



# Burnt Store Isles Association

# NEWS

Vol. 32, No. 4 - Winter 2015

## UP & COMING

**Monthly  
BSIBC/BSIA Mixers**  
1st Fri. of every month  
4:30 PM  
Twin Isles CC

**February 3, 2015**  
Darts at the Ice House  
Dart Tourney & Buffet

**March 10, 2015**  
BSIA-General  
Membership Meeting  
Vote on By-law Changes  
Twin Isles CC

**March 28, 2015**  
Picnic at Ponce Park

**Naples Botanical Gardens**  
Mar/Apr-Date to  
determined

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

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## From the President

**DOUG RHEES, President**

I am pleased to be able to again serve our Association and our members as President. Since I last served in this post much has changed for the better in our community. Another year has passed, and the changes continue. I bet you have noticed even if it hasn't impacted you yet. We all need to be aware and help one another to address some of these items.

As you know construction after a 9 year lull is again growing, and quickly at that. 22 houses were built in BSI this past year and 7 more are already planned to start construction soon. With this building boom you will notice some demographic changes. What once was almost solely a very desirable retirement community now sees more children waiting for a school bus. Families - not just retiring or soon to be retiring couples - find Burnt Store Isles an ideal place to live. Statistics show that the people retiring today are more active than those just a decade ago and are looking for communities that offer the amenities affording them walking, hiking and biking opportunities; so paths, trails and parks are more important.

Our local airport, getting busier by the month, is expanding to triple its terminal size to handle the new volume. We fortunately are still not in the busiest 100 airports of the US. Thank goodness as we don't need any more takeoffs over BSI. With the installation of the new sophisticated

radar system we may see a drop in fly overs. Our airport does not charge its carrier a landing fee which amounts to about \$11.00 per passenger at SW International in Ft. Myers. Just \$2.00 per passenger would bring another million plus to cover operating and expansion expenses at our local airport.

As our dated entry signs indicate Burnt Store Isles is a waterfront and golf community. With nearly 1000 waterfront homes the care and maintenance of our canals is paramount. The City of Punta Gorda has appointed 5 BSI residents to a canal advisory committee. They, along with our city staff, oversee seawall and cap replacement, dredging, mangrove trimming and other canal maintenance issues. Living on the water is not without its issues and responsibilities. Whether you boat as many do here or just enjoy the serene environment provided by living on the water there are issues. Please bring your water quality and other concerns to the CAC Board which meets the second Tuesday each month at 1:30 in city council chambers. Their itinerary is always published on the City's web site. Bids are now out for the widening of the lock area. With a little luck we will see this project completed by year end providing safer passage to all boaters. A bathymetric survey is underway

*continued on page 2*

*From The President, from page 1*

in our rim canal to ascertain the changes that may have occurred since the last survey nearly 10 years ago. This will help the CAC determine the best way to utilize our dredging funds in the future. A recent issue that concerns many of our neighbors revolves around the current system used for dredging and disposal of the spoils. This issue is mandated by Florida DEP and the CAC are working with city staff to try and change this process. As all of our boaters know the Alligator Creek depth has become an issue. While we fully expected an improved dredge depth of 6 feet MLT, the permits are being held up by at least one governmental oversight agency.

Traffic issues continue to occur. While I personally haven't noticed many speeding issues, Tripoli between the shopping center and Monaco and 41 is often used by larger trucks delivering to the shopping center. This area is posted No Trucks over three axles are permitted. The problem may be there is no way to turn north on 41 from Madrid so trucks are taking a short cut. I have also received comments on visibility problems when turning off Tripoli onto Madrid because our entry sign is too close to the turn. Perhaps

if we create new more modern monuments we can move this one further back from Madrid to improve visibility and safety.

On an esthetic note I believe we have all noticed the first median on Monaco. It is in poor condition. We have been in contact with Joan LeBeau of city planning and are hoping to meet with her and Tom Becker the county's expert on this type issue to try to find a solution. Some think that the exhaust gasses at the stoplight create a bad environment for most plant growth but there may be other issues to explore. Whatever the issue unfortunately the weeds thrive.

Perhaps you have noticed the new above ground power poles being installed by an FP&L contractor along Monaco. Not a thing of beauty. Maybe it's time to take another look at underground utilities.

As you can see, a lot is going on in BSI and you are a part of it all. I urge you to invite your neighbors who are not already members to sign up. They will be better informed and have more of a say in what happens in their community.

