



Burnt Store Isles Association

NEWS

Vol. 32, No. 2 - Summer 2014

UP & COMING

July 29, 2014

General Membership Meeting & Meet the Candidates Night at TICC

Aug 1, 2014

Joint Friday Mixer with BSIB at TICC

See inside for details on these activities as well as many others coming up and go to the Association web site: www.bsia.net



From the President

GENE MURTHA, President

BSIA - Staying Involved Is a Good IdeaActually It's A Must!

BSIA Board of Directors, similar to most other neighborhood association board of directors, is comprised of 100% volunteers elected by the BSIA General Membership. No one gets paid to do these jobs. The people that do volunteer always use their best judgment in deciding what is best for the community. Often it is a struggle to get anyone interested in filling these positions. BSIA has been very fortunate over the years with getting dedicated individuals to step forward and volunteer their time. My personal thanks and gratitude to them all for the time and effort they have put in for our great neighborhood.

However, it seems to be the natural process that when decisions are made they are almost always met with those who do agree with them, and those that don't agree with them. Having served on several civic associations boards, I have found it is no different anywhere. I guess that is why we have two main political parties. One group sees things one way and the other group sees it another way. Over the long haul it usually turns out to be the best process anyway. You get the pros and cons.

The process isn't perfect. In fact, it's often much less so because of one major factor.....apathy. Many do not get involved or pay any attention to issues surrounding them. In spite of constantly being informed by the City in the newspapers of upcoming public hearings, BSIA e-mails notifying members of upcoming public hearings, and the issuance of Council Member Prafke's report on City Council and City public hearings, little attention seems to be paid. Strategic taxpayer issues such as the 1% Sales Tax Extension project list, the \$28M unfunded Reverse Osmosis Plant, the unfunded dredging of the BSI Perimeter Canal at an estimated \$500,000, the building of a new Justice Center in Punta Gorda at over \$35M are just some examples. People just seem to want to be uninvolveduntil it arrives on their doorstep, which is usually after the fact. This is really not a good way to approach getting your voice heard. We all need to be involved **upfront** with these decisions and you can't by staying home.

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MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT

Tuesday July 29th

This is an active electoral year at the County level, with positions to be filled for two County Commissioners, two School Board members and one spot on the County Airport Authority. Among others up for reelection this year, are Chris Constance the County Commissioner representing our district (dist. 2) and Don Lee on the Airport Authority representing also dist.2.

All registered voters are entitled to vote for all candidates and vacant positions.

This is your opportunity to meet the candidates "up close and personal." On Tuesday evening, July 29th at the Burnt Store

Presbyterian Church, there will be a one hour "Meet The Candidates Night" followed by a brief "General Membership – Mid Year Update Meeting". The start time for the candidates to arrive is 6:30 pm. The meeting will formally start at 7:00 pm. Between 6:30 and 7:00 pm people will have an opportunity to meet them informally. The candidates will each have 2-3 minutes max to introduce themselves starting at 7:00 pm. There will NOT be a Q & A period due to the number of candidates that are now in the field. WE look forward to a good turnout.

SEE THE ENCLOSED FLYER WITH THE DETAILS AND AGENDA FOR BOTH OF THE EVENING'S PROGRAMS.

BSIA 2014 BOARD

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Secretary Mary Drummond
Treasurer.....Connie Higgins

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Community Standards.....Jayne Perkins
Legal LiaisonMirco Vicko
Membership Lori Gurr
E-Communications.....Don Hallman
Community Security.....Don Clark
PlanningBrian Stirling
Special Projects..... Doug Paquin
Social Judy Vanderweele
Past Pres (non voting) Doug Rhees

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Eileen Leming, Michelle Rhees
E-Communications.....Don Hallman
Social Judy Vanderweele
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Spotlight on BSI Security

Donald Clark, Director Community Security

BSIA friends and neighbors. During this past quarter you may have seen a number of alerts that have stemmed from the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office. I am now on their new distribution system (NIXLE) for timely dissemination of important information. If it may impact our area or if our members may be able to assist in the matter, I use our bulletin system to get out ALERTS. Many thanks to Don Hallman, our E Communications Director, for formatting and timely dissemination of this data for me.

