

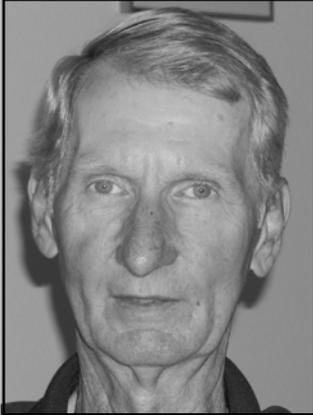


The Fountain

Cape Haze Community Newsletter

Volume 17, Issue 2

March 2013



CHPOA President's Letter

We have experienced a strange winter this year with the flip-flopping of warm and cold weather. Hopefully that will be behind us and we can look forward to a beautiful spring and summer.

Many properties have been getting their spring refreshing and are looking great. Thanks to our clean-up committee chairperson, Mary Kupersmith, our volunteers helped to clean up Placida Road and parts of the inside community. Thank you Mary and all the volunteers who came to offer help. We hope that next clean-up day we will see many more volunteers to make the chore more fun. Many hands make lighter work.

The Sewers Committee is hard at work surveying the community as to the need and desire for the county to install sanitary sewers within our community. A majority of the responders are against the sewers. Please check out the comments by Committee Chair "Ed Norton" on page 3.

The real estate market is starting to turn around and several homes have been sold bringing new members to our community and to CHPOA. You have moved into a wonderful community with friendly neighbors who are always willing to help. Please come to our Friday Night Socials on the second Friday of the month. They are held throughout the summer at 5:30 pm. This is a great opportunity to meet some new friends. I also encourage you to attend the many other activities sponsored by the Women's Club.

We bid farewell to our northern friends who are starting their journeys back home for the summer months. Best wishes for safe journeys and expect to see you in the fall. Please make sure we have your email address so we can keep you posted with updates on important issues.

The Annual Spring CHPOA meeting will take place on Saturday, April 13, at 4:00 pm, followed by a Picnic barbecue dinner hosted by the Women's Club. This is our last meeting for the season. Come join us.

Have a safe and cool summer.

Art Hanson, President
Cape Haze Property Owners Association

CHPOA Board

We want to thank out-going CHPOA Board Members Ralph Bond, Susan Butler, and Shell Rieley for their service. They all worked tirelessly (for more than one term) and their dedication is truly appreciated. We will miss seeing them at the head table during meetings, but know they will remain active in our community.

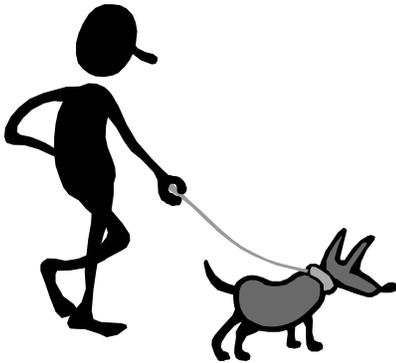
To fill these vacancies three new Board members were elected in January; Lee Buechler, Bill Dahms, and Mary Kupersmith. We congratulate and welcome them to the Board—and thank them for volunteering to serve our community.

Keep Your Dog on a Leash or Behind a Fence

The Fountain received several comments regarding dogs in our neighborhood; this article is a summary of those comments.

Two Cape Haze dogs in their own driveway were recently attacked and nearly killed by neighbor dogs who had escaped their owner's control. Even though pet owners love their animals and sometimes cannot understand how anyone could be afraid of a pet, there are perfectly rational people who fear dogs.

Additionally, Charlotte County Ordinances state that dogs must be in direct, immediate, and continuous physical control by their owner or designee "at all times such as by means of a fence, leash, cord or chain of sufficient strength to restrain the same..."



Ordinances further define a *public nuisance animal* as "any animal that unreasonably annoys human beings, endangers the life or health of other animals or persons or substantially interferes with the rights of persons other than their owners to enjoyment of life or property..."

