

BOKEELIA CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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OFFICERS

President - Michael Dreikorn

1st Vice President - Bob Glennon

2nd Vice President - John Cammick

Treasurer - Robert Montgomery

Secretary - Marilyn Porthouse

Director - Bob Johnson

Director - Genevera Koonce

WEBSITE: www.bokeeliaFL.com

SEPTEMBER 2008 **NEWSLETTER**

BCA TO HOST “MEET THE CANDIDATES” FOR GENERAL ELECTION

The Bokeelia Civic Association, as a public service, will have a “Meet the Candidates” meeting on Monday, October 13th for all County Commission, Property Appraiser and Sheriff candidates who will appear on the November 2nd ballot. The meeting will be held at the Tropic Isle Resort, 15175 Stringfellow Road at 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Invitations have been sent to: District 1 County Commissioner candidates Bob Janes, A. J. Boyd and Carla Johnson; District 3 County Commissioner candidates Ray Judah and Les Cochran; and District 5 County Commissioner candidates Frank Mann, Steve (Sonny) Haas and Dick Kuhn; Lee County Property Appraiser candidates Ken Wilkinson, John Glaser and Larry St. Amand; Lee County Sheriff Candidates Mike Scott and Christian Meister. The public is encouraged to attend. Please come and bring a friend or neighbor.

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUESTS - Call 533-8683 or
sharrington@leeelections.com

OFFICE HOURS WITH COMMISSIONER BOB JANES – On September 26th Bob Janes held office hours at the Pine Island Library. I met with him at that time regarding a paramedic for Station Three. Four or five years ago Chris Hansen, Lee County Paramedic Director, stated at one of the BCA meetings at PIUMC that, “If you build a fire station in Bokeelia we will have a paramedic there.” Most recently I spoke to someone else in that department and was told the placement of a paramedic would depend upon the availability of funds. Since that time Chris Hansen has retired. I explained that there are more medical calls to Bokeelia than fires and I had a solution. Lee County currently provides paramedics to ride on the fire truck in St. James City. Would it be possible to do the same in Bokeelia? Janes stated that since we had a success story it would be a good argument to make this happen. He would discuss it with Hansen’s replacement and get back to me.

If you feel strongly that we need paramedics in Bokeelia to ride on our fire trucks in Station Three please contact Commissioner Job Janes (Dist1@leegov.com) or his Assistant, Nan Gonzalez (239-533-2224) or write Commissioner Bob Janes, District 1, Lee County, P.O. Box 398, Fort Myers, FL 33902-0398. You could make a difference.

Michael Dreikorn, BCA President, thanked Commissioner Janes for making himself available to the people of Pine Island and encouraged him to continue the process. Michael also committed to Janes BCA's support is assisting in to develop a vision and plan for the future Pine Island. He also noted, that the present Pine Island Plan is a static document with no means for community updating. Michael stated that the organizing of a community-based plan for the island must be a high priority.

MPIFCD – On September 24th after three open meetings regarding the budget, the millage rate was set at 2.85 and the budget was passed with a 3-2 vote. Opposed were Bob Elder and John Cammick. Chairman, Bob Elder, has resigned effective 9-29-08.

UPDATES

STATION THREE – Landscaping, tile work and furniture should complete Station Three some time in November. A grand opening will be planned for January.

STATION FOUR – The property for which Eminent Domain mediation was held September 30th was for raw land and did not include any structures. The hearing was successful and MPIFCD now owns all the properties needed to build Station Four. Included in the deal was a request by the seller that the District not clear the property fronting on Pine Island Road for six months. This was granted to the seller.

SHELL CUT MARINA – USACOE said the marina is still under review until more information is received from Florida Fish & Wildlife and the applicant.

BOKEELIA BOAT RAMP – Gravel has been added on McNeff and to the parking lot to eliminate eight pot holes. Grass has been cut. However, ramp improvement will be subject to funds available.

PALMS AT PINE ISLAND – MAGISTRATE HEARING – Petition for (Treeco Village) for 64 units for migrant worker housing was previously denied. There will be a special magistrate hearing on October 31 in Lee County.

CALUSA COVE – The Hearing Officer rendered a decision in April 7th regarding the variance for paving McNeff Rd. and a decision regarding the maintenance of the road on June 20th. (request a copy of the 38-page final report at bokeeliacivicassn@comcast.net)

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Hogfish Grill (in St. James) is closed.

Matlacha Oyster House has closed and is up for sale.

Ada's Health Food is closed. Health Center is expanding but store closed.

Cape Crab & Steak House in Coralwood Mall is closed.

Albertson is closed. It was bought by Publix but is empty now.

NOVEMBER MEETING - The November 10th meeting of the BCA is scheduled. However, the speaker has not been determined.

BCA SECRETARY NEEDED

The Bokeelia Civic Association is in need of a Secretary as well as a Program Chairman and Publicity Chairman. If you would like to be an active participant and can fill any of these positions please contact Marilyn at 283-1967 or bokeeliacivicassn@comcast.net. We really need your assistance and value your input.

BCA WEBSITE

Please visit our website at www.bokeeliaFL.com. If you have something to contribute send it to info@bokeeliaFL.com. This is your community and your Civic Association. Let's spread the word.

IMPORTANT DATES

October 13 (7:00-9:00 p.m.) – BCA Meet the Candidates – Tropic Isle.

October 22 (5:00 p.m.) MPIFCD Commissioners Meeting – Station One

November 10 (7:00 p.m.) BCA Regular Meeting (speaker TBD) – Tropic Isle

January 2009 – MPIFCD Grand Opening of Station Three.

Submitted by:
Marilyn Porthouse