



# Burnt Store Isles Association

# NEWS

Vol. 33, No. 2 - Summer 2015

## UP & COMING

### Monthly

#### **BSIBC/BSIA Mixers**

1st Fri. of every month

4:30 PM

Twin Isles CC

#### **July 22, 2015**

School Supply Drive

#### **August 7, 2015**

Pool Party/Mixer

Twin Isles CC

#### **October 2-3, 2015**

BSI Community-wide

Garage Sale

#### **November 10, 2015**

General Membership

Meeting

BS Presbyterian Church

#### **December 10, 2015**

BSIA Christmas Party

Villas Clubhouse

See inside for details on these activities as well as many others coming up and go to the Association website: [www.bsia.net](http://www.bsia.net)

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## From the President

**DOUG RHEES, President**

*It doesn't take long or does it?*

It really takes most people very little time to get used to their surroundings and often forget the splendor of it all. If you take advantage of the free time retirement provides most of us in BSI, and walk or bike through the neighborhood or if you prefer just take a slow ride some evening or early morning opening all of your senses, you will surely be reminded of just how beautiful it is here. The flowering plants and palms I know will bring a smile to your face and remind you of the joy you felt as you were originally drawn to this area. What a beautiful community we have with well-maintained residences, a terrific golf course in its center, and navigable canals throughout. A community of our size that offers Tennis, Golf and waterways unencumbered by bridges that lead directly to Charlotte Harbor and the Gulf of Mexico beyond is truly a gem and, price wise, a real bargain. All of this doesn't just happen. Lots of people in Burnt Store Isles contribute their time and effort to making sure ALL of us have a positive experience and find safety and enjoyment in our daily lives. I have been quite surprised that our BSIA members do not work a little harder at getting their non-member neighbors to join with them to make this community an even better place to live, and to shoulder their portion of the costs involved in keeping our neighborhood up to the fine standards we enjoy. For some time many realtors have told clients that our waterways are

not nearly as good as those in PGI. Soooo, in an effort to dispel this myth, the BSIA board in conjunction with our Twin Isles Country Club held its first realtors information meeting June 17th. The 45 realtors who attended learned firsthand about our maritime efforts including the 4 foot widening of our water entryway (the lock) to 21 ft. Now completed, it is safer to navigate and can accommodate a little bit bigger boat entering our canals. Plans are in the works to increase the dredge width and depth in our rim canal, mainly in the Macedonia corridor, and the county's Alligator Creek Advisory Committee is confident that they will have their dredging permit in hand sometime this summer. All of these things make our community more appealing to buyers. We the BSIA Board also implemented a new membership plan that I believe will insure the growth of our membership substantially in the years to come. We announced at the realtors meeting that all home buyers from that meeting date forward will receive their first year's BSIA membership free, and that new home builders will get a two-year membership as part of the permitting fee we charge. Of course the fee for continued membership will be billed the following December. This program is perhaps our best chance of expanding membership as new neighbors buy into our neighborhood.

*continued on page 2*

*From The President, from page 1*

Six months ago our association board appointed several members to look into all the ramifications of converting our electric power grid to underground. Some of our members have asked me why we would revisit this issue if it failed ten years ago? It is important to remember that while those members questioning this may have lived here at that time, quite a number of new residents have moved into our community many of whom lived in areas where they benefited from underground utilities. They do not understand why in a hurricane risk environment we would not be all underground. Removing the unattractive power poles and now the bigger concrete ones is only a part of the reason for this. Hurricane and power loss issues are also big considerations.

Just a few more things to mention here for your consideration and I do HOPE you will let us know how you feel about the issues affecting BSI. After all, it is YOUR association. What do you think about improving our entry monuments and /or landscaping? Are you for or against security cameras at our entries? Would you like to have a Christmas decoration contest? Would you consider hosting a pot luck for new residents/members? And lastly, it is time to search for new members for our board and we need your help.