This means dogs need to be on a leash and kept from "greeting" neighbors without permission. We may not always agree on everything, but some decisions must be made for the common good.

Let's try to be good neighbors by respecting each other's rights and property and by being concerned for the well-being of others. Be considerate of your pets and how they may affect your neighbors – and obey the law.

Oh, one other and important thing hardly needs saying, but there are some who seem to have forgotten. Pick up after Fido takes care of business as well. It's the law and just plain common courtesy.

Thank you.

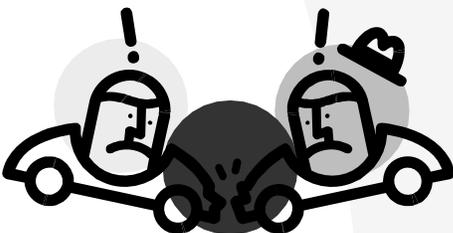
Keep Right!

When navigating the circle around the fountain at the intersection of Cape Haze Drive and Spaniards remember to go around the circle in an anti-clockwise direction (i.e. keep right).

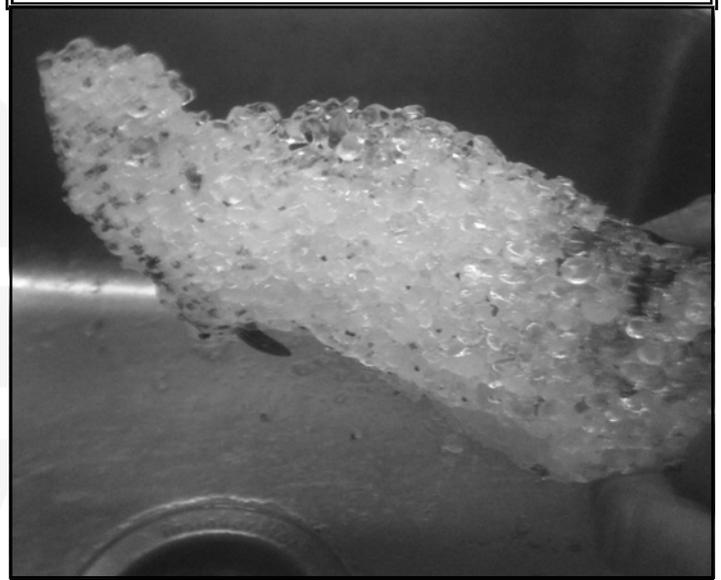
There have been a couple of near collisions as residents or visitors have tried to save two seconds by cutting around the fountain into oncoming traffic. If you go the wrong way and an accident ensues you will be prima facie at fault and liable for resulting liability and damages.

Please, please respect your neighbors and ask your contractors and visitors to do the same.

Thank you, Bill Dahms



Storm Damages Cape Haze



A lightning storm with hail and high winds hit Cape Haze around 11:00 pm on March 22. Pool cages, solar panels, boat docks, stop signs, trees and a telephone pole were blown over. Karen Irvine took this picture of hail from her yard a full eight hours after the storm!

Sewers? - Not So Fast!!

Your CHPOA-sponsored sewers committee has been working hard to respond to the county's initiative for sewers installation in Cape Haze. In addition to information distribution to the community, the committee has assisted the county with its meeting logistics, briefed the county on the unique characteristics of Cape Haze including a drive-around, organized a community mail-in ballot program, and members recently met with the County Administrator and the head of Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) to exchange ideas and impressions. And there will be plenty more to do.....

The County's Proposal, in Brief

At an estimated assessment of \$13,400 per home and \$7,400 per empty lot, CCU proposes to install a Low Pressure Central Sewage System (LPS) in Cape Haze to replace all on-site septic systems. The cost could be higher if a home required more than one connection to the main. Included in the estimated \$13,400, CCU would install and be responsible for on-going maintenance of the home site infrastructure and connection to the main. If a large part of the community is installed, CCU is offering to finance the assessment over a twenty year period.

