed as soon as possible to prevent spreading to healthy trees. Your neighbors will appreciate it.

To learn more, navigate your browser to: www.edis.ifas.ufl.edu/IN139.

Placida Road Widening - Differing Points of View

Charlotte County has completed the land survey for the current plan to widen Placida Road to four lanes from Rotonda Boulevard south to Cape Haze Drive. There are many differences of opinion on this issue ranging from "killing" the entire project to favoring the County's entire plan. Many residents fall someplace between with differing opinions on planned roundabouts, specific width of proposed lanes and median, urban street lighting, and amount of tree line disturbed. Some are also questioning the lack of planning for a stop light at Cape Haze Drive and any median landscaping. Following are representations of differing opinions, voters will have to look at this issue and decide where they stand.

The following letter *opposing* the project was sent by neighbor Bill Dahms.

Subject: Please kill the Plan to widen Placida Road

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing you to ask that you reconsider and kill the plans to widen Placida Road from Rotonda Blvd. south to Cape Haze Drive.

The reasons are as follows:

1. We don't need it ... at least not for a long time to come.
2. The cost is excessive and we don't have the money. What money we do have could be far better spent on road repair and improvements and fixing axle busting roads.
3. This would wreck a designated Scenic Highway and turn it into a freeway.
4. It would work as a springboard to overdevelopment in the pristine part of paradise (the Cape Haze peninsula) we call home.
5. Despite what we were told, we never specifically voted for this project. Ordinance 2008-043 called for the proceeds of the 1 cent sales tax to be "used for infrastructure, including road improvements and sidewalks". No mention was ever made of Placida Road. The verbal discussion of this vote centered on Winchester Blvd. improvements and expansion. This vote which carried by a mere 638 ballots only had 15% of the voters participating.
6. These funds, if for hurricane evacuation as we are told, would be far better spent on expanding Winchester Blvd. and removing a bottleneck to evacuation.
7. The widening project will adversely affect the quality of life of so many voters along Placida Road as trees which afforded privacy and security are removed.
8. A large number of citizens turned out for the meeting at the Lemon Bay Golf Club on April 12 to express their concern.
9. A much larger number of citizens are now working on petitions to you to kill this project. Voters in Charlotte County as well as other affected areas feel we don't need this egregious expenditure combined with the disruption which will occur.
10. Finally, at the meeting of 4/12 an official from Public Works told us that this was a "done deal" since we voted for it. Many of us felt that this arrogant approach to our concerns was troubling, especially now that as we re-read the ballot we realize that WE DIDN'T VOTE FOR IT.

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Cape Haze Residents Communication

To speed up information distribution, it would be very helpful if ALL Cape Haze RESIDENTS would forward their email address to me, Mary Lou Fitzgerald, CHPOA and Cape Haze Women Secretary. I send all messages via Blind Carbon Copy (BCC) so no one but **you** sees your email address.

So if you want to be kept up-to-date, **please** send me an email, MLZIGFITZ55@COMCAST.NET, noting the **Subject: Cape Haze email address**.

Thanking you in advance,

Mary Lou Fitzgerald, CHPOA and CHW Secretary

The following has been submitted by "Citizens for a Better Placida Road" which supports a petition *proposing extensive modifications* to the County's plan:

Citizens for a Better Placida Road are objecting to the extensive widening of Placida Road. The plan which has been approved by the present County Commission: 1) is contrary to the [Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan](#), 2) violates the stated goals of the Florida Scenic Highway designation already given to this road by the County and State of Florida, 3) is being presented as a project approved by the voters in August 2008 while the actual wording of the ballot and ordinance have no mention of the project. This is an inefficient use of our taxpayer dollars in a difficult economic time when there are many additional and more pressing road projects required in the County, i.e., Winchester Extension.

This project also places our natural habitat at great risk. Living in close proximity to Lemon Bay we have a responsibility to preserve the Lemon Bay eco system, which is a remarkably productive shallow brackish water assemblage of birds and the aquatic life, which feeds them. The hydrology is so delicate that a very small disturbance in the balance of the bay/creek/lake connection could be fatal to this ecosystem. Placement of the required retention ponds for the road widening project will need to be done very carefully.

We propose that the County Commission review the scope of this project and approve an improved road with two lanes, turn lanes as necessary for commercial development, bike paths, sidewalk on one side to match existing walk at 8500 Placida Road, and reduced lighting. This would bring the project back in line with the County Comprehensive Plan and the will of the voters. It would represent the least invasive approach to achieve safety and maintain the natural beauty of our area, and a responsible use of our tax dollars.

References:

1. The stated goals of Florida scenic highways are to "to identify, highlight, and enhance the unique cultural, historical, archaeological, recreational, natural, and scenic resources along Florida's roadways." (ref. [Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan](#))
2. The Transportation Section of the Charlotte County comprehensive plan clearly states that the current 775 (Placida Road) meets population needs and is sufficient to meet population growth to 2030.

To sign the petition supporting the above statement, go to website www.saveplacidaroad.com.

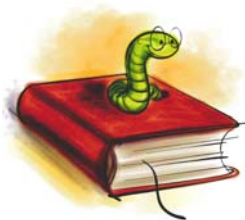
And last, in discussion with other area residents, the following comments have been made *in support* of the project:

1. We need it to ease the current amount of traffic on this stretch and by the time it's completed, the condominiums along this corridor may be more fully occupied meaning much more traffic.
2. Costs only go up so doing the project sooner will save tax payer money in the long run.
3. This will remain a scenic roadway and without limited access will retain its country living feel.
4. The widening will improve access to the area which will facilitate more sales of existing units thereby relieving the empty, uncared for appearance we see today.
5. Voters approved using the proceeds of the 1 cent sales tax for "infrastructure, including road improvements and sidewalks". There were no particular roads included or excluded.
6. With several developments emptying onto this two lane road, it is a bottleneck to hurricane evacuation.
7. There will remain a significant tree line along much of the proposed roadway. Trees currently marked for removal will have very little impact.
8. Planned sidewalks will make bike riding and walking much safer.

Please become informed and let your views be heard.

Book Club Sets Next Season Schedule

The Book Club is open to all Cape Haze neighbors and we invite you to join us for the next season, or for discussion of a book or two. We meet the second Tuesday of each month October through May, 10:00 a.m. at Community Center.



Members of the Book Club have posted some of our favorite books for summer reading on the Cape Haze website, www.capehaze.org.

The discussion schedule for the 2010 - 2011 season is:

October 12

The Summer Kitchen
by Lisa Wingate

November 9

Consumption
by Kevin Patterson

December 14

The Help
by Kathryn Stockett

January 11

Look Again
by Lisa Scottoline

February 8

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

March 8

by Rebecca Skloot
Shanghai Girls

April 12

by Lisa See
The Bread of Angels

May 10

by Stephanie Saldana
The Postmistress
by Sarah Blake

Please join us, newcomers and guests welcome!

Cape Haze on the Go . . .

This new program will offer events to Cape Haze residents, both women and men. Often costs will be at group discounts, however they may have to be paid by strict deadlines. There will be several additional offerings as the season progresses and if you'd like to see something added, please contact a Women's Club Board member. More details will be announced at meetings; posted on the Community Bulletin Board outside the Community Center and on the website, www.capehaze.org; and e-mailed.

November 19

Lemon Bay Garden Tour and Lunch

December 12

My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish, and I'm Home for the Holidays
Broadway Show at the Van Wezel in Sarasota, 7:00 PM Curtain

January 16

The Fabulous Hub Caps will be performing at the Venice Community Center. Afternoon performance. Contact Karen Irvine for reservations.

March

Sarasota Orchestra Fashion Show & Luncheon, details to come

Other plans in the works may include: Additional theatre and musical performances, river cruise, sporting events, and whatever else we may come up with. Hope you find something to interest you next season and that you'll join the good times in Cape Haze.

