

OCTOBER 2007 NEWSLETTER

Bokeelia Civic Association
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OFFICERS

President - Michael Dreikorn
Treasurer - Robert Montgomery
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2nd Vice President - John Cammick
Director - Bob Johnson
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WEBSITE: www.bokeeliaFL.com

NOVEMBER BCA MEETING

The date will be **Monday, November 12th**. Time will be 7:00 p.m. The location will be the same, Tropic Isle Park at 15175 Stringfellow Road, Bokeelia. We have extended an invitation to **Mr. Russell Weintraub**, and/or his representatives Treeco or Banks Engineering. We do not have a firm commitment, however, due to the limited size of the meeting facility priority seating will be reserved for members and invited guests. Written questions would be most helpful.

SUBSEQUENT MEETING DATES

January 14th, February 11th, March 10th, April 14th and May 12th. Be sure to mark your calendar now.

NEW WEBSITE

Please visit our website at www.bokeeliaFL.com. You will find the latest BCA newsletters as well as back issues. Find out what we know about the Hot Issues. There will be Classifieds as well as Important Links and Announcements. Also included are Statistics for Bokeelia and much, much more. 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.

UPDATES

STATION THREE – Mike Dunn of Lodge Construction presented their Guaranteed Maximum Price for Station Three of \$1,914,853. The cost for the addition to Station One will be \$413,105 and a portion of this costs will be reimbursed by Lee County. The MPIFCD saved \$35,000 by combining these two projects as one. 350 bids were received and 14% of the construction dollars will remain on the Island. Completion date is expected to be July 21, 2008. The Commissioners **broke ground on Friday, October 5th** and contractors were on site by October 21st. In addition to the Commissioners, the Chief and the Deputy Chief, past-commissioners Larry Rhoda and Elsie Stearns were present at the groundbreaking. NEWS FLASH: The nesting eagles issue has been resolved and construction will resume immediately.

STATION FOUR – Now that Station Three is underway, the MPIFCD Commissioners want to concentrate on the purchase of land in the area of the Chamber of Commerce to build Station Four. Lee County has offered to build a station there if our fire district will purchase the land. The commissioners are actively pursuing a site.

BOCILLA SEAPORT MARINA – The SFWMD governing board **denied** the marina project at their meeting on October 11th. The report stated the project was not within the public interest and “adversely affected the conservation of all fish and wildlife thru direct and secondary impacts of sea grasses and other resources”. The **developer**, Highpoint Tower Industries, is **appealing** SFWMDs decision to deny the permit with a 60 page petition by Ken Oertel, the same attorney defending Lee County against Pine Island landowners in a separate suit in which the county is trying to control development. We hope to have a program on this project in January or February.

TREECO VILLAGE – For in-depth details and the Lee County zoning application request go to our website (www.bokeeliaFL.com). The **State allows Farm Worker housing on agricultural land**. It has been determined that Pink Citrus Trailer Park is not closing and the Treeco Village project is **federally subsidized and must meet specific requirements**. No date has been set for a zoning hearing. We hope all questions will be answered at our November 12th meeting and we will report any additional updates.

BOKEELIA BOAT RAMP – Sally Tappager has been award the contract to develop and run the ramp. However, there has been no new activity because the permit request is still in Tallahassee. The **state must approve the permit since this is a DEP project**.

BIKE PATH WATER FOUNTAINS – Bill Thatcher of the Greater Pine Island Water Association reports that a water fountain has been installed in the gazebo near the water company. If it remains free of vandalism, they expect to **install additional fountains in St. James City and Bokeelia in November**. We appreciate the GPIWA and Kiwanis providing these facilities for the residents and guests of Pine Island.

NEW BUSINESS

SAVE OUR HOMES & SOH PORTABILITY – Ken Wilkinson

Mr. Ken Wilkinson, Lee County Property Appraiser, was the speaker at our October meeting. He was the author of the Save Our Homes legislation, which he is very proud of, and has proposed the SOH Portability. The legislature proposed various “super exemptions” but they were junked by a judge’s ruling. **Save Our Homes and its portability language was decided by the legislature and will be on the ballot on January 29th** and Ken Wilkinson has asked the BCA support the amendment but that we sit at the polls and ask voters to retain this program. Get more details on the BCA website and we will provide updates as they become available.

BOKEELIA COMMUNITY PLAN - As we approach 2008, it appears that **Bokeelia**, unlike other Pine Island communities, **is in need of some facilities and services.**

The Bokeelia Civic Association has had to hold meetings at the Methodist Church, the Catholic Church and now the Tropic Isle Park. The moves were necessary because our fairly new civic group did not have sufficient funds to pay for meeting facilities and insurance. Matlacha not only has a meeting facility but a park, covered picnic grounds, a playground, basketball courts, a fishing pier, restrooms, parking, etc. In St. James City, they have a meeting facility, playground, parking, ball fields, etc. The GPICA had a building donated to them but could not afford to maintain it. So they sold it to the Elks for approximately \$75,000 and an agreement to hold GPICA meetings there indefinitely. There is a definite need to build **a meeting facility** at the north end of the Island which would include a **kitchen, sufficient parking and restroom facilities**. A **fenced park with playground and covered picnic equipment** would serve our community well.

Our community needs to plan for these amenities now. If anyone has ideas and would like to lead or participate in activities to enhance Bokeelia, please let us know at info@bokeeliaFL.com.

SUMMATION

As you can see there is a lot happening in Bokeelia at the present time. We shall attempt to keep everyone informed but we need member participation also. Please keep in touch so we can monitor the activities as they unfold. We are interested in hearing your suggestions.

Submitted by: Marilyn Porthouse, Secretary