I have heard from some of you there was confusion created by the Neighborhood Watch (NW) being separated from the BSIA Security Director responsibilities. Let me assure you this is **NOT** a competition. Last year a legal liability issue was raised when the board was involved with (NW). After diligent research, and to prevent such liability, it was decided by the board to no longer directly oversee the (NW) in BSI. However, the board continues to support the concept of (NW) in BSI.

In January 2014 the PGPD devised a plan to set up the (NW) for the entire city and John Bates volunteered to command the Southern Punta Gorda area program (which includes BSI). I met with LT King, who oversees the Citywide program for the PGPD, and have assured him of our support for this approach. You may have seen our advertising on behalf of the (NW) in our Bulletins. So, as they said in the movie Ghost Busters "Who Do You Call"? **ALWAYS**, in an **emergency** you call **911**. **ALWAYS**, in a **non-emergency** you call **639-4111**. Extra steps/calls waste time in an emergency and also in a non-emergency. When you see something out of place please **immediately** notify the Police! (NW) should be next on your list so they can alert others in the area of the situation. I hope this clarifies the confusion. As a suggestion, why not be on the (NW) for your block? Give John Bates, a BSI resident, a call and volunteer.

What is next? Another Security Seminar is being planned for late Oct when more folks will be back and can attend. More on this will be released at the end of summer. Enjoy your summer plans and above all, **STAY SAFE!**

BSIA School Supply Drive

Our Association has just completed the fourth annual drive to collect school supplies for Charlotte County children in grades K through 12. Led by Cynthia Council and Brenda Townsend, the drive produced supplies and cash contributions valued at over \$800. Items ranged from book bags, computer thumb drives, hand calculators and the usual array of stationary items. Expressing thanks, Denise V. Berg, of the Charlotte Local Education Foundation noted: "For many years the members of Burnt Store Isle Association have gone above and beyond the call in collecting school supplies and funds to help the students of Charlotte County Public Schools through the annual Back-to-School Supply drive hosted by Charlotte Local Education Foundation. This year members of the Association are also helping with retrieving and distribution of supplies throughout the county."



Mary Fred Clemmons, Executive Director of Charlotte Local Education Foundation, President Gene Murtha, Cynthia Council and Brenda Townsend

UPDATE FROM BSI CANAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Gary Brewster, Chairman

Your advisory committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the survey of waterfront property owners. We had 646 responses, over 60% return rate. If you have not had a chance to review the results, a summary follows: 1) survey inputs regarding widening the lock were 63% high importance to moderately high vs. 37% low to moderately low importance, 2) inputs regarding widening the rim canal channel were 30% high and moderately high vs. 70% low and moderately low importance. The survey report is on the Punta Gorda website at: <http://ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/depts/publicworks/canalmaint.html>

The lock widening project is therefore still planned for FY2015.

In order to assess the need for a new dredge design in the perimeter canal, the CAC approved authorizing bathymetric and geo-technical surveys at the June meeting. These surveys will give us profile and composition information for our perimeter canal. From these reports cost estimates can be made to change the authorized dredge design based on amount of material to be removed. This would be in addition to the current maintenance dredging permit. It is anticipated that 2 to 3 years will be required to obtain this type permit from the state.

Help Keep BSI Rat Free



**As you can see,
it is not a pretty sight.**

Well, maybe we haven't smelled a rat, but there have been sightings of Fruit Rats, also known as Palm Rats in BSI.

To eliminate the problems caused by these rats it is important to cut fruit off of your palm trees and to pick up loose citrus. Please be aware that these rats can build nests out of grass and lawn clippings and can make nests on docks that are used infrequently.