– Doug Rhees

**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 .....Jane Perkons
- Membership Directory ..... Lorie Gurr
- Newsletter Editor ..... Charlie Council
- By-Laws.....Mirco Vicko



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## Social Events Spotlight

Judy Vanderweele, Social Director

### Recent Highlights:

• **November 11, 2014 - General Membership Social, Meeting and Election of Officers and Directors at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church.** Over 125 members attended. Charlotte County Sheriff Bill Prummell was the special guest speaker. Appetizers/Desserts were provided. Boxed and canned food and cash donations from members were taken to St. Vincent's Food Bank as well as 50% from the 50/50.

• **December 6, 2014 - BSIA Holiday Party at Villas at Burnt Store Isles Clubhouse.** 75 members in attendance with nonperishable food items and the Association share of the 50/50 donated to St Vincent's food bank and participated in 50/50 (50% donated to St. Vincent de Paul.

• **School Supply Drive - June 11 and July 9 -** Special thanks to all of you in the Burnt Store Isles Community that gave cash and other supplies so generously to the BSIA Charlotte County School Supply Drive!! This event is handled by BSIA volunteers in conjunction with the Charlotte Local Education Foundation and provides and provides a variety of school supplies & back back-packs for Charlotte County (incl. Punta Gorda) students. These efforts resulted in a special thank you note from Mary Fred Clemmons, Executive Director, as well as her praise to BSIA in a Sun Newspaper Letter to the Editor on August 20, 2014. Special BSIA recognition goes to committee chairpersons and participants Cynthia and Charlie Council, Arlene Tomamichel, Brenda Townsend and others! They gathered and delivered supplies, shopped with donation money, picked up and delivered from other locations, and packed kits on site.

The "SEASON" is here members have returned from other areas and vacations. Those of us who primarily stay here are excited and ready to see everyone again - and enjoy our wonderful Florida weather and community with them and hear about all the adventures. We will continue to plan some of the same activities and also hope to provide some impromptu activities and new events that we hope you will like. If you want to suggest a theater event, picnic, or community event such as Edison Pops, or events at local restaurants or establishments,

sporting events, etc., we will help. We also are considering offering special travel presentations (not sales) or informational "lectures" that are provided by our local community members. If you have one you would like to present or an idea for a topic of interest, let us know and we will help to coordinate it with or for you. They will be announced in the BSIA Weekly Bulletin Board published via email at the beginning of each week as the details are finalized.

Let us know 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 - and our unique community.

One more thing - there are eight long-term Social Committee Members who are "rolling off" the committee and taking a long deserved break! They will still be around to provide guidance and help on an ad hoc basis. However, we need new committee members to attend a planning and review meeting once a month, to occasionally be lead on one of the events, help with sign-ins, collecting reservations, delivering food to the food banks, set up and take down for events, and selling 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.

### Coming Up - Save the Date:

- **February 6, 2015; March 6, 2015; and April 3, 2015.** Make reservations and bring your friends and neighbors to meet and socialize with other BSIA community members!
- **Tuesday, February 3, 2015 - Darts at the Ice House** - Dart Tournament and Buffet.
- **Tuesday, March 10, 2015 - General Membership Meeting, Dinner, and Voting on By Law Changes** at Twin Isles Country Club (TICC) See upcoming announcements on specific agenda items and times. Cocktail Hour and Dinner.
- **Mid to Late March - Naples Botanical Gardens** (Date TBD)
- **Saturday, March 28, 2015 - Picnic at Ponce Park**





## What's On Line

Donald Hallman, E-Communications Director

The year 2014 was busy for me as the BSIA E-Communications Director. New projects completed include:

1. Creating two bulletin boards that are emailed weekly with current information. The Tuesday bulletin is BSIA information and the Wednesday edition announces local area news and events.
2. Implementing the membership survey taken last February.
3. Prioritizing email addresses in the system.
4. Updating the website by placing an event calendar on the bsia.net website.
5. Introducing and promoting "Nextdoor BSI", a social network that offers a better forum for vendor recommendations and community discussions.
6. Implementing Credit Card Payment system.
7. Adding the Board of Directors meeting agenda on the bulletin board.

*Editor's Note: Under our current director Don Hallman and past director, Donna Aveck, we have seen our web site grow into an extremely useful and professional tool for our members. The breadth and depth of the information available to the user is remarkable. We urge all members to access [www.bsia.net](http://www.bsia.net).*

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## Membership

Lori Gurr, Director

BSIA Membership surpassed last years' numbers. We finished the year with 523 household memberships; 964 individuals.