**“Your 2 Cents”**

In future editions of our Newsletter, I would like to try a sort of editorial section. It would be interesting to see what’s going on in the minds of our Association members. If you think you have information that would benefit our BSI community, send me an email. I will share it with our President, and we will consider it for print. This will not be a ‘rant and rave’ column! Simply a place for good ideas to come to light! Hope to hear from you ... keep it brief!

Joanne Ziemer  
joziemer@embarqmail.com

**BSIA 2015 BOARD**

**OFFICERS:**

President ..... Doug Rhees  
Vice President ..... Jayne Perkins  
Secretary ..... Mary Drummond  
Treasurer ..... Connie Higgins

**DIRECTORS:**

Community Standards ..... Melissa Lockhart  
Legal Liaison ..... Mirco Vicko  
Membership ..... Lori Gurr  
E-Communications ..... Don Hallman  
Community Security ..... Kathy Williamson  
Planning ..... John Forr  
Special Projects ..... Doug Paquin  
Social ..... Judy Vanderweele  
Past President (non voting) ..... Gene Murtha

**COMMITTEES:**

Welcoming ..... Lori Gurr  
E-Communications ..... Don Hallman  
Landscaping ..... Doug Paquin  
Architectural ..... Jayne Perkins  
Membership Directory ..... Lorie Gurr  
Newsletter Editor ..... Joanne Ziemer  
By-Laws ..... Mirco Vicko



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## Social Events Spotlight

Judy Vanderweele, Social Director

### Coming Up – Save the Date

- **Friday Night Mixer/Pool Party** with BSIBC at Twin Isles Country Club (TICC) – August 7, 2015. Bring your friends and neighbors and meet and socialize with other BSIA community members!
- **July 22 – School Supply Drive** (call Cynthia Council)
- **October 2 and 3 – BSIA Community Wide Yard Sale**
- **November 10 – BSIA General Membership Meeting @ Burnt Store Presbyterian Church**
- **December 10 – BSIA Christmas Party at the Villas**
- **Mixers at TICC (BSIA/BSIBC) – September 4, October 2, November 6, and December 4.** Come for cocktails only – and/or make reservations at TICC and eat dinner there too.

### Recent Highlights:

- **May 17 (Sunday) – Venice Theater “Miracle Worker” with Dinner at Cassani.** Sue Bareither planned this event – and everyone who went and attended both the theater and the dinner enjoyed a great show and fabulous dinner. Thanks, Sue!!
- **July 4th (Saturday) – BSIBC/BSIA 4th July Celebration at Hurricane Charley’s.** RSVP reservations for a great venue and time. Watch for pictures of members who attended the event and supported our community restaurants and events – and had a good time!

We are really into the heat and humidity of our summer season here. It certainly came early and stayed this summer. Many of us enjoy these days – with less traffic and fewer people at the activities we do. It gives us time to re-energize and relax – and be ready to welcome back everyone that goes away!

So, there are two newer activities being planned. One is the Community Wide Yard Sale. (See the article elsewhere in this newsletter.) Also, we are bringing back the Holiday Decorating Recognition in December. For the Holiday Decorating, we would like ideas of categories for the recognition. Some of you have planned, judged, or been recognized previously here in BSIA or in other communities. So we would appreciate your category suggestions and reward ideas soon. And, of course, we would like any volunteers to help with judging!

We will continue to plan some activities and hope you will participate. They will be announced in the BSIA Weekly Bulletin Board published via email at the beginning of each week as the details are finalized.

From time to time, we need volunteers to occasionally be lead on one of the events, help with sign-ins, collect reservations, deliver food to the food bank, set up and take down for events, or sell 50/50 tickets. If you have any special interests and/or would like to coordinate a specific activity or be a Social Committee member, please contact Judy VanderWeele at [JudVande@comcast.net](mailto:JudVande@comcast.net) or 941-416-0089.