Your Cape Haze Women's Club Board,

Barbara Hanson, President, 828-7447
Nancy Buechler, Co-Vice President, 697-0885
Sharon Blasdell, Treasurer, 697-4130

Mary Lou Fitzgerald, Secretary, 697-6228
Clare Landmann, Co-Vice President, 697-8492



Cape Haze Women's Club 2010 - 2011 Schedule

The Cape Haze Women's Club had a brainstorming session at the April meeting and came up with several wonderful ideas for activities for the next season. The following schedule combines regular meetings at our Community Center, programs and outings.

Additionally a new activity has been started that will offer extra events for those interested and we hope to appeal to the men as well. These "Cape Haze On the Go" activities may offer group discount rates. If you would like to offer an event in this category, please contact one of your Women's Club Board Members.

As always, check the Community News Bulletin Board outside the Community Center and the Cape Haze website, www.capehaze.org for updated information.

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| June 27 | Family Picnic
4:00 PM, Community Center, more details will be coming |
| October 18 | Welcome Back Meeting with luncheon at Gulf View Grill |
| November 8 | Meeting and Protecting Your Health Program with the American Red Cross
9:45 AM Coffee, 10:00 AM Meeting, 11:15 AM Program
Community Center (All invited to program, see Women's Club Report, page 6) |
| November 15 | Community Holiday Decorating—Everyone welcome to participate
9:45 AM, Community Center |
| November | (Exact date not yet set) Catered Dinner following 4:00 PM CHPOA Meeting |
| December | (Exact date not yet set) Lighted Boat Parade and Party |
| December 13 | Victorian Tea Holiday Luncheon & Yankee Swap Gift Exchange
Time to be announced, Community Center |
| January 7 | Community Holiday Un-decorating—Everyone welcome to participate
9:45 AM, Community Center |
| January 10 | Meeting and Around the Environment Program, more details will be coming |
| February 15 | Shelling and Lunch on Palm Island - Note this is a Tuesday |
| March 14 | Meeting and Nutrition and You Program, Individual counseling will be available
9:45 AM Coffee, 10:00 AM Meeting and Program |
| April 2 | Poker Run Fund Raiser and Party, more details will be coming |
| April 11 | Annual Luncheon and Election of Officers, details will be coming |
| May 6 | Cinco de Mayo Catered Social |

These events have chairpersons but are looking for helpers so if you see one that appeals to you, please volunteer. A few additional activities are being investigated and will be discussed at the fall meetings.

Remember, these events are in addition to the Second Friday Night Socials and Cape Haze on the Go plans (See page 4). Have a great summer and we're looking forward to a busy, fun, and hopefully warm, season.

Your Cape Haze Women's Club Board

Cape Haze Women's Club

Many thanks to outgoing president Hilary Dahms as she completes a successful year filled with fun activities. At the annual luncheon on April 19, new officers were elected for two year terms. They are: Barbara Hanson, President; Nancy Buechler and Clare Landmann, Co Vice-presidents. Both Mary Lou Fitzgerald, Secretary and Sharon Blasdell, Treasurer will complete their two year terms, having been elected last year.

This year will bring some favorite repeat activities such as the **Lighted Boat Parade in December** and **Shelling and Lunch on Palm Island in February**, as well as many new ventures. Check out our Scheduled Activities List on our website www.capehaze.org for current follow-up details and new listings.

We will strive this year to help others in our community who are struggling with empty food pantry shelves. There will be a permanent container in the Community Center for **donating unexpired non-perishable food items**. Containers will be donated to several food pantries in our area.

We are initiating a new feature this fall called **Cape Haze on the Go . . .** which will include information on a variety of activities you might enjoy such as theatre shows, sporting events, musical events, etc. Please follow the directions about ticket purchase and reservation deadlines so you don't miss out on the fun. Members and guests are invited. Listings will also be included on the Community News bulletin board outside the Community Center by the flag. (See page 3 for more information.)