RATS! Too bad they love living in paradise too!

Thank you for your cooperation in helping rid BSI of these pests.

If your neighbor has fruit trees that have dropped fruit on the ground and they are away, please pick them up also.

Social Events Spotlight

Judy Vanderweele, Social Director

Recent Highlights:

June 10 - Elks Picnic – 50 plus BSIA/BSIBC members attended this event. It was not our regular turnout. We all enjoy the Elks location and look forward to supporting the Elks' scholarship funds and figure out how to do this better in the future.

School Supply Drive – June 11 and July 9 – This year's School Supply Drive was again a success. We thank all of our members and friends who donated items and money and Cynthia Counsil and Brenda Townsend for organizing the drive.

July 4th @ Hurricane Charley's – a great time was had by all! Over 75 BSIA and BSIBC members attended this event and stayed to watch the fireworks. All report the food was delicious and plentiful and wonderful for a 4th Picnic. Special thanks to JoAnn Houston who sought out and booked this event and to Fran Koon and Elaine Gil who finalized participation and details of the event! Great job!

Coming Up - Save the Date:

Tuesday, July 29th 2014 – Meet the Candidates and General Membership Meeting at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church beginning at 6:30 pm. See upcoming announcements on specific agenda items and times. Dessert and coffee/tea/water will be provided.

Friday Night Mixers with BSIBC at Twin Isles Country Club (TICC) – August 1, 2014 September 5, 2014; October 3, 2014; November 7, 2014; December 5, 2014. Make reservations for dinner and bring your friends and neighbors to meet and socialize with other BSIA community members!

While August and September are traditionally "down" months because of so many of us traveling or "living out of the Punta Gorda area, this year we are planning some impromptu activities and events that we hope you will like. They will be announced in the BSIA Weekly Bulletin Board published via email at the beginning of each week as the details are finalized. Keep us posted on how we can meet your specific activity and event expectations to support BSIA members, Punta Gorda community service organization activities or needs that also support BSIA members. If you have any special interests and/or would like to coordinate a specific activity, please contact Judy VanderWeele at JudVande@comcast.net.

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4th of July Party

at Hurricane Charley's
Sponsored by BSI Boat Club





Macedonia Drive Sidewalk Project – Background and Status

Gene Murtha, President, BSIA

During the first quarter of this year, the City of Punta Gorda formed a “Project Selection Committee” to determine a list of projects to be funded by the 1% Sales Tax Extension if approved by the voters in the November, 2014 referendum. The City would be receiving \$2,000,000 per year for 6 years. As part of the process each neighborhood in Punta Gorda had representation on the Project Selection Committee. Burnt Store Isles had one representative on the City’s Project Selection Committee of 16 representatives. Bill Hughes had asked to be that representative for BSI and was selected to do so. In establishing the process the City held numerous public meetings, which were advertised in the newspaper and requested public attendance and input into the process. One was held at the Burnt Store Presbyterian Church for the convenience and benefit of the south portion of Punta Gorda. It was very open, publicized and a structured process.

Bill was asked by the Burnt Store Isles Association, Board of Directors to attend our March, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting, so the process could be explained further and we could see what was being addressed within Burnt Store Isles. The project list was scheduled to be finalized by the Project Selection Committee and City Council very shortly thereafter. The process allowed any person or group to suggest a project for the list. The Project Selection Committee and the City Council would then make the determination as to what was to remain on the suggested project list, which they did in April at a public meeting held at the Charlotte Community Foundation Building in Punta Gorda. For example, it was suggested by one of our Burnt Store Isles resident that the sidewalk on Madrid Blvd by the Burnt Stores Isles Shopping Center be added, which it was and is on the project list.

