



The Fountain

Cape Haze Community Newsletter

Volume 13, Issue 1

January 2009

CHPOA President's Letter

Every ex-President needs to say thank you and good-bye. This is mine.

I was fortunate to serve as the President of CHPOA, succeeding Bill Dahms and Homer Hoe. They and many others helped me navigate the maze of Cape Haze interests, which brings me to my main points: we are a community in peril.

The same people do the work of the Cape year after year. The same women do the dishes; the same men fold up the chairs; the same people serve on the committees; the same people clean the right-of-way. Thus we have a narrow range of interests where those who do not actively participate self-select themselves out of having any say on what happens to the area where they live, and the vision of those who do participate, myself included, tends to be narrow, insular, and dominant. We need new blood and new voices, or the uniqueness of our corner of the Cape will disappear.

An example of the problem is the unwillingness of residents to serve on the Board. We had several openings due to term limits, health and family issues, and death. The committee assigned to recruit possible members was unable to get sufficient residents to agree to serve so that CHPOA could have a fully staffed Board. We are filled with residents who have served on boards or committees, and could well bring their expertise to our problems.

Another example is the reliance of CHPOA on certain few individuals to exercise many of our necessary functions. The same persons have undertaken the same responsibilities year after year, and fulfilled them greatly. That's why we have an impeccable data base, a superb web site, a vacant lawn program, this very newsletter, a reliable Community Center schedule, a robust social program. What will happen when these volunteers say "enough"?

The world is not ending. Please get involved with your community.

A few final comments. I am pleased that we remain financially viable, although one could argue that means our vision was too narrow. I hope the revised dues structure helps us maintain our solvency and increase participation. I hope our practice of one significant improvement each year continues to refresh our common areas: in the last few years we have rebuilt the fountain, paved our roads, landscaped our entrance, and refurbished parts of the Community Center. The new President and Board will certainly find additional projects to improve Cape Haze. But the most important project is to foster the sense of community that makes us a neighborhood instead of a subdivision.

Thanks and I'm outta here.

Marv Medintz
Out-going CHPOA President

Membership Approves Two Important Items

As my last official act as a member of the Board of CHPOA, I thought it would be a good idea to update the residents of Cape Haze on two important matters which were approved by the Board and the membership at the CHPOA annual meeting on Saturday January 24, 2009.

The first was what was called the "Restructuring Plan". Our goal was to assure that the association met the needs of our community and was provided adequate funding. We looked at a wide ranging number of options as well as all the costs.

After extensive analysis it was determined that the best and most workable option was to restructure CHPOA and CAM.

It was concluded that CHPOA would be the umbrella organization and continue ownership of all common facilities; social functions would come under the aegis of the Women's Club; we would ask the County to see what the Placida MSBU

could do for the area and finally that CAM would oversee all maintenance of common areas and be appropriately charged for related costs. By doing this we were able to reduce overall costs for the association by 20% with CHPOA dues of \$250 and CAM fees of \$150.

The second item was the pool. A fixture in our Cape Haze Community for almost forty years, it is now starting to show its age. In addition, new Federal regulations have been enacted which would require expenditures of up to \$80,000 in order for the pool to be compliant.

Given the conditions, the costs and the limited usage, the Board recommended and the membership approved a plan to remove the pool. It was a difficult, but prudent business decision.

Bill Dahms
Out-going CHPOA VP and Secretary

New CHPOA Board

Several Board Members have completed their terms and left the CHPOA Board. Additionally, there were more vacancies this year due to death, illness and other personal reasons.

Those leaving the Board were Marv Medintz, Bill Dahms, Karen Irvine, Don Libby who passed away in September, and Marty Rosen who resigned in 2008.

We thank these members who have served our Cape Haze Community and want them all to know how much we appreciate their dedication to maintaining and improving our area.

The membership unanimously approved Ben Cirka, Stan Friedenberg, Art Hanson and Ross Witschonke (who had been filling in since early 2008) to fill the current vacancies.

We congratulate these members on their election and pledge to support them in their service to our Community.

One position remains unfilled. Any CHPOA member wishing to apply for this position should contact a member of the current Board.

Following the general membership meeting, the new Board met to elect officers for the 2009-2010 year. The following are the new officers:

President:	Ross Witschonke
Vice President:	Susan Butler
Secretary:	Mary Lou Fitzgerald
Treasurer:	Shell Rieley
CAM:	Ralph Bond

Clare Landmann will remain in charge of vacant lot mowing.

Welcome to Cape Haze

Cape Haze welcomes the following new neighbors who moved in during 2008 and early 2009.

Bill & Sharon Blasdell
250 Spaniards Road

Conrad & Sheila Glade
375 Green Dolphin Drive

Bob & Cynthia Smith
90 Buccaneer Bend

Larry & Marie Cornell
425 Pelican Bend

David & Charity Kelly
550 Spaniards Road

Alan & Linda Westall
235 Green Dolphin Drive

Don & Barbara Gavel
285 Capstan Drive

Keith & Sheila Reichelderfer
235 Capstan Drive

If we forgot anyone, please let Clare Landmann, 697-8492, know so we can give them a proper welcome to our community.

Welcome - Welcome - Welcome

Cape Haze Activities



Cape Haze Fountain - Lit Up for the Holidays



Crafty Ladies: Sharon Blasdell with her silver jewelry and Nancy Fogle admires Mary Kupersmith's shell crafts



Lunch at Rum Bay following Shelling on Palm Island



Cape Haze Women's Club

Time flies when you're having fun—man just where did the time go? A big **THANK YOU** goes out to those who participated in or helped with all our activities.