Although many members go north for the summer our year-round residents continue to enjoy the **Friday Night Socials held at the Community Center on the 2nd Friday of the month**. We will continue to meet to chat and socialize as the Center remodeling project allows. Bring your own beverage and an appetizer to share. Please join us if you are in town. Everyone is welcome.

Also in the planning stage is a **family picnic on Sunday, June 27 at 4:00 pm**. Mary Lou Fitzgerald is coordinating this event. Details to follow on the website.

Mark your calendars and plan to join us on :

Monday, October 18 for a Women's Club Meeting and Lunch at Gulf View Grill.

Monday, November 8, 9:45 am, meeting at the Community Center. **At 11:15 am we'll welcome the Red Cross to demonstrate the new procedures for CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver** as well as emergency first aid procedures. Everyone is invited to join us at 11:15 am. The Red Cross fee is \$8/person and includes a Red Cross Booklet describing these life-saving techniques. Please let Barbara Hanson know if you plan to attend this training. Contact Barbara at 828-7447 or by email at BHANSON99@HOTMAIL.COM.

Saturday in November (Date to be set) join us for the Fall CHPOA meeting at 4:00 PM and the catered **"Kick Off the Season" dinner following the meeting**.

And don't forget our Cape Haze on-going activities; everyone is invited to join in anytime.

Aerobics October - June
Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 8:15 am
Community Center

Walking Group October - June
Tuesday, Thursday, Weekends 8:15 am
Meet at the fountain

Book Review Club October - May
Second Tuesday of the month 10:00 am
Community Center

Friday Night Socials All Year
2nd Friday each month 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Community Center

Please check our website regularly at www.capehaze.org and also the community news bulletin board.

Barbara Hanson, Women's Club President

Upcoming Events

- May 14 Friday Night Socials
June 11 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Community Center
Everyone Welcome at All Friday Nights
- June 27 Family Picnic - Details TBA
4:00 PM - Community Center
- July 9 Friday Night Socials
August 13 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Community Center
- September 10 Friday Night Socials
October 8 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Community Center
- October 12 Book Club - *The Summer Kitchen*
10:00 AM - Community Center
- October 18 Women's Club Meeting - Details TBA
Watch e-mail and the Cape Haze website
- November 8 Women's Club - Red Cross Training
Meeting - 9:45 AM & Training - 11:15 AM
Community Center
Everyone Welcome to Training
- November 9 Book Club - *Consumption*
10:00 AM - Community Center
- November 13 Friday Night Social
5:00 - 7:00 PM - Community Center
- November 15 Community Holiday Decorating
9:45 AM - Community Center

Stay informed

*Check Community Center Outdoor Bulletin Board
and our website - www.capehaze.org*

Neighborhood Watch Report

The Neighborhood Watch program is off and running and signs have been posted at our entrances.

The Charlotte County Sheriffs Office has alerted us to a spate of recent outboard motor thefts in the area. Most of the thefts have been Honda Four stroke engines which have been stolen from boat storage or repair shops.

Please keep your boats and engines well secured and keep your car doors locked when parked out of doors.

Bill Dahms, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

The Fountain

is published January, March, May, and November.

All articles, letters, photographs, and "Upcoming Events" received by deadline will be considered for publication.

Text submissions should be Microsoft Word files.

Photographs should be .jpg files of at least 400kB in size.

Text and photographs should be attached to e-mail with "Fountain Submission" in the subject box, and forwarded to NancyBue@aol.com.

Hard copy submissions may also be considered.

**November Deadline is
November 12, 2010**

**Happy Mother's
Day**

**Have a Wonderful
Summer**

The Fountain

Cape Haze Property Owners Association
P. O. Box 690 Placida, FL 33946



**Cape Haze Communications
Request - See Page 2**

Inside this Issue:

- **Placida Road Widening Discussion**
- **Palm Weevils Spreading throughout Cape Haze**
- **Lots of Social Opportunities**