During the March, 2014 meeting Bill reviewed some of the projects on the list and explained that we only had a short time to respond – less than a week. Pocket Parks in BSI and decorative lighting were some of the projects on the list already that could impact BSI. A member of the Board raised concern for the safety of the pedestrians and bicyclist traffic on Macedonia. The Board agreed and suggested sidewalks on Macedonia could be

a project to consider. The concern was mainly focused between San Massimo Drive and Monaco Drive, and particularly during the winter season when most residents are back from their summer homes and our traffic significantly increases. The other consideration was the build-out of our community over the last several years and the increasing number of younger children and active residents walking in the street.

Macedonia Drive has 11 feeder streets that interface with it adding to the concern. Sidewalks on Macedonia Drive, as are our other main Burnt Store Isles arteries, have been on the City’s Comprehensive Plan for years. Obviously, they are eventually addressed, since sidewalks exist on Monaco, Tripoli and Madrid. As per our City Manager’s comments at our June, Board of Directors Meeting, to which he was invited, “sidewalks are a Florida State mandated component of any City’s Comprehensive Plan”. He also stated that the final decision maker on any of the projects on the list of proposed projects is City Council, but they could take years to ever be addressed.

After Board discussion it was decided to recommend that sidewalks on Macedonia Drive be “place marked” on the list for further consideration with the stated understanding that we would survey all our BSIA residents for their input and approval shortly after November, if the 1% Sales Tax Extension was approved by the voters. To address the residents in the survey it was also assumed that we would then have all the detailed information from the City on what sidewalks on Macedonia Drive actually entailed for their consideration. For example, how far down the street would the assigned \$280,000 budget take the sidewalk, which side of the street would it be located, plus answers to all the concerns on appearance, drainage, distance from the residence, etc. If BSIA Members voted against it then, we were assured by the City there would be no sidewalks.

After the final project list was decided by the Project Selection Committee and City Council, sidewalks on Macedonia Blvd remained on the list. Subsequently, it was published in the newspaper and placed on the City Web Site. Since then

several residents on Macedonia Blvd have strongly objected to the project citing many concerns. Even though it was the Board's intention after November to get their input, if the 1% Sales Tax Extension was approved and we had all the needed detail plus the City's assurance that it would be removed if it was not agreed to by our community, it was still felt by them it is unwanted and unnecessary. Their position was that it should not have been added to the list. Those objecting to the suggested project indicated that they thought there were no safety issues.

On June 18th I received an e-mail from City Council member Nancy Prafke indicating the City Council's concern that since several property owners on Macedonia were voicing an objection to the project it could be a distraction for the overall 1% tax Referendum. It was indicated that the Council was

deferring to BSIA to make a recommendation as to whether to leave or remove the sidewalk project from the list. In a later e-mail we were told that the City didn't want "to wait to find out how the sales tax vote goes to determine whether the sidewalk is a go or no go".

Fully understanding the concern by the City, the Board of Directors did take into discussion the request and decided that it should respond with a neutral position. Consequently, the BSIA Board has advised the City it will support whatever decision the City makes on this project. The BSIA Board does not have the detailed information to instruct the City as to whether to keep or remove the project from the list.

Below is the Burnt Store Isles, Board of Directors response to City Council:

To: Punta Gorda City Council

From: Burnt Store Isles Association – Board of Directors

Date: July 11, 2014

Re: Macedonia Drive – Sidewalks

Dear Council Members:

We are in receipt of the Punta Gorda City Council's request, via Council Member Prafke's e-mail dated June 18, 2014, that BSIA make a decision as to whether to leave the BSIA Macedonia Sidewalk Project recommendation on the City's list of projects to be funded by the 1% Sales Tax Extension.

It is the BSIA Board of Directors position that as of this point, we remain neutral on the project decision. If the City Council decides to remove the project because they "do not want this project to be a distraction for the overall local option sales tax referendum" from the 1% Sales Tax Extension Project list, we perfectly understand and will support whatever decision the City Council decides.

