

P R E S I D E N T ' S N O T E

The Board is always looking for ways we can help you; through ambience of our area, ease of understanding issues facing our island and through providing improved communication and sharing of ideas. This year I think you will agree we have stepped up to that mission.

One of our members, Allan Silberman has agreed to spearhead a recommended local service providers list that will help you find tradesmen whom our members have told us about. The list will be on line and be updated frequently based on your evaluations. It is particularly useful when you are new to an area or when you need to find a good company fast. This will require all of us to participate and use our new web site and email to keep the information current.

Yes, I did say new web site. We must be as paperless as possible in order to save money, to communicate quickly and to allow you to use the local service provider network. This will be the last newsletter mailed to everyone. (We realize that some of you don't use the internet, and we will continue mailing your newsletter to you.) Soon you will be able to visit www.therocks.civicsn.org and see information about what your association is doing, plus see the recommended service provider list and participate in keeping it current.

Secondly, we have set up an email for you to use to send comments or your service provider recommendations. That email is rocksassn@aol.com. Right now, please send us an email with your name and email address so we can start being paperless!

Another initiative that is underway is we will be contacting specific households to invite them to plant a live oak in conjunction with The Sanibel Rocks Civic Association so future generations can enjoy a shaded canopy and we all get to enjoy the beauty of the native tree now.

Lastly, we are asking you to help the Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation secure the land on Casa Ibel by writing a check for the purchase of this Sanibel River property. Time is growing short in this campaign and the benefits will last forever. The SCCF has helped pay for this newsletter by paying the postage in return for our insertion

of their brochure, so please take time to read it. With all the other environmental problems we face, remember, our continued dedication to the land has made this an enviable, environmentally secure island. Let's continue to be great land stewards by supporting the acquisition of this last bit of the fresh water and surrounding wetlands... PLEASE.



Marge Meek,
2007 president

HELP US RETAIN ACCURATE INFORMATION ABOUT YOU & COMMUNICATE WITH YOU BY EMAIL

____ Please add my email address to The Sanibel Rocks Civic Association's mailing list so that in the future I can receive the Association's annual newsletter and other bulletins via email.

My email address is _____

____ I have no email and need to receive communication by mail.

If there are any changes to the mailing address above, indicate those changes here.

Name _____

Telephone number _____

Send this to The Sanibel Rocks Civic Association, P.O. Box 281, Sanibel, FL 33957

OR

Fax this form to 239-472-4035

OR

Email your information to rocksassn@aol.com

I understand that my information will not be sold, distributed or used for any other purpose other than for communications to and from The Sanibel Rocks Civic Ass'n. and its members.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

St. Michaels and All Angel's Episcopal
Church

Meeting Room

Light lunch at 12:00 noon

Short Business Meeting at 12:30

Followed by the Guest Speakers:

Eric Lindblad -

Executive Director of the SCCF
Updating us on various land and
water initiatives

&

Bruce Neill -

Executive Director of the Sanibel Sea
School Sharing his vision and experiences

*All members are invited
Come meet your neighbors*

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES FORUM

Meet the candidates
Hear them respond to questions
on our beaches, government efficiency
redevelopment

Ask your own questions

Wednesday, February 28, 2007
1:30 3:00
At the Library
Lower Level

All members are invited
Bring a Friend

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2005-2006

Marge Meek, president

712 Gopher Walk Way 472-2466

George Veillette, vice president

580 Boulder 472-8655

John Mannix, secretary

3702 Coquina 395-7644

John Fisher, treasurer

3870 Coquina 395-0703

David Berger

4330 W. Gulf Dr. 395-1882

Mickie Kaplan

740 Durion Ct 395-3156

Marty Packard

4140 W. Gulf Dr 472-8375

John Pryor

1438 Surf Sound Ct 395-0314

Rich Thompson

924 West Gulf Dr 395-4717

Emeritus members

Louise Johnson

3941 W. Gulf Dr 472-5576

Herb Rubin

713 Rabbit Rd 472-6539

At the annual meeting the nominating committee will present Allan Silberman of 706 Emeril Ct, 472-5317 and Jim Lynch of 3917 Coquina Dr, 395-2348 for a two year director position

Any member is welcome to attend board meetings which are held at 1:30 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from October through April at the Sanibel Captiva Community Bank

ELECTIONS FOR CITY COUNCIL

We have the opportunity, and the responsibility, to vote on March 6 for candidates for city council and for two referenda. The first referendum proposes to incorporate into the City Charter the Sanibel Vision Statement. The vision statement spells out the inspiration that motivated our founding fathers and mothers to establish Sanibel as a municipality. If you are not familiar with the statement or with the two excerpts that appear on the walls of the council chambers, copies of the vision statement are available at city hall. There is also a thorough review of the document and its history in the guest commentary by Andrew Reding, past member of council, in the Island Reporter (Feb. 1) and the Island Sun.