Thanks to all who helped distribute Welcome Packets to our new neighbors. We had 48 new members join up this year. We are excited at how well the membership dues renewal system, email and credit card payment option, is working. Forty-four members have renewed their memberships online by credit card to date. If a person pays by credit card online, the member can print a receipt immediately after paying, and an e-mail receipt is sent after the transaction is complete. There are still 252 unpaid memberships. Invoices went out

again by email on Dec 8 to those members who remain unpaid. Payment must be made by Jan. 31 (also the cut-off for BSIA directory information).

I always have "Welcome Packets" available in case you run into a non member or new neighbor who is interested in joining our association. As an extra incentive to join, Burnt Store Grille has offered two free meals for new members this year. If you renewed your membership on or before January 31st 2015 you will be included in our 2015 membership directory that should be out by the end of February.

We are looking forward to another great BSIA year!

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# WELCOME

## 2015 Board Members



**Doug Rhees**  
PRESIDENT



**Jayne Perkins**  
VICE PRESIDENT



**Mary Drummond**  
SECRETARY



**Connie Higgins**  
TREASURER



**Melissa Lockhart**  
COMMUNITY STANDARDS



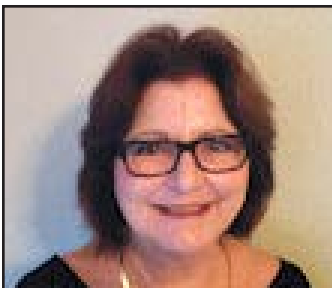
**Mirco Vicko**  
LEGAL LIAISON



**Lori Gurr**  
MEMBERSHIP



**Don Hallman**  
E-COMMUNICATIONS



**Kathy Williamson**  
COMMUNITY SECURITY



**John Forr**  
PLANNING



**Doug Paquin**  
SPECIAL PROJECTS



**Judy Vanderweele**  
SOCIAL



**Gene Murtha**  
PAST PRESIDENT

## Some “Randum Thoughts” from the Editor

- Isn't it a bit ironic? Just when there is a renewed effort on the part of BSIA to revisit the issue of underground electrical service, we see larger power poles (wood and concrete) being erected along Monaco Drive. Per FPL, the project is for a “Feeder extension” requiring poles and wires to be replaced and upgraded.
- Is a lock still a lock when there are no gates? According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, no. The good news is the planned removal of the pilings, the last remnants of the gates, will provide additional clearance for boaters. Perhaps now, a contest is needed to come up with a new name for the passage.
- Signals providing safe passage for bikers and pedestrians while crossing a busy highway are welcome; that is if they are operational. Almost four years ago such signals were placed at the intersection of Rt. 41 and Burnt Store Rd, /Jones Loop Rd. They have yet to be activated. Who has the ball: The city, the county, the state, the railroad?
- The rectangular cut-out in the pavement at the corner of Monaco and Rt. 41 has a specific purpose. It is a sensor to note the presence of a vehicle and signal the traffic control system that it is waiting for a green light. When a vehicle stops at the white “stop line” at the corner of Monaco, it is positioned over the sensor in the pavement. Have you ever come up to an impatient driver stopped out close to 41, waiting for the light to change. If no one comes up behind and stops over the sensor, the light will never change. Just driving over the sensor doesn't work.
- The old Walmart building, now Muscle Car City, may become vacant again. While this is a commercial highway zoned property and not affected by our deed restrictions, we can hope whatever its ultimate use, it will be one that will compliment our community.

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# Highlights of Board Meetings

## 9/05/14 - GENERAL DISCUSSION TOPICS

### **Review of Macedonia Sidewalk Project:**

The Punta Gorda City Council at its August 13 meeting voted unanimously to remove the Macedonia sidewalk project from the 1% Optional Sales Tax Extension Project list.

### **Nominating Committee for 2015 Board:**

Richard Coates has volunteered to assume the role of Nominating Committee Chairperson for next year's Board. At this point, the open positions are President, Vice President, Planning Director, Community Security Director, and Community Standards Director. Bylaw changes may be considered

### **Establishment of a "BSIA Underground Wiring Feasibility Committee"**

There was an initiative in 2003 to install underground wiring in BSI. It failed miserably because of the survey cost. PGI had discussions with FPL last year regarding underground wiring there, but PGI has not yet committed to any action. The Board thinks it is time for BSI to explore underground wiring again. A five member team will be formed to explore the issue.

### **November Annual Meeting:**

Scheduled for November 11 at Twin isles CC.

### **Credit Card Processing Update**

Don H., and Lori, say that we are now ready to accept credit cards in addition to checks for payment of annual membership dues. Dues billing will be set to all active (and inactive) members whose dues payments are expiring via the Internet.

### **Condition of Entrance Islands and Maintenance Discussion with the City**

Doug P. spoke to someone at the City who told him that it is the City's responsibility to maintain the landscaping on the islands at the Monaco and Madrid entrances.

### **Cul-de-Sac Condition and Strategy Update**

The cul-de-sacs will be provided by the City with mulch, 6 shrubs (if needed), and spraying twice a year upon request from a cul-de-sac representative. The mulch will be delivered and the bags will be cut so that no one can remove the bags of mulch for personal use.

### **Standards Issues**

The question of whether or not residents are allowed to park vehicles on their lawns overnight has been answered – City code prohibits this if it is done on a consistent basis during the day and is not allowed at all overnight. The other question was the definition of "truck", but the meaning is clarified by city code – regular pick-up trucks are allowed.

### **Membership:**

Lori Gurr reported that we currently have 505 members (accounting for 948 people) and 57 inactive records. E-communications:

## 10/03/14 - GENERAL DISCUSSION TOPICS

### **Nominating Committee for 2015 Board:**

Richard Coates, chairman has a full committee of four: Jim Aveck, Claire Phelen, Sue Bareither, and Tony Manisco.

### **Establishment of a "BSIA Underground Wiring Feasibility Committee"**

One member has volunteered. We are hoping for a group of 5. for this important and comprehensive work.

### **November Annual Meeting:**

November 11 is the scheduled date for our Annual General Membership meeting. Sheriff Bill Prummell will be the featured guest speaker at the meeting.

### **Policies and Procedures Manual: Review of Cul-de-Sac Maintenance Policy**

Our Board's Policy Manual regarding Cul-de-sac policy should be in to alignment with the Code for the City of Punta Gorda.

### **Credit Card rollout for dues payments:**

Lori is working with Rick Doll to get an accurate database for mailing out all membership dues renewal notices. She is planning to mail them on November 1.

### **Discussion on request for donation from Saturday Farmer's Market**

The Farmer's market is trying to raise \$5000 to begin a program for people who are on food stamps. Board agreed that it is not appropriate for BSIA to make a contribution.

### **Discussion on Removal of Contractors list from BSIA website:**

BSIA does not need to be in the position of recommending contractors to members. A motion was passed to remove the list of recommended contractors from the BSIA website.

## 10/07/14 - GENERAL DISCUSSION TOPICS

### **Board of Directors 2015 Volunteers:**

Richard Coates, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, now has a full slate of officers for BSIA's 2015 Board of Directors.

### **Establishment of a "BSIA Underground Wiring Feasibility Committee"**

Ed Minzer has volunteered to be on a committee with



Richard Dressel to study the feasibility of installing underground wiring in BSI.

**November Annual Meeting:**

November 11 is the scheduled date for our Annual General Membership meeting.

**Discussion of Bylaw Changes:**

The Board has decided to defer until next year any proposal of changes in bylaws.

**Mowing of Empty Lots:**

The City requires that an owner must either maintain vacant lots or enroll in their mowing program. If an owner is not in compliance with keeping the vegetation 12 inches or less in height, the City will do the mowing for you and place a lien on your home for payment.

**11/17/14 - ANNUAL MEETING**

The meeting was held at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church and was called to order by President Gene Murtha at 7:00 P.M. Guest speaker, Charlotte County Sheriff Bill Prummell spoke regarding the Sheriff's office projects which were included in the Optional 1% Sales Tax extension approved by voters last week on 11/04/14.

Gary Brewster, BSI Canal Advisory Committee Chairman, reported the City Council has now approved the project of widening the canal lock to 21 feet (from the current 17-footwidth) by the removal of two pilings., and work is scheduled to be done in 2015. He also spoke about the potential redesign of the rim (perimeter) canal by dredging. The project is in the study stage at this point.

Gene presented to Charlie Council and Cynthia Council certificates of appreciation (and a vase of flowers for Cynthia) for their dedication to and hard work done on behalf of the Association.

Treasurer Connie Higgins presented the BSIA's financial report as of 10/30/14. The current total funds balance is \$58,816.18. Of the balance, \$33,000 is restricted: \$30,000 for legal and \$3,000 for landscaping. The proposed 2015 budget for BSIA. was approved.

The following proposed slate of candidates for Officers and Directors was approved by vote.

**President: Doug Rhees**

**Vice President: Jayne Perkins**

**Community Security Director: Kathy Williamson**

**Planning Director: John Forr**

**Community Standards Director: Melissa Lockhart**

**Treasurer: Connie Higgins**

**Secretary: Mary Drummond**

**Membership Director: Lori Gurr**

**12/05/14 - GENERAL DISCUSSION TOPICS**

**Introduction of New Board Members**

Gene expressed his appreciation to current board members and welcomed the visiting incoming board members.