However, we would like to share with City Council that 17 residents on Macedonia Drive who attended the BSIA Board Meeting on July 11, 2014 were vehemently opposed to the sidewalk project. There were no members in attendance who voiced approval.

Further, had we known that we would have had to make a firm decision on this project prior to having the project details necessary and time to survey BSIA members, we would, in retrospect, not have made the recommendation.

Regards,

Gene Murtha, President – Burnt Store Isles Association

cc: Howard Kunik – Punta Gorda City Manager
Burnt Store Isles Board of Directors

In conclusion, we did learn some detail of where the sidewalk would extend down Macedonia Blvd in the Sun Newspaper on July 9, 2014 in an interview with the City Manager, Mr. Howard Kunik, and the City Urban Design Manager, Mr. David Hilston. Mr. Hilston is quoted as saying it

will go from Monaco Drive to Maltese Drive. This is the only detail at this point.

Interested residents may attend the next City Council meeting on Wednesday, August 13th at the City Hall chambers..

What's On Line

Donald Hallman, E-Communications Director

BSIA MEMBERSHIP E-MAIL: Our current count of BSIA Membership E-Mails stands at 588 and is growing. If you know of someone in our neighborhood that is not a member of the Burnt Store Isles Association, please invite them to join as it will allow them to participate and receive our informative e-mail Bulletins and Surveys pertaining to the operation of our BSI community. We need the voice (input) of all BSI residents to make good community decisions.

Membership renewal time is around the corner and BSIA will offer renewals and new memberships through a new online program. The program will allow you to pay your dues by check or credit card. A majority of our members requested credit card dues payment in our latest BSIA Survey. The current system will also be available to those who prefer it.

BSIA is currently sending the BSIA Bulletin Board each Tuesday and FORWARDING Bulletin Board each Wednesday along with special e-mails when needed.

It has been brought to my attention that some BSIA Members have been reporting that they have not been receiving BSIA E-Mails. Four possible reasons are:

If your name has been placed on our e-mail unsubscribe list, and you did not intend to be on it, please send an e-mail to info@bsia.net stating so, and we will send you a link that will allow you to re-subscribe yourself. Unfortunately, you are the only one that can perform this reinstatement due to e-mail internet rules.

If your name is not on the list and you are not receiving BSIA E-Mails, check to see if our e-mails are going into a different folder other than your INBOX, such as JUNK, ALL MAIL, SPAM, or BULK MAIL. Please check these folders.

Your e-mail address is incorrect in our database. If you think this is the case,

please send me an e-mail at info@bsia.net with your corrected e-mail address.

If you have reported us as spam, your e-mail address cannot be re-instated and you will not be able to receive BSIA E-Mails to that e-mail address.

If you have any questions about our e-mail process, please contact me at info@bsia.net and I will try my best to answer them.



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Contact Becky Carroll for more information
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Treasurer's Report

Connie Higgins Treasurer

From 1/1/2014 to 6/27/2014

Check Book Balance	\$1,329.23
Savings Account Balance	\$60,659.99
Cert of Deposit Balance	\$0.00
Total Funds	\$61,989.22

Income

50/50 Raffle	479.00
Directory Ads	2,525.00
Interest Income	17.23
Membership Dues	3,990.00
New Construction Fee	2,100.00
Newsletter Ads	1,480.00
Social Event Fees Collected	7,459.00
Total Income	\$18,050.23

Expense

Accounting Fees	-150.00
Banners	-197.95
Directory Printing	-3,013.54
Donations	-883.00
Liability Insurance	-2,393.21
Litigation Fees	-736.00
Name Tags	-834.97
Newsletter Printing	-2,345.68
Office Supplies	-779.36
Postage and Delivery	-188.73
Safe Deposit Box Rental	-63.00
Shredder Day	-731.50
Social Event Cost	-9,454.82
State Fees	-61.25
Web Data File Remote Hosting	-270.00
Total Expense	-\$22,103.01

Burnt Store Isles Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 510956
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