



# The Fountain

## Cape Haze Community Newsletter

Volume 13, Issue 3

May 2009

### CHPOA President's Letter

It's a rainy day in Cape Haze and a refreshing green color seems to be emerging in the landscape around us. Many have returned to places in the North but there still seems to be plenty of activity here as well.

Everyone should soon be receiving an updated Cape Haze Directory. We are sending to all residents regardless of CHPOA membership status. The Directory includes lots of useful information about our neighborhood and activities. I'd like to thank all members of CHPOA for making this possible and add a special thank you to Bill Snyder and Homer Hoe for assembling the data.

The Board is continuing to pursue its priorities for the year. A committee is working on alternative plans for the space in front of the Community Center where the pool was located. I think they'll have some great ideas to share with all of us at our Autumn Membership Meeting.

We are continuing to review deed restrictions to understand their impact on our Community. During the review process, we realized that there are some specific Charlotte County zoning codes which may impact us as well.

Finally, we are speaking with residents who have chosen not to join CHPOA at this time to learn how we might continue to improve. Membership levels are healthy and I truly appreciate everyone's support and participation.

Have a great summer wherever you may travel.

Ross Witschonke  
CHPOA President

### Important Phone Numbers

It's often difficult to find the correct phone number to obtain information. This is especially important in an urgent situation. Of course, if it's an emergency, still use 911. However other useful contact numbers are:

Animal Control	764-4320	After Hours Contact Sheriff's Office at 639-2101
County Code Enforcement	743-1547	
Coast Guard	1-239-463-5754	
Mosquito Control	764-4370 - Option #4	
Placida EMS & Fire Station	697-1222	
Placida Post Office Direct	697-7614	

Another helpful hint is to let a neighbor know where you can be reached in an emergency while you're away from home for extended periods.

## Cape Haze: A Great Place to Live

The residents of Cape Haze know that our Community is a beautiful, special place. Maintaining our quality way of life and our valued investments in our properties is important to us all. The Board of Directors of CHPOA has asked me to summarize some of the Charlotte County zoning regulations that are applicable and enforceable in our Community.

First of all, be a good neighbor and remember that what you do with your property can have a big effect on your fellow citizens. In particular, things like keeping your yard free of loose debris, your lawn and plantings well trimmed, avoiding leaving trailers in plain sight and keeping things in good shape set the tone for the whole Community. Also, please realize that not everyone appreciates your taste in music, so keep the noise down.

While these matters all relate to being a good neighbor, many are also covered in our County's zoning regulations which state that:

1. "Abandoned" vehicles, boats and trailers which are unlicensed, unregistered, and/or inoperable may not be kept on your property.
2. Trailers, boat or other types. may only be kept on your property behind the front and side setback lines.
3. Yards must be kept free of debris, trash or other yard waste.
4. No occupied RV's or house trailers may be kept on your property.
5. Accessory buildings are subject to the same setback rules that apply to permanent buildings.
6. Realtor "For Sale" or yard sale signs may not be placed on the "right-of-way", on trees or on

utility poles and **must be on your property.** The "right-of-way" is an area 25 feet from the center line of the road in both directions.

7. Yard sales may only run for two consecutive calendar days.
8. The circle at the fountain **must be rounded counter-clockwise**, i.e. **keep right**. Those who take a short cut by going left or clockwise around the circle are not only endangering themselves and others but are also in violation of state law.
9. Leaving cars or trailers on vacant lots which you do not own is also a violation of the law.
10. Excessive noise from musical instruments, radios etc or other loud sounds which disturb neighbors are in violation of Article V, Section 2-5 of the County Code.
11. Finally, Cape Haze is a residential area. The use of your home or your land for commercial activities is prohibited.

If you believe one of your neighbors is in violation of zoning regulations, the best approach is to discuss it calmly and rationally with them. You may also want to call Charlotte County Code Compliance to discuss it with them. They can be helpful in interpreting the codes and will step in to help correct a violation. They may be reached at (941)743-1924 or (941)743-1547.

These rules and regulations exist to protect our Community and our quality of life. Let us work together to keep Cape Haze the fine Community we all want it to be.

Bill Dahms  
Cape Haze Neighbor

## Cape Haze Food Drive Continues

Currently, many in our area are in need of a helping hand. Local food banks have a difficult time stocking their shelves during the summer months when demand is high and donations are down. Please do whatever you can to help.

Drop off non-perishable food items in the basket in our Community Center and they will be delivered to area food banks.

Thanks for helping.

## What Will Replace the Community Pool?

If you've visited the Community Center lately, you must be aware that our Community swimming pool was removed in January. That pool, dating from the earliest days of Cape Haze and nearly old enough to be eligible for Social Security, was no longer in compliance with new, more stringent county safety requirements. Since the costs for bringing the pool into compliance were prohibitive, the membership voted to remove the pool rather than rehabilitate it, as was reported in our last issue of *The Fountain*. Now the question remains how to best utilize the space it once occupied.

A committee of CHPOA members has been formed to research options for this space. Committee members are Art Hanson, Eva Furner, Clare Landmann, and Homer Hoe. An ancillary concern for the committee is how to reclaim the room in the Community Center building that was formally dedicated to pumps, filters, and other pool equipment. Successful integration of this room into the Community Center could offer approximately 100 square feet of useable common space.

Preliminary informal surveys of some CHPOA members have generated a wide range of suggestions for amenities that could be added to the outdoor space of the Community Center. Suggestions received so far include a smaller, heated swimming pool; planting areas flanking an expanded patio with more seating; a permanent outdoor bar/serving area near the kitchen; a water feature such as an artificial brook; a gazebo; a play area for children; and even a tennis court.

Over the summer, the committee will be working with local landscape architects and others to formulate design ideas and cost estimates for the options that appear to have the broadest appeal to the majority of CHPOA members. We will use the CHPOA website, [www.capehaze.org](http://www.capehaze.org), to post new information about the project as it becomes available. Click on the "Strategic Projects" link to learn the current status of our research.

We'd also like to hear your thoughts on the project as we go along. You may provide your input to the committee by visiting the "Strategic Projects" area of the CHPOA website. There you will find a link that allows you to download a form you can use for communication.

In the very near future, we hope to have the ability to allow direct, interactive input to the website itself. If you do not have internet access, please contact the committee chair, Homer Hoe, to pass along ideas.

Our timeline goal is to have a set of options and related costs ready for formal presentation to the community at the fall meeting of the membership in November. Ideally, the membership at our annual meeting in January, 2010, will approve one or more of the options for development.

Watch the website for announcements for this and other issues of interest, and thank you for your support.

Homer Hoe, Committee Chair

## Book Review Club Sets Schedule

The Cape Haze Book Review Club meets the second Tuesday of the month at 10:00am at the Community Center. Next season's schedule is as follows:

October 13	<i>Wednesday Letters</i> by Jason Wright
November 10	<i>The Reader</i> by Bernard Schlink
December 8	<i>The Red Tent</i> by Anita Diamant
January 12	<i>While I Was Gone</i> by Sue Miller
February 9	<i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> by Khaled Hosseini

March 9	<i>The Story of Edgar Sawtelle</i> by David Wroblewski
April 13	<i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i> by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
May 11	<i>Still Alice</i> by Lisa Genova

Following the book discussion on November 10, the movie version of *The Reader* will be viewed and critiqued. Book lists are available on the Cape Haze website at [www.capehaze.org](http://www.capehaze.org) and in the Community Center library. Newcomers and guests are always welcome!

# Cape Haze Women's Club

The Cape Haze Women's Club held its annual luncheon and election of officers on April 20<sup>th</sup>. The new officers are: Hilary Dahms, President; Barbara Hanson, Vice-president; Mary Lou Fitzgerald, Secretary; and Sharon Blasdell, Treasurer. We thank our out-going President, Mary Lou Fitzgerald and her Board (V.P. Clare Landmann, Secretary Percy Angelo, and Treasurer Bev Martin) for their super efforts in leading the Community social activities for the past two years. It will be hard to match their creativity and enthusiasm!

Although many residents are leaving for the summer, please know the "season" continues for our year-rounders with the **Friday Night Socials** on the second Friday of every month from 5:00 to 7:00 PM: **June, 12; July 10; August 14; September 11; and October 9.** We have a good core group who gather at the Community Center to chat, play shuffleboard and socialize. If you're in town, do join us!

Also in the works is a **mid-summer family picnic for all residents of Cape Haze.** Mary Lou Fitzgerald is coordinating this event. All interested in participating are urged to call Mary Lou at 697-6228 or e-mail her at [MLZIGFITZ@comcast.net](mailto:MLZIGFITZ@comcast.net). Watch our web site [www.capehaze.org](http://www.capehaze.org) for details.

Looking ahead, be sure to mark your calendars now for our fall events:

**Monday, October 26, 2009, Women's Club Meeting, 10:00 AM, Community Center.**

You'll get a taste of the season as we present our full calendar of events. We have many outings and fun activities planned, so be sure to attend to get the scoop! After the meeting we'll **carpool to Leverock's restaurant for lunch and a cooking demonstration by Chef Ryan of Rum Bay.**

**Saturday, November 14, 2009, CHPOA Members Meeting, 4:00 PM, Community Center** followed by a "Welcome to the Season" Party. Dinner will be catered. Details to follow on [www.capehaze.org](http://www.capehaze.org).

**Friday, November 20, 2009, Meet at the Community Center at 8:45 AM to carpool to the **Lemon Bay Garden Club Tour** of local gardens.** Lunch will be available at the Lemon Bay Garden Club clubhouse. Penny Rieley, 697-9811, is coordinating this outing.

**Monday, November 23, 2009. Meet at the Community Center at 9:45 AM to decorate for the holiday season with lights, garlands and wreaths around our entrances and the fountain.** All volunteers welcome.

**Thursday, December 3, 2009, Trip to the Powel Crosley Estate and Festival of Trees. Meet at the Community Center at 9:45 AM to carpool to Sarasota.** We'll tour "Seagate", home of Powel Crosley, inventor and entrepreneur. As founder of the American Automobile Accessories Company, the Crosley Radio Corporation and WLW in Cincinnati, he developed the Crosley automobile and the Shelvador refrigerator and many other projects. Decorated holiday trees will be displayed throughout the mansion. Reservations are a must. Lunch plans and other details to follow.

**Saturday, December 12, 2009, Holiday Lights and Boat Parade.** Cape Haze boat owners are invited to decorate their boats and join the Gasparilla Marina flotilla to parade up and down the Cape Haze waterfront. There will be a party following the parade at the Waterside Grille at Gasparilla Marina. All residents are invited to participate. Those without boats are invited to ride along as passengers on parade boats or view the parade from convenient waterfront sites. Contact Karen Irvine, 697-8883, for details.

Sound like fun? That's just the beginning. Keep an eye on *The Fountain* and the website, [www.capehaze.org](http://www.capehaze.org), as we start the new year with our shelling trip and a Community party in January; the Sarasota Orchestra fashion show in February; a trip to the Van Wetzel in March and some surprises in between. Have a safe and happy summer!

Hilary Dahms, Women's Club President

## Upcoming Events

- June 12      Friday Night Social - Appetizer Potluck  
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Community Center
- July 10      Friday Night Social
- August 14    Friday Night Social
- September 11   Friday Night Social
- October 9      Friday Night Social
- October 13    Book Review Club - *Wednesday Letters*  
10:00 AM - Community Center
- October 26    Women's Club - Meeting & Lunch at  
Leverock's  
10:00 AM - Community Center
- November 10   Book Review Club & Movie Viewing  
*The Reader*  
10:00 AM - Community Center
- November 14   CHPOA Meeting - \*Note Special Time\*  
4:00 PM - Community Center
- November 14   Welcome to the Season Catered Party  
Following Meeting - Community Center
- November 20   Women's Club - Lemon Bay Garden Tour  
and Lunch  
8:45 AM - Meet at Community Center
- November 23   Decorate the Community for the Holidays  
9:45 AM - Meet at the Community Center

*Stay informed, check our website - [www.capehaze.org](http://www.capehaze.org)*

## Local Alligator!

Alligator seen taking home his pig dinner on River Road in Venice.



*Alligators are carnivores and eat anything from small insects to mammals. Did you know alligators cannot move their tongues? They swallow by raising their heads and using gravity. An alligator's bite has been measured at 3000 pounds per square inch. Males continue to grow as long as there is food and habitat to nourish them, averaging 10-15 feet long and 1000 pounds. They live 35-50 years and thrive in Florida.*

## ***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](mailto:NancyBue@aol.com).

Hard copy submissions may also be considered.

**November Deadline is  
November 5, 2009**

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# *The Fountain*

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



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*The Fountain* is produced by Nancy Buechler Cape Haze Florida