In addition to the build-out assessment, on-going service fees would be in the range of \$27 to \$65 per month, depending upon processed water volume. CCU estimates an expense of \$43 per month for the average user.

Representatives from CCU have explained that they will not proceed if a majority of the community disapproves the effort, as determined by a CCU balloting process currently underway. They also explained that if one or more smaller clusters of homeowners indicate approval, these properties could be installed while the rest would not – although if the mainline passes by a property, it will be assessed whether connected, or not. The timing for any installation activities appears to be sometime in 2014, at the earliest.

To learn more – and there is much more to understand – you can access a comprehensive list of questions, with answers, at the Cape Haze website – www.capehaze.org. Click “County Sewers” on the left side of the home page.

Battle of the Ballots

As most are aware, CCU conducted three information sharing sessions in February. The exit polling at these meetings demonstrated that a large majority of those in attendance were opposed to the project. A mail-in ballot organized by our committee and distributed to the entire Cape Haze community is currently underway with early results confirming majority opposition. If you haven't yet responded to this ballot, please do so as soon as you can. It's important!!

As part of its effort to assess community sentiment and as earlier mentioned, CCU is also balloting. CCU ballots were distributed during the first and second week of March with a due date of 30 April. Please be aware that while our committee ballot asked for a “For or Against” vote, CCU is asking for “Interest – Yes or No.” This CCU language construction can lure unsuspecting fence-sitters, who are genuinely interested in learning more, to cast unintentional “for sewers” votes. So, the committee suggests that you mentally replace the word “Interest” with the word “For” when you consider your answer to this question. You may truly be interested in learning more, but you would clearly be voting “Yes – I want sewers” if you answer the “Interest” question with “Yes.” *Be very careful with your response....*

What's Next?

Once the ballots are counted, CCU is expected to announce the results and sometime soon thereafter any related decision. But we at the committee really don't know. Rest assured we will keep you informed to the best of our ability through the website and *The Fountain*.

Sincerely,

Ed Norton {AKA, Lee Buechler}, on behalf of the sewers committee – Percy Angelo, Bill Dahms, Art Hanson, Homer Hoe, Marv Medintz, Bill Snyder, and Ross Witschonke.

Cape Haze Women's Club

Jan Hayes did an outstanding job getting our members and friends into carpools to attend the Sarasota Orchestra luncheon and fashion show fund-raiser for youthful musicians on February 11 at the Gasparilla Inn on Boca Grande. Thanks, Jan, for your hard work (organizing ladies isn't too much simpler than herding cats!).

As always, there was a good turnout and lots of fun was had by all at the Palm Island shelling and luncheon event on February 25th. Our thanks to Karen Irvine and her committee for their efforts.

After our business meeting on March 11, landscaper and horticulturist, Woody Thayer, gave us the latest news on plant pests in our area. We had a good turnout for the meeting and five men joined us to hear Woody. Glad to have you there, sirs.

On March 16 eleven neighbors got together to clean our stretch of Placida Road. Let us all give thanks for the efforts of: Mary Kupersmith, Marvin Eastland, Bill French, Tim Danahy, Vickie Keidel, Art Hanson, Ralph Bond, Penny and Shell Rieley, Jason Layne and his son, Gabe.

Mary organized this event for the Women's Club, one which we try to do quarterly. When we have a good turnout, we finish in around an hour. Next time you see Roadside Clean-up signs posted, please consider joining the group. Thanks again, to those who volunteered.

We had a wonderful time at the March Social Hour hosted by Caroline and Zolton Csavas and Gerry and Larry Schreibman – thanks for a delightful evening.

It is the time of year when DUES ARE DUE. Ladies, if you haven't paid your \$20 yet, Mary Landy would like to hear from you. She'll gladly accept your check payable to Cape Haze Women's Club - so mail or drop it off at her home at 50 Spyglass Alley.