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## Special Projects

Doug Paquin

### *Safety First*

Many of us enjoy a morning or evening walk, jog, or run which usually requires that we share our time on the streets with automobiles. One of the first things I learned as a Boy Scout was to always walk facing the traffic. When I am out for my morning run, I regularly see drivers talking on their cell phones. These may be distracted drivers. In addition, the morning sun can momentarily blind drivers. If you have your back to the traffic, you have no opportunity to react

to a vehicle that may be in your way. Remember, the distance between you and possible injury is only a matter of inches. In fact, I often step off the road and yield to approaching traffic. Finally, when walking in groups please form a single line. This increases your safety as well as the safety of drivers of approaching vehicles. Walking side-by-side forces drivers to veer way over to the opposite side of the road increasing their risk of an accident.

## BSIA Community Yard/Garage Sale Planned

Judy Vanderweele, Social Director

The BSIA Social Committee is coordinating a Community Wide Yard/Garage Sale for October 2 and 3, 2015. We are hoping that a large, advertised event will result in more BSIA and local “buyers” and thus more successful sales.

Punta Gorda Yard Sales are required to be permitted through the City of Punta Gorda Code Compliance Department. Permitting is free. A permit is required for each resident who plans to actually have a sale on their property. Some of you may want to “share” with your immediate neighbors – or even provide a “spot” for a friend to leave a few things. The permit must be displayed at the site on the day/days of the sale. Each participating resident will be responsible for their own setup and takedown of their sale items.

The Code Compliance Department will allow our BSIA organization to submit names/resident addresses and provide the individual permits for us to distribute, which will save you time and effort. Watch for more details in late August on how, when, and to whom to do this. A minimum of two weeks will be required for permitting.

You can check the City Code of Ordinance – Chapter 26; Section 8.21 Yard Sales for more details. Some points of interest include:

1. A person or location can only have 2 permits per year.
2. Off premises directional signs are prohibited.
3. One sign can be placed in the yard where the sale is located. It cannot be more than 2 square feet in area per side and 30 inches high – and can remain in place only from 5 pm on the night before until 8 am the morning after.
4. Only personal property may be offered for sale – AND specifically excludes merchandise which was purchased for resale or obtained on consignment.

One of our BSIA members suggested this – and we are pleased to offer this event for members who would like to participate. Watch for more details - but begin planning now. Email Judy VanderWeele at [judvande@comcast.net](mailto:judvande@comcast.net) with questions or ideas or call (cell) at (941) 416-0089.



## Membership

Lori Gurr, Director

BSIA Membership is moving along slow but steady now that summer is here. Our numbers are close to 500, and I still have high hopes that we will beat last year's final number of 521! I have Welcome Packets available for anyone who notices a new neighbor moving in or for anyone who might be interested in joining our Association. Contact me, and I will drop off a packet to you or your new neighbor. Just the wealth of information passed along about our community and our city is worth the thirty dollars. Remember, it's only fifty dollars for a two-year returning membership. This Association is about strength in numbers when it comes to making positive changes in our community, and I believe the more members we have, the more connected our community stays.

If anyone is interested in becoming a Board member, a Director, or Officer, please contact any Board member and let us know. We have outgoing positions that need to be filled including my position. I personally will take this year to train someone who would like to be Membership Director. There are only two qualifications for this position ... you must be able to use a computer and you must work well with others.

Please feel free to call or email me with any questions you might have.

Hope everyone had a safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Have a great summer!

## News You Can Use!

Starting October 1, 2015 you will be required to use the new 48-gallon recycle containers for all your recycle materials. The new containers may be somewhat cumbersome, however, they will do a much better job of 'containing' recycle contents and keeping recycle trash from blowing all over our neighborhood. Residents will receive information on this new recycling effort well in advance of the implementation date. Please do your part and abide by these new requirements.

Our District 5 City Councilwoman Nancy Prafke writes a weekly communication which is very informative. She reports on the actions of our City Council as well as answers questions from PG residents and generally just keeps us up to date on what's happening in our little town. Nancy encourages folks to subscribe to her weekly report to stay informed. Send her an email – [nprafke@pgorda.us](mailto:nprafke@pgorda.us) – to get added to her distribution list. Her communication is chock full of good stuff, all related to our beautiful city. Check it out!