The second referendum can appear to be confusing. Basically, it leaves minor alterations to State Road 867 (Periwinkle Rd., Palm Ridge Rd. and San-Cap Rd.) under control of the city council while, at the same time, requiring a separate referendum to approve major changes to these roadways, such as additional lanes or traffic lights.

With regard to the city council, two incumbents, Steve Brown and Jim Jennings, are running for reelection, and a new candidate, Peter Pappas, has also filed for one of the two open seats. All three have been invited to address our membership on Feb.28 at 1:30 p.m. at the Sanibel Library, Room 3. During the last campaign in 2005 all seven candidates addressed the Rocks Association individually, each one responding to the same set of prepared questions, and then taking questions from the audience. We had very positive feedback from those who attended, commenting on how much easier it was to compare the candidates in such a forum. Please be sure to attend.

Due to the resignation of councilmember Tom Rothman on Feb. 5, there will be a special election on May 1 to fill his unexpired term, 22 months. At the earliest opportunity, however, the four sitting council members will appoint a temporary replacement for a term no longer than 90 days. Logically, they will try to recruit the appointee from past members of council. (And you didn't think Sanibel was an exciting place to live!)

START YOUR BRAZILIAN PEPPER ERADICATION PLAN

The ten year plan to remove all Brazilian pepper from our island is on schedule and heading in our direction. Our Rocks area, including from Rabbit road west; zone 6, is going to be under voluntary phase starting in June of 2007. You as a property owner will be contacted via a letter by the City regarding your course of action. According to James Evans, Conservation Officer for the City of Sanibel, the City funds will contribute 20% toward the cost of removal, and that window should be open for about a year. After that time period, the homeowner must bear full financial cost to remove the plant. If not removed after the allotted voluntary time, the city will and does take legal action against the property owner.

For more information about the process to eliminate your property of Brazilian Pepper, you can call the city at 472-3700. There is also abundant information at the SCCF on all the exotic plant species. The city staff also has a list of professional landscapers qualified to handle your project, however large or small. Proper stewardship of our lands makes for more productive wildlife habitat.

AUSTRALIAN PINES

At their regular meeting, Feb. 6, the city council passed Ordinance No. 06-021, "confirming the rights of private property owners to retain Australian pinesthat currently exist on their private property..." If, however, the city determines that a pine, or any other tree, is a danger to health, safety or welfare, or to city infrastructure, such as a lift station, procedures are provided to top or to remove such trees. Other wording in the Evaluation and Appraisal of the Sanibel Plan relating to Australian pines remains unchanged.

(e.g. It is unlawful either to plant or to transplant Australian pines anywhere in the state of Florida.)

RECOMMENDED SERVICE PROVIDERS OVERVIEW

By Allan Silberman, chairman of Community Service Reference Guide

Recently, a friend in the Rocks asked me for recommendations for a painter and wallpaper hanger. She was redoing her home and was looking for some workmen to come in and finish the remodeling. While I have had experience with local workmen, I wasn't convinced that they were the "best" in the area.

I don't know if you had the experience of looking for quality craftsmen to work in your home and not having any references to add to the list of names from the local yellow pages. It can be very frustrating -- and particularly upsetting when the person you have hired messes-up.

The purpose of this letter is to solicit your assistance in pooling the community's resources to develop a list of recommended service providers. Specifically, we would like you to share with us -- without attribution -- the names of tradesmen, for example painters, plumbers, wallpaper hangers, electricians, landscape and lawn services and/or air conditioning repair services that have worked in your home and to evaluate the service they provided.

The compiled results of the recommended service provider list will be provided to members of the Rocks Association and will be available on our web site at www.therocks.org. The evaluation of service providers will be compiled without any reference to those who have provided the comments -- somewhat similar to the evaