



The Fountain

Cape Haze Community Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue 4

November 2007

CHPOA President's Letter

Rust never sleeps.

But neither, apparently, do our full-time Cape Haze neighbors.

The summer provided "small" emergencies, nothing like hurricanes or wildfires. But we had common area problems, especially regarding the fountain. Thanks to Jan Wilhelm, assisted by Hank Irvine, a fix is under way. Apparently, the fountain bowl was improperly installed, and MRT, the vendor, has agreed to provide a replacement bowl at no cost. Jan has also been tracking down a crane operator to move the new bowl into position, and then "all" we'll need to do is get it properly connected.

Karen Irvine persevered, and we can see the results of her work when we're at, or pass by, the Community Center. What a gorgeous group of plantings!

To maintain the quality of social life, Mary Lou Fitzgerald (Fitz) made sure there were enough Friday night social hours to break up the monotony of road-side clean-ups.

And no cardiologist will stop Clare Landmann from making sure everything is done properly and looks good. Clare, you're a marvel.

The real estate slowdown has not slowed down attempts to stress our environment. This summer, our County Commission asked for a redraft of its transfer of density units ordinance. In most ways, this proposed ordinance is bad for the entire County (it even may create development rights in submerged lands), but the process is not complete, and I may ask you to tell the Commissioners their proposal is inadequate.

Also ongoing is the attempt to protect our entire area, from Lee to Sarasota County and inland, from new phosphate mines. The County recommended a settlement that was a capitulation. More than 200 people showed up at the County Chambers to voice their protest, and the County agreed to allow its negotiators to get a better deal. The original "settlement" forbade the County or its employees from even criticizing the mining activities for 30 years! You'll hear more on this, and I know I'll be asking for your help to insure any settlement protects the Peace River and its tributaries: our water supply, and the resources that make Charlotte County worthwhile.

I am assured by Charlotte County Utilities that we will not have any water pressure problems this season, although Jeff Pearson, who runs the place, is concerned that the water quality will likely degrade over the course of the winter. At least no planned shut-downs are scheduled during the crowded winter, an improvement from last year.

Please pay attention to the reduced speed limits on Placida Road: 45 mph and 35 mph.

I know I've omitted names. Not on purpose, so kindly forgive me. I expect a wonderful year, with lots of social events, and with the usual occasional attack on our lovely Cape Haze. With your unflagging support, we'll prevail. Thanks for everyone's efforts.

Marv Medintz, CHPOA President

Placida Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU) Report

The Placida MSBU is responsible for working with the Charlotte County Public Works units to assure adequate roads, sewers and drainage.

This year, fortunately, the absence of any major storms did not test our drainage capabilities and the recent repaving of Cape Haze, and surrounding areas in the Placida MSBU, has left us in pretty good shape.

The two major projects on the horizon are the replacement of the Placida Bridge at the bend where CR 771 and CR 775 join and the replacement of the Cape Haze Road Bridge which is between CR 775 and Windward.

The Placida Bridge is not yet in the formal planning stages but the Cape Haze Road Bridge is slated to be replaced in 2010. The plan calls for widening the bridge, adding two walkways and raising it 12 inches. This will be a six to nine month project and Cape Haze Drive will be closed for most of this time. Hopefully this will be done during the least active time in the area but the timing is not yet certain.

The issue is the overall cost of this project and who will bear the cost. The County takes the position that this is an area project and the cost should be borne by the residents and property owners in the Placida MSBU and not spread across the County. Some of us differ and feel that this benefits all people who use Cape Haze Drive and they live throughout the County.

The estimated cost of this project is \$1,200,000 and will, if the County planners prevail, be spread among the 2,500 units in the MSBU over a 10-year period resulting in an increase in taxes of about \$60 per year. We'll keep you posted on the developments here.

Another item being considered is the disestablishment of the County MSBU's and the melding of the functions and costs into the overall County Budget. There are both positive and negative elements in this. We'll also keep you updated on this.

We have repeatedly petitioned the County for a traffic light at the intersection of CR 775 and Cape Haze Drive. So far we have been very unsuccessful. Perhaps the slow real estate market will keep the crowds thin this year. But there is no doubt that our safety and mobility will require this in the not too distant future. Letters to the County Commissioners from as many of our residents as possible can help in this regard.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments as well as any issues that need to be addressed.

I can be contacted by phone at 941.828.0447 or by e-mail at k2ykw@comcast.net.

Thanks,

Bill Dahms

Our Fire Station Now Has a Truck!

Our local Fire/EMT Station 14 on Placida Road now has a permanent fire truck manned by two permanent firefighters. This is in addition to the EMT personnel already stationed there.

About six months ago, Englewood Fire District, which fights fire in both Charlotte and Sarasota Counties, reached an agreement with Charlotte County to rent space in Station 14 to house one of their Class A-5 trucks in our Charlotte County Placida Station. In addition, Englewood District

had to man that truck while Charlotte County continues to man their Emergency Medical Vehicle. It's confusing, but they have it worked out very well and much to our benefit.

Englewood Fire District Assistant Chief Scott Lane says the truck has a 1000-gallon water tank and pumps 1250 gallons per minute. He also says we should be sure to let our insurance companies know that we now have a fire truck stationed very close by as that could reduce insurance rates.

Women's Club Founder Passes Away

Ruth Hazel Cornelius, founder of the Cape Haze Women's Club, died September 16th. She was 99 years old. Ruth had lived in Venice, Highland Park, Illinois, Long Island, New York and most recently in Nokomis. Her ashes were scattered in the Gulf of Mexico near Clearwater.

Dottie Eckardt of Cape Haze, a charter member of the Women's Club, remembers Ruth wanted to start the Club to provide a platform for Cape Haze women to enrich their lives, to do charitable works, to have fun and to provide social activities for the Community. Remember, this was a rural area in 1972 with no Publix, no Merchant's Crossing and almost nothing in between.

Ruth Cornelius led a small group who got the ball rolling. By-Laws were initially approved by a planning committee on May 15, 1972, and were presented to and approved by the membership at the first meeting on October 18, 1972.

Initially, a half-page membership application form with an interest questionnaire listing "Golf, Bridge, Fashion Show, Theatre, Art, Tours, Volunteer Service and Other" (and requesting \$10 dues) was sent to prospective members.

Dottie Eckardt, member of the first nominating committee, said Ruth Cornelius was a natural to be President. And, much as it is today, the proposed slate was approved unanimously with no nominations from the floor.

First year activities were varied and began our tradition of both meetings and social events. Due to complications with changing ownership, the Community Center wasn't available in 1972-1973 so everything had to be held some place else. The meetings took place at the Englewood/Charlotte County Library which was almost as far as the bridge to Englewood Beach!

The first Boat Rendezvous sailed to the Plantation Inn, Captiva in November 1972, with 14 boats and 54 sailors. There was a Holiday Dinner Dance; a Guest Speaker from Mote Marine held at Lemon Bay High School; a Golden Apple Dinner Theatre Outing; the first Annual Luncheon at the Venice Yacht Club; a Dessert Bridge Party at Gasparilla Inn; and a Golf Event at Capri Isles in Venice.

The membership also took part in politics of the day by petitioning commissioners and working with the League of Women Voters.

They had several letter writing campaigns, one of which worked to get revenue sharing money from the federal government to be used toward a new county annex on the Charlotte County Library site. They had a very active Civic and Welfare Committee and were instrumental in keeping the Post Office in Placida.

Ruth tried very hard to get the membership more involved in charitable works, but there wasn't enough interest. Most thought the Club was too small to take on her favorite project, a charity fashion show for the Englewood Fire and Ambulance Department. Some individual members volunteered at the Venice Hospital and the Club always donated money to area causes.

On March 14, 1973, the membership voted that anyone paid by March 15, 1973, would be a charter member. There were 63 charter members; three still live in Cape Haze: Marion Arcan, Dottie Eckardt and Helen Waldron.

The Club also decided that "new members would have to be proposed by a present member in good standing by a letter to the membership committee from a principal sponsor and two secondary sponsors". The membership committee reviewed the application and notified prospective members of their decision.

The membership was limited to 75 members and our own Fran Ellingson was the 75th member. Members had to live in Cape Haze and those who moved away were dropped from the roles.

We're grateful to Ruth Cornelius and the other women who started our Women's Club and thank them for their work. We also thank those who continue to give so much to our Community.

Please look at the next page for a sample of the activities sponsored by the Women's Club.

If you'd like to join or help plan an activity, please call our current President, Mary Lou Fitzgerald at 697-6228.

Cape Haze Women's Club

Summer has come and gone but we were still active. Friday Night Socials continued June through September. We all talked around a BIG table with attendance ranging from 8-16. Thank you to the Scholtens, Landmanns and the Fitzgeralds for hosting these events.

Then the three Roadside Cleanups a Community-wide effort sponsored by the CHW. Special thanks to the 14 able-bodies, some doing triple duty, who helped pick up a total of 16 yard-waste bags.

Then came October, and, for the first time in many years, a meeting for the women. "Hello Dolly" was our theme and we heard about dolls and doll collecting. It was a great program with two very knowledgeable speakers.

So now what? Are we ready for the upcoming season. . . you bet we are and we are jammed packed with activities. Now the question is - are YOU ready to participate?

Saturday, November 10, 5:30 PM - Welcome Back BBQ Party. We need your reservations by Wednesday, November 7. Contact Percy Medintz or Mary Lou Fitzgerald. Cost for the full dinner is \$12 with tickets being paid for at the CHPOA Fall meeting. A great welcome back is planned, so please come and see all the neighbors. BYOB, guests welcome, come on invite some neighbors—get everyone involved!!

Monday, November 12, 10:00 AM - Meeting at Community Center then Gasparilla Inn Tour. We'll carpool to Boca Grande at about 10:30 to enjoy a historic tour of the newly renovated Gasparilla Inn and delicious lunch. Cost \$31.50, reservations are necessary and must be paid for by Tuesday, November 6. Contact Mary Lou Fitzgerald, President.

Thursday November 29, 10:00 AM - Decorate the entrances and Community Center. Men asked to help! Then at 5:00 pm, a Sloppy Joe supper. That weekend we ask all residents of CH to decorate their property for

the season. If you can't do the physical labor please contact a neighbor or call me. We will arrange for someone to do the physical labor—you just need to supply the lights, extension cords etc. It is hoped that CH will sparkle!

Friday, December 7, 6:00 PM - Holiday Glitz. A fantastic dressy cocktail party at the Community Center. Save the date more info to follow! Hearty Hors d'oeuvres, music, fun. Guests welcome. Cost still under construction. Promise you will be in for a fantastic evening!!!

Monday, December 10, 9:30 AM - Meeting and Flower Arranging Demonstration. An expert from the Englewood Garden Club will share tips as she creates a fresh centerpiece and other floral arrangements. We'll have fun as we celebrate the season. Remember to bring canned goods to donate to a local charity.

Friday, December 14, 4:30 PM - Festival of Lights. Boat tour starting at the Sabourins and then a **potluck** at the Community Center. If someone will play the clavinova we can sing some Christmas tunes!!! (hint, don't be bashful!!!)

Tuesday, January 1, 11:00 AM - New Years Day Brunch at the Community Center. Covered dish brought by you with Mimosas and Ham supplied.

Monday, January 21, 9:00 AM - Shelling and Lunch at Palm Island. Our annual trip to the Island, more information coming later, but save the date.

I'm tired already just thinking about all these wonderful events so please extend a hearty invitation to others and if you have any questions you may call or email me, mlzigfitz55@comcast.net.

See you—well I surely hope so!!!!

Mary Lou Fitzgerald,
President Cape Haze Women, 697-6228

Upcoming Events

- November 6** Gasparilla Tour Reservation Deadline
Mary Lou Fitzgerald - 697-6228
- November 7** Welcome Back Party Reservation Deadline
Mary Lou Fitzgerald - 697-6228 or
Percy Medintz - 698-1519
- November 10** CHPOA Meeting - Note New Time
4:00 PM - Community Center
- November 10** Welcome Back BBQ Party
5:30 PM - Community Center
- November 12** Women's Club Meeting & Gasparilla Inn Tour
10:00 AM - Community Center
- November 13** Book Review - *One Thousand White Women*
10:00 AM - Community Center
- November 29** Community Decorating - 10:00 AM
Sloppy Joe Supper - 5:00 PM
Community Center
- December 7** Holiday Glitz Party
6:00 PM - Community Center
- December 10** Women's Club Meeting - Flower Arranging
9:30 AM - Community Center
- December 11** Book Review - *The Memory Keeper's Daughter*
10:00 AM - Community Center
- December 14** Festival of Lights Boat Tour & Potluck
4:30 PM - Meet at Sabourins' Dock
- January 1** New Year's Day Brunch
11:00 AM - Community Center
- January 8** Book Review - *The Glass Castle*
10:00 AM - Community Center

Speed Limit Reduced on Placida Road

Placida Road (County Road 775) is now 45 miles per hour the entire stretch north of Gaspar Road, except at Lemon Bay High School where it's 20 mph when lights are flashing. There is no longer any 55 mph section.

From Placida Harbor Club south and onto County Road 771 to just past Gasparilla Marina, the speed limit is now 35 miles per hour.

There have also been some reductions in passing areas. Be aware of the changes and drive carefully.

We are once again reminded that the traffic at our Cape Haze fountain is supposed to keep right and go around the circle in a counter-clockwise fashion.



Cutting left and ignoring this rule can result in a serious accident involving bikers or pedestrians as well as automobiles.

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.

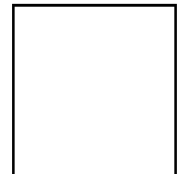
Text and photographs should be attached to e-mail and forwarded to NancyBue@aol.com.

Hard copy submissions may also be considered.

**January Deadline is
January 10, 2008**

The Fountain

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



**CHPOA Meeting, November 10 at
4:00 PM—Note Time Change**

Inside this Issue:

- ◆ **CHPOA Tries Afternoon Meeting**
- ◆ **Fire Station Gets a Truck!**
- ◆ **Social Season in Full Swing**