

The Upper Captiva Association mission is to

- provide a voice to address common concerns
- establish goals to enhance the quality of island life
- communicate regularly with island owners
- serve as a link with local and state government

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Summer 2015

Jackie Byrnes '16, President	Andrew Anderson '17
JoAnn Beiermeister '17, VP	Bill Fry '15
Sue Ann Cousar '15, Comm Secy	Helen Justice '16
Ann Murphy '15, Recording Secy	John Mejia '17
Fran DeTure '16, Treasurer	

THIS ISLAND LIFE And the rain came down...

We've had a calm hurricane season so far, thanks to a strong El Nino effect that has prevented systems from developing thus far. However, numerous low pressure systems have brought us rain and then some. The vegetation (and mosquitos) are flourishing and as of this writing those of us who live here year-round haven't grown webbed feet yet—but we're considering it!

Significant erosion has changed the shape of our shifting barrier island, particularly as you walk (or swim) the beach north of the airstrip. Many trees are in the water, along with loose cables and other debris—an unfortunate by-product of this erosion. Exercise caution while walking this stretch of beach!



The summer rains also brought some magnificent sunsets.

A few updates and observations follow.

Postal Service

As most of us who have post office boxes at the Pineland Post Office know, the USPS has changed its policy regarding the free box island residents are entitled to, since we don't get mail delivery on our island. As of July, we are still entitled to a free PO box—on Captiva Island, since that's the zip code

assigned to us. (In the mind of officialdom, the hurricane that created Redfish Pass apparently went unnoticed.) You can still retain or get a PO box at Pineland, but you'll have pay for it.

A Note about Power Surges

While lightning is always a threat here in Florida, a larger problem is the frequency of momentary power surges—those split second power outages that reset everything from the TV to the microwave. Aside from the nuisance effect, these also put considerable strain on the motors of large appliances. For those who may not be aware of it, LCEC will install a surge protector at the box outside your home where the power comes in, reducing (according to LCEC) such surges by 70% to 90%. The cost is roughly \$300 (which includes the \$100 charge to get them out here). You still need surge protectors for your delicate electronics, but it makes these operate more efficiently as well. It won't protect you from a lightning strike but most homeowner's insurance covers this peril (for now). For more on our capricious electrical service, see the story on page 4

PROTOCOLS FOR DRONES ON NORTH CAPTIVA

Salty Approach LLC has implemented protocols for commercial drone flights on North Captiva, a proactive move in light of impending FAA regulations. As the entire island is within 3 miles of an active airstrip, Hart Kelley has volunteered to coordinate such drone flights to ensure pilot safety. Operators must coordinate commercial flights in advance with Hart: email islandhartjune@aol.com; telephone: 239-395-1141.

Note that other (noncommercial) drone activity is prohibited within 5 miles of our airport unless confined to inside of a personal residence.

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWS

The next meeting of the UCCA is October 25, 2015 at 11:15 a.m. at the Safety Harbor Club. All are welcome!

The UCCA Board welcomes John Mejia to its ranks. John is filling the term vacated by Jeanne Walsh.

Appreciation for the Road Sign Project

The following letter was sent to UCCA Board President Jackie Byrnes, to be shared with all island residents.

Dear Jackie:

It is with great appreciation that I write this letter to you and your team of caring citizens who worked tirelessly to improve our community.

Finding roads on Upper Captiva Island has not always been an easy endeavor. Visitors or fledgling owners would often travel the roads until they crossed paths with an Islander to guide them to their destination. Now, with the introduction of many new fire department personnel, finding the correct road quickly is paramount to a safe and prompt response.

The hours involved, placement, artistry, and design could have only been accomplished by a team of people that have our community in their heart. On behalf of the Fire Commissioners, myself and staff members, I would like to acknowledge your crew:

Andrew Anderson, JoAnn Beiermeister, Bill Byrnes, Sue Ann Cousar, Joan Diorio, Helen Justice, A.J. LaValle, Erin LaValle, Jane Mason, Cindy Maynard, John Mejia, Ann Murphy, Kyoko Oliver, Karen Sirabian, Deanie Sward

We are grateful for your efforts and our knowledge that this project will make a huge difference.

Yours in Public Safety:

Richard Pepper
Fire Chief

Upper Captiva Road Company (UCRC)

The UCRC now has its own website: <http://roads.northcaptiva.com>. Property owners who register with the site will receive a password for accessing it. Information about Road Company funds and projects is available. In addition, those who wish to opt out of having their roads worked on may do so on the site.

Upper Captiva Fire & Rescue District (UCFRD)

The UCFRD adopted the 2015-2016 budget at its final budget meeting on Saturday, September 19th at the Firehouse. The complete budget is available online at <http://ucca1.com/uppercaptivafiredept.html>.

Our deepest condolences to longtime island resident and friend Red Anders on the sudden loss of his brother. Michael Kevin Anders passed away on September 1, 2015. In commemoration of his birthday October 1, Mike's ashes will be spread offshore of Captiva Pass at 10 am.

Don't forget to check out www.ucca1.com to see What's New throughout the year!