We enjoyed a busy holiday season with so many properties sparkling in lights and of course the festively decorated fountain, main entrance and Community Center. Thank you to the property owners who lighted their property and waterfronts. We had the **Holiday Boat Tour** through the canals with a potluck supper, our **Starlight Spectacular** holiday party at the Community Center and the January "Second Friday" Night Social.

The **Women's Club Monthly Meeting** programs in December and January were amazing! Thank you Clare Landmann, Nancy Buechler, Rena Green and Karen Irvine.

- December was a visit from **Mote Marine**--- a talk by Mr. Pether on Aquaculture. There will be a follow-up trip to Mote Marine Aquaculture Center on Wednesday, February 4.
- January was **So Crafty** with the Community Center filled with displays from our crafty residents. Also, volunteer opportunities were presented by many. A hearty 'Thank You' to everyone!!
- January saw an extra outing with shelling on Palm Island and lunch at Rum Bay.

So now - what's in store for the next few months?

February 16 - A New You for Spring - Let's forget the cold winter and treat ourselves to a little pampering. Check out some of our members as they receive a little sprucing up. Maybe have your colors done so you know what to wear. Surprises are in store for all. Volunteers needed—call "Fitz".

March 7 - Great American Clean Up Day. Join us as we pick up litter along 775. Open to

ALL Cape Haze Residents. Meet at the Community Center at 9:00 am. Wear gloves, insect repellent, and sun screen.

March 9 - Keep the date open. We're going out to lunch and hopefully have a food demo!

ACTIVITIES IN CAPE HAZE:

Saturday, March 21, 6:00 PM - Celebrate Spring - USA - Our spring fling this year offers a tour of the USA through foods. Dress will be casual. perhaps wear your favorite t-shirt from the USA, maybe your home state! (Got a favorite food suggestion from your area of the country or world - please let the Clare or May Lou know.) More info coming.

Saturday, April 4, 11:30 AM - A Family Picnic at the Community Center. We'll have games, hotdogs and hamburgers, etc. Oh come on - set that date aside!

Monday, April 20 - CHW Annual Meeting and Potluck Luncheon.

Now and Ongoing - We have a food collection basket in the Community Center to collect non-perishables for the needy in our area. Please help whenever you can.

AND - NEEDED:

- Women's Club \$20 annual membership is due to Bev Martin. Check payable to CHW.
- Start thinking about becoming an officer of the CHW - current terms of office expire this April.
- Ideas for programs for next year. And most of all a willingness of all members to help plan and execute events and meetings. Come on, it "ain't" hard - we just need to spread the work around!! Any takers, please, pretty please. . .

Until next time. . . Mary Lou Fitzgerald or "Fitz"
Cape Haze Women's Club President
mlzifitz55@comcast.net, (941) 697-6228

Upcoming Events

- February 10 **Book Review Club - *The Last American Man***
10:00 AM - Community Center
- February 13 **“Second Friday” Night Social**
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Community Center
- February 16 **Women’s Club - A New You for Spring**
10:00 AM - Community Center
- March 7 **Roadside Clean-Up**
9:00 AM - Meet at the Community Center
ALL Residents Encouraged to Help Out
- March 9 **Women’s Club - Out to Lunch**
More Information to Come
- March 10 **Book Review Club - *Friends, Lovers, Chocolate***
10:00 AM - Community Center
- March 13 **“Second Friday” Night Social**
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Community Center
- March 21 **Annual Spring Fling - Celebrate Spring USA**
6:00 PM - Community Center
- April 4 **A Family Picnic with Food, Games, Fun**
11:30 AM - Community Center
- April 20 **Women’s Club - Annual Meeting and Potluck**
Time TBA - Community Center

Stay informed, check our website
www.capehaze.org

Vacant Lot Mowing Report

Did you know there are 81 vacant lots in Cape Haze? In 2008, CHPOA Volunteer Clare Landmann arranged to have 71 of those mowed, the other 10 lots were privately cut.

CHPOA contracts with the mowing company, arranges the mowing, bills the owners and

then pays the contracted company. All this costs the lot owners only \$160/season for six cuttings.. This is only one service CHPOA provides to the Community at no extra charge.

Thank you Clare — and CHPOA.

Free CPR Classes

Suncoast Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics are offering free CPR classes monthly in their Venice office at 740 Commerce Dr., Suite #1 (Just east of I75, off Jacaranda).

As pre-registration is required, please call (941) 485-5193. Classes run about 2 hours.

Available Classes:

Thursday, February 26, 2009 10:00 am
Wednesday, March 25, 2009 10:00 am

Stay healthy, know your numbers. Look to the right to see what these numbers should be.*

Blood Pressure	120/80 mm HG or lower
Total Cholesterol	200 mg/dL or lower
Low-density lipoprotein (Bad) cholesterol	100 mg/dL or lower
Hi-density lipoprotein (Good) cholesterol	40 mg/dL or higher (men) 50 mg/dL or higher (women)
Triglycerides	150 mg/dL or lower

*Source is www.HCADOCS.org

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.

**March Deadline is
March 14, 2009**

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

**Roadside Clean-Up
Saturday, March 7, 9:00 AM**

Inside this Issue:

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- **Pool Will Be Removed**
- **Busy Social Calendar**

The Fountain is produced by Nancy Buechler Cape Haze Florida