**Manual of Policies and Procedures Update**

Mary has written up four policies to be reviewed for potential addition to the Manual of Policies and Procedures. These were actions taken by the Board during 2014.

**Establishment of a "BSIA Underground Wiring Feasibility Committee"**

The BSIA Underground Wiring Feasibility Committee is scheduled to meet at 11:00 this morning.

**Annual Dues Invoicing and Credit Card Acceptance:**

Lori reported that BSIA now has 515 household members (964 people). The online credit card payment option is working well. Forty-four memberships have been renewed by credit card thus far. There are still 252 unpaid memberships. Invoices will go out again by email on Dec 8 to those members who remain unpaid. Payment must be made by Jan. 31 (also the cut-off for BSIA directory information).

A General membership Meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2015 at Twin isles CC

*Editor's Note: The complete minutes of Board meetings are available on our web site: [www.bsia.net](http://www.bsia.net). On the home page select BSIA News and the Board minutes will appear on the drop-down menu.*

## Attention: Last Notice 2015 Dues Renewals Are Due

The last email reminder was sent on January 5 to the remaining members that are subject to renewal this year. Please check your email if you have not already renewed.

This year you have the option to pay by credit card.

If you did not receive this email, your dues are paid up.

**The dues renewal deadline is January 31, 2015  
to be included in the 2015 "Directory of Members" Publication.**

***Burnt Store Isles Association, Inc.***  
***Budget for 2015***

10/17/2014

			Amount to
<b><i>Reserves</i></b>			
Reserve	Attorney Fees from 2015 Dues	1,800.00	0.00
Reserve	Attorney Fees Set Aside	35,000.00	0.00
<b><i>Total Reserve</i></b>		<b>\$36,800.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b><i>Incomes</i></b>			
Income	50/50 Raffle/Donations	670.00	0.00
Income	Directory Ads	2,700.00	0.00
Income	Interest Income	30.00	0.00
Income	Membership Dues	18,000.00	0.00
Income	New Construction Fees	3,000.00	0.00
Income	Newsletter Ads	3,000.00	0.00
Income	Social Event Fees Collected	9,000.00	0.00
<b><i>Total Income</i></b>		<b>\$36,400.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b><i>Expenses</i></b>			
Expense	Accounting Fees	200.00	0.00
Expense	Attorney Fees from 2015 Dues	1,800.00	0.00
Expense	Banners	400.00	0.00
Expense	Decorations	400.00	0.00
Expense	Directory Printing	3,070.00	0.00
Expense	Donations	1,200.00	0.00
Expense	Dues Paid to Other Organizations	60.00	0.00
Expense	Landscape/Property Maintenance	2,000.00	0.00
Expense	Liability Insurance	2,500.00	0.00
Expense	Liegal Fees	2,000.00	0.00
Expense	Meeting Room Rental	600.00	0.00
Expense	Name Tags	1,000.00	0.00
Expense	Newsletter Printing	4,800.00	0.00
Expense	Office Supplies	600.00	0.00
Expense	P. O. Box Rental	80.00	0.00
Expense	Postage and Delivery	300.00	0.00
Expense	Safe Deposit Box Rental	70.00	0.00



# Treasurer's Report

Connie Higgins Treasurer

**From 1/1/2014 to 12/24/2014**

Check Book Balance	\$9,261.94
Savings Account Balance	\$58,674.85
Cert of Deposit Balance	\$0.00
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$67,936.79</b>

## ***Income***

50/50 Raffle	886.00
Directory Ads	2,525.00
Interest Income	32.09
Membership Dues	14,235.38
New Construction Fee	3,000.00
Newsletter Ads	2,540.00
Social Event Fees Collected	7,459.00

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<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$30,677.47</b>
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## ***Expense***

Accounting Fees	-150.00
Banners	-599.79
Decorations	-77.40
Directory Printing	-3,013.54
Donations	-1,583.00
Landscape	-555.00
Liability Insurance	-2,393.21
Litigation Fees	-1,369.75
Meeting Room Rental	-400.00
Miscellaneous	0.00
Name Tags	-1,118.63
Newsletter Printing	-4,730.77
Office Supplies	-943.87
P. O. Box Rental	-80.00
Postage and Delivery	-231.48
Safe Deposit Box Rental	-63.00
Shredder Day	-731.50
Social Event Cost	-9,620.23
Software	0.00
State Fees	-61.25
Storage Rental	-202.26
Web Data File Remote Hosting	-270.00
Web eMails Constant Contact	-588.00

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<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>-\$28,782.68</b>
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Burnt Store Isles Association, Inc.  
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