On Saturday, April 13 (after the CHPOA meeting) we'll be hosting a picnic. Pulled pork sandwich, sides, dessert, iced tea and coffee will be served. Bring your own additional beverages. The cost is \$11/person. Get your reservation to Mary Landy, jmlandy@gmail.com, by April 6 as we need a head count to order food. Send your check payable to Women's Club to Mary at 50 Spyglass Alley. We hope to exceed the 60 attendees we had for the BBQ following January's meeting!!

On Monday, April 15 we'll have our spring installation of officers and luncheon at Zydeco Grill. (Mary Landy, Treasurer, and Penny Rieley, Secretary, have agreed to stay on for another term so our Board is set for next season.)

The luncheon will wrap up the winter season for the Women's Club. However, full-time residents should still take advantage of our monthly Social Hours to keep in touch. They will be on the 2nd Friday of each month beginning at 5:30 pm at the Community Center.

Hopefully you will agree with me that our community is a wonderful, friendly and energetic place in which to live!!

Penny Rieley
Secretary,
Cape Haze Women's Club



Golf for Kids' Needs

Golf Tournament to benefit needy Englewood Youth
Saturday, April 27, 8:00 AM shotgun start, Oyster Creek Golf Club
\$45/player includes doughnuts, lunch, cart, prizes
Sponsorships Available

Registration Forms Available at Cape Haze Community Center, Key Agency,
Oyster Creek Golf Club or e-mail kidsneedsinglewood@yahoo.com



Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming Events

Unless otherwise noted, events take place at the Community Center

- April 9** **Book Club - 10:00 AM - *The Color of Water***
by James McBride
- April 13** **CHPOA Special Membership Meeting - 4:00 PM**
Community Invited
- April 13** **Community Pulled Pork Picnic**
Following CHPOA Meeting, About 5:30 PM
- April 15** **Women's Club - 11:30 AM - Zydeco Restaurant**
Cooking Demonstration, Lunch, Meeting, Details TBA
- May 10** **Friday Night Social - 5:30 PM**
Bring an hors d'oeuvre to share and your own beverage
- May 14** **Book Club - 10:00 AM - *The Elegance of the Hedgehog***
by Muriel Barbery
- June 14** **Friday Night Socials - Second Friday Monthly**
Continue throughout the Summer - 5:30 PM
Bring an hors d'oeuvre to share and your own beverage

Check your e-mail and the Cape Haze website for up-to-date information
www.capehaze.org

Vacant Lot Mowing Report

As of this report we have 35 owners who have paid to have their 60 lots mowed, five owners maintain their six lots, and 12 owners of 14 lots have NOT paid.



The second billings to the unpaid owners were mailed on March

11. We have been aggressive again this year and the Deed Restrictions have certainly been instrumental in our program to get ALL vacant lot owners to either pay to have CHPOA monitor and mow their property or to choose to mow/maintain their own property.

Thanks,
Clare Landmann

Join The Fun!!!

Women's Club Membership is Due - \$20 check payable to CH Women's Club
Send to Treasurer Mary Landy, 50 Spyglass Alley

Loons Visit Cape Haze



The Common Loon recently spotted in Cape Haze's Pelican Bay. Loons, typically seen in northern fresh water, will stay close to shore in coastal waters during winter or migration.

Photo courtesy of Eva Furner

Support Your Community Join CHPOA Today!

See any Board Member or
the website, www.capehaze.org, for information

The Fountain

is published January, March/April 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
NEW * nancybue1@gmail.com *** NEW**

Hard copy submissions
may also be considered.

**November Deadline is
November 1, 2013**

The Fountain

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

**CHPOA Meeting & Pulled Pork Picnic
Saturday, April 13 - 4:00 PM**

Inside this Issue:

- Cape Haze Sewer Update
- New CHPOA Board Members
- Dog Issues