Don't forget ... besides our own BSI Deed Restriction Guidelines, our community abides by City and County ordinances for many issues. One subject being pet issues. Please keep in mind all pets must be restrained. Pets running loose are a no-no .. Charlotte County has a leash law, and we must abide by it. The City of Punta Gorda has a pooper-scooper ordinance which we also must abide by. Pet owners must pick up after their animals. It amazes me that people still do not always do this!! Make sure you carry a bag, and use it. (personal aside .. try curbing your pet in an area other than in the neighbors' yards. Remember, you are in control; not your pet!) And don't forget, a dog who continuously barks or regularly runs loose, may be considered a nuisance to a neighbor, thus prompting a complaint to Animal Control.

Finally, please share this newsletter with a neighbor who may not be part of our Association. You just might encourage them to join! It's up to all of us to 'grow' our membership.





## Spotlight on BSI Security

Kathy Williamson, Director Community Security

Many new homes are currently under construction in our neighborhood bringing an increase of large trucks on our streets, especially in the early morning hours. If you're an early morning walker or bike rider, be sure to wear light colored clothing and carry a flashlight or a reflective device. Remember, if you have to walk in the street, walk facing oncoming traffic. If you are riding, ride with the traffic.

If you have little ones here enjoying summer vacation, please keep an extra eye out if they're playing outside. Because of the lack of sidewalks for most of our community, we have children playing in or near the street and might not be readily seen by a weary driver.

If you see a truck or car speeding on our roadways, please try to get a good description of the vehicle and call the Punta Gorda Police Department's non-emergency line.

Important numbers to remember:

PGPD non-emergency line:... 941-639-4111

Code Compliance: ..... 941-575-3352

Animal Control: ..... 941-833-5690

Hope everyone had a safe and fun 4th of July!

### **Punta Gorda Police Officer Joshua Girard**

was born on Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines. As a child living in a military family, he moved around a lot and eventually ended up in Maryland where he spent the majority of his life. After graduating high school, Joshua attended Frostburg State University for four years and received a bachelor's degree in law and society with a double minor in sociology and political science. During his time at Frostburg State University, Joshua applied for and completed an internship with the City of Cumberland Police Department. Immediately after graduating college, Joshua moved to Fort Myers where he attended the Southwest Florida Public Service academy and graduated in 2011. In 2014 Joshua applied for the position of Police Officer at the Punta Gorda Police Department and successfully passed all phases in the police officer testing process. He was subsequently hired by the Punta Gorda Police Department as a Reserve Officer. Growing up, Joshua had a diverse background which has helped him build a solid foundation in public relations and customer service. This experience has made for a smooth transition into an agency that is so focused on building a strong relationship with the community that they serve. During his time as a Reserve Officer, Joshua worked hard and volunteered several hours to show that he would be the best fit for the next available full-time position. In January of 2015, he was transferred from reserve status to full-time status. Joshua just completed the Field Training and Evaluation Program and is now a solo officer on Delta Squad. He is proud to say he "has the best job in the world and is looking forward to a long career with the Punta Gorda Police Department."



## 2015 BSIA / BSIBC School Supplies Drive

Once again our members and the community at large have responded in a most special way to our annual school supplies drive. This is the fifth year we have been able to reach out to the students throughout the county and provide much needed classroom supplies. The first of two collections was held at the Villa's club house on June 10. The trunk and back seat of the car were filled when we made our delivery to the Charlotte Local Education Foundation, the sponsor of the county-wide drive. Additionally, we have received cash contributions and a share of the 50/50 from the BSIA annual meeting totaling over \$300. These monies will be used to purchase additional supplies and back packs.



Our efforts do not stop here. There is a scheduled second drop off on July 22 at the Villa's club house from Noon to 3:00 pm, and we welcome those who were not able to make the June collection to stop by. For the first time we have expanded our collection efforts to include drop off points at the Burnt Store Isles Grill, The "Bean" coffee shop at Towles Plaza, and Twin Isles Country Club.