KEY NUMBERS TO HAVE DURING HURRICANE (OR ANY!) SEASON

Emergency Operations Centers

Lee:	239-533-0622	DeSoto:	863-993-4831
Collier:	239-252-3600	Glades:	863-946-6020
Charlotte:	941-833-4000	Hendry:	863-946-6020

Hotlines

FEMA Disaster Assistance/Registration: 800-621-3362 TTY: 800-427-5593
U.S. Small Business Administration: 800-659-2955 TTY: 800-877-8339
FEMA Fraud Hotline: 800-323-8603
State of Florida Emergency Info 24-hour hotline: 800-342-3557
Safe & Wellness Helpline to see if people are OK or in a shelter: 800-733-2767
Disaster Unemployment Services: 877-872-5627
Unemployment Compensation Claims: 800-204-2418
Florida Dept. of Financial Services Hurricane Help line: 800-227-8676
Red Cross Food, Shelter and Financial Assistance: 866-438-4636
Salvation Army Hurricane Relief Information: 888-363-2769 activated only during a hurricane
DCF Information: 866-762-2237 or call a local office
Elder Helpline: 800-963-5337
Attorney General's Price Gouging Hotline: 866-966-7226
To report unlicensed activity: 866-532-1440
To verify contractor licenses: 850-487-1395
Agricultural and Consumer Services: 800-435-7352

Power companies

Florida Power & Light: 800-468-8243
LCEC: 800-599-2356
Glades Electric Co-Op: 800-226-4024

Contractor information

Division of Workers' Compensation: 800-742-2214
Florida Association of Electrical Contractors: 407-260-1511
Florida Wall and Ceiling Contractors Association: 407-260-1313
Florida Roofing, Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractor: 407-671-3772
Associated Builders and Contractors of Florida (ABC): 813-879-8064

American Red Cross offices

Lee, Collier, Hendry and Glades: 239-278-3401
Collier: 239-596-6868
Charlotte: 941-629-4345
DeSoto: 863-494-2348

Counseling resources

Elder Helpline Area Agency for Aging: 239-652-6900
FEMA: 202-646-2500
American Red Cross: 800-435-7669

To volunteer and donate

State Volunteers and Donations Hotline: 800-354-3571
Salvation Army Donation Hotline: 800-725-2769
American Red Cross: 800-733-2767

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POLITICS AND POWER **(And no, it's not about 2016)**

Two stories to keep an eye on are developing on the mainland. Following is an update on one (the Pine Island Plan) and a report on the other (the LCEC/Cape Coral negotiations about electrical service). As both will have a direct impact on island life, it's important to keep up with them.

Pine Island Plan

(This information is excerpted from an in-depth report, "Retooling Pine Island," *Fort Myers Florida Weekly*, July 9, 2015. Readers are referred to that article for details.)

As we know, the Pine Island Plan is on the drawing board. The issue boils down to balancing property rights and preservation. The picture has grown more complex in light of changes made by the Scott Administration that make it easier for property owners to bring lawsuits under the 1995 Bert Harris Act. The new plan is zeroing in on three major changes: doing away with restrictive traffic counts that have halted development; allowing property owners to sell development rights on their land at a much greater density (while continuing agricultural uses); and allowing developers buying those rights to transfer them elsewhere in Lee County. As such, the plan "might also set the future tone of development elsewhere in Lee County by establishing a precedent for large-scale property owners."

On October 14, 2015, Commissioner Manning, members of the County Planning Staff, the County Attorney's Office, Traffic Consultants, Planning Consultants, and outside legal counsel will hold a town hall-type meeting to review the preliminary draft and receive comments/suggested changes from residents on Pine Island. The meeting will begin at 5:30 pm at Fishers of Men Lutheran Church, 10360 Stringfellow Rd, St. James City, FL. For the complete press release: http://www.pineislandnews.com/Pine_Island_News_Blog/content/public-meeting-set-presentation-preliminary-draft-pine-island-lee-plan-amendments

LCEC and Island Electrical Service

We're keeping a wary eye on negotiations between LCEC and the city of Cape Coral which could impede proposed improvements to our island electrical service. From the September 15, 2015 *Pine Island Eagle*: "[LCEC] is looking to move forward on a transmission line rebuild [that] LCEC maintains will improve service to more than 18,000 customers on Pine, Sanibel, Captiva, North Captiva, Useppa Islands, and Cabbage Key. The line is the sole source of power for those communities, utility officials said." According to LCEC, "the transmission line is reaching the end of its planned service life, and must be replaced."

The snag is that Cape Coral approved the permit, for work spanning Matlacha Pass, "and later rescinded it, adding a requirement that LCEC agree that the value of the project will not be included in the price the city would pay should it opt to take over utility services rather than renew the expiring franchise." Hmmmm.

A meeting between both parties has been set for September 23, 2015, hopefully to resolve the issue. Stay tuned.

CALENDAR OF ISLAND EVENTS

October 10/10am/Firehouse: Upper Captiva Fire and Rescue District (UCFRD) Meeting
October 14/5:30pm/Fishers of Men Lutheran Church, St. James City: Pine Island Plan Public Meeting
October 25/11:15am/Safety Harbor Clubhouse: UCCA General Meeting
November 21/10am/Firehouse: Upper Captiva Fire and Rescue District (UCFRD) Meeting
December 19/10am/Firehouse: Upper Captiva Fire and Rescue District (UCFRD) Meeting
January 16/10am/Firehouse: Upper Captiva Fire and Rescue District (UCFRD) Meeting
January 17/11:15am/Safety Harbor Clubhouse: UCCA General Meeting

(Note: To list your event please send your information (including date, time, location) to the editor:

kbsirabian@aol.com. Please note that for inclusion in this section the event must be open to the island public.)

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