We thank those organizations for joining with the Association and Boat Club in this most worthwhile effort.

Cynthia Council  
Drive Coordinator

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# UNDERGROUND WIRING COMMITTEE REPORT

As members you are aware that your BSI Association is charged with the responsibility of continually seeking to improve Burnt Store Isles properties. To that end, after receiving member requests, BSIA sought, and were successful in forming a sub-committee to review and revive a 2003 endeavor to bring our overall neighborhood to a modern underground wiring system that would deliver our ever growing need for electricity more safely and reliably than the current overhead system. Thus the named committee above was formed and this writing shall serve as a six month report.

This committee, whose names and contact information will follow this report, has met frequently and earnestly to become informed and thusly enlighten our members to our newly gained knowledge through our March 10, 2015 general membership meeting and also with our internet survey of members taken in the spring. While these efforts have been wholesome, we are cognizant that there is need to have a totally informed community of all property owners', members and non-members, who understand fully the program and the schedule that would lead to an all community vote on the underground wiring project.

### *First let's lay out some vital information.*

Based on our request, FP&L provided a January 29, 2015 letter detailing a "ball park" cost, which will be refined through an engineering study conducted by FP&L to determine the final costs of the project. The engineering study has a non-refundable deposit required by Florida Administrative Code 25-6.115; however the deposit would be applied to the total cost of the project should we elect to proceed after we are provided with the total costs. So let us understand the **first** phase of our schedule is to have a community **vote** on the engineering study deposit conducted by property owners without present underground wiring. The **second** phase of our schedule, after receiving the binding costs by FP&L, would be to have a community **vote** of

all property owners to accept or reject the final cost of the underground wiring conversion. Said votes, both first and second, (if the first is moved favorably) would be tabulated by the city of Punta Gorda.

Now for how this would be paid, taking each in turn. If the straw vote ballot to move the cost of the engineering study is favorable (costs will be shown below), we will ask the City Council to bring this **favorable vote** to the attention of the County so this cost would be added to our tax bill for the next year, and only that year. If our straw vote ballot for the engineering study is voted **down** then this project ceases to move any further.

Should the engineering study be approved and when we receive the final costs, a second ballot will be mailed to all property owners within BSI to vote for or against the underground wiring conversion. Should the ballot **return yes** then we would ask the City Council to bring this **favorable vote** to the attention of the County so this cost would be added to our tax bill over a number of years (15 to 20) as the City would be bonding the total costs over those many years. Should the ballot for the total conversion be voted **down** then this project would cease and our engineering investment would be lost.

To inform all property owners of these phases, this committee is planning on having two community meetings - one in late October or early November 2015 and a second in the first quarter of 2016.

### *Now for the initial costs per the "ball park" FP&L letter January 29, 2015*

- It appears we qualify for a 25% Governmental Adjustment Factor which would lower the cost from \$9,300,000 to roughly **\$6,975,000.**
- Note this amount would be divided by properties within BSI leaving a rough figure of \$5,500 paid out over 15 to 20 years or roughly, based on 20 years, **\$275.00 per year.**



- Engineering Deposit = \$88,520.00  
Divided by properties equal \$75.00 per lot.
- Comcast conversion: To be determined in engineering study.
- New and more modern light poles to enhance our community: to be determined by study.

We have had in-person meetings with FP&L principals to become knowledgeable in this arena and will endeavor to have them at our community meetings.

**To review:** While the task is arduous, this committee is bound to the belief that it is essential that we have a totally informed community electorate through shared knowledge.

Committee members:

Frank "Chick" Petrosino	chickp@embarqmail.com	941 637-3765
Bill Hughes	bhughes158@comcast.net	941-637-7855
Buzz Dressel	buzzdressel@gmail.com	201-334-7671
Doug Holmes	dsholmes51@comcast.net	740-505-1381
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# Planning Ramblings

John Forr, Planning Director



## ***Burnt Store Isles Association and Twin Isles Country Club Realtors Luncheon***

BSIA and TICC conducted a briefing for 45 brokers/agents from 12 brokerages at the Country Club on June 17, 2015. BSIA highlighted the ongoing community improvements and benefits, and TICC announced incentives for agents and homeowners. BSIA Board members Kathy Williamson, Melissa Lockhart, John Forr, and Judy Vanderweele were there to greet the realtors and/or provide briefings.

BSIA will be giving purchasers of existing homes a one-year free membership to BSIA. Those that build a new home will be given a two-year free membership. It is our hope that the gifting of these memberships will rollover into long-term memberships, and it is a great way to welcome new members to our wonderful community.

As part of their 30th Anniversary Celebration, TICC will be offering new home buyers incentives for joining the Country Club. If your new neighbors have any questions, please have them call the Club at 941-637-1232 ext. 2.

Attendees at the meeting were briefed on new happenings in the community such as the widening of the lock, an update on the perimeter canal maintenance, the status of Alligator Creek, the Burnt Store Isles Boat Club and Fishing Club. They were also briefed on the monthly First Friday Mixers at TICC and other social events that BSIA and BSIBC sponsor. Melissa Lockhart gave a presentation on deed restrictions, City Code compared to deed restrictions, and how to submit requests for clarification on deed restriction to BSIA. Most of the questions from the audience had to do with access by boat to the community.

## ***Burnt Store Isles Logo Contest***

For all of the artists, sketchers, doodlers, cartoonists, and graphic designers, BSIA is conducting a contest for the design of a logo for BSI. A color scheme should be included. This

logo would be used on newsletters, and possibly incorporated into a new entryway monument. After the contest, the logo would become the property of BSIA. Entrants should submit their design by September 1, 2015, to [planning@bsia.net](mailto:planning@bsia.net). Designs will be reviewed by a committee to be appointed by the BSIA President, and finalists will be submitted to the BSIA Board for final selection. The winner will be announced by December 1, 2015, and will be awarded a \$50 gift certificate to the Italian Ristorante Limoncello's. Good luck!

## ***Entryway Monuments***

We continue to explore redesigning the entryway monuments. This could include landscaping, redesign of the monument, or building a new monument. Many residents have volunteered to help with fixing the landscaping around the monument, and that is appreciated. However, at this time we have to work with the City and others to determine how we are going to move forward. A small working group has met and discussed options, and at this time, we are researching answers to questions asked by that working group. If you have photographed any impressive monuments, please send those photos to [planning@bsia.net](mailto:planning@bsia.net). Below are two photos of monuments.



## ***Burnt Store Isles Boat Club, Inc.***

Please remember to inform your neighbors of the Boat Club. Remind them they do not have to have a boat to become a member of BSIBC! For information, please direct them to: [www.bsibc.com](http://www.bsibc.com).



# Treasurer's Report

Connie Higgins, Treasurer

**From 1/1/2015 to 6/24/2015**

Check Book Balance	\$5,566.07	<b>Expense</b> Accounting Fees	-150.00
Savings Account Balance	\$63,684.73	Banners	-181.90
Cert of Deposit Balance	\$0.00	Directory Printing	-3,000.07
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$69,250.80</b>	Donations Given	-229.00
		Legal Fees	-202.13
		Liability Insurance	-2,512.00
		Name Tags	-169.06
		Newsletter Printing	-2,334.28
		Office Supplies	-554.54
		Postage and Delivery	-533.13
		Shredder Day (1 per year)	-385.00
		Social Event Cost	-5,923.25
		State Fees	-61.25
		Storage Unit Rent	-202.26
		Web Data Remote Hosting	-324.00
		<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>-\$16,761.87</b>
<b>Income</b>			
50/50 Raffle	389.00		
Directory Ads	2,200.00		
Interest Income	9.88		
Membership Dues	7,508.70		
New Construction Fees	1,800.00		
Newsletter Ads	1,870.00		
Social Event Fees Collected	4,298.30		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$18,075.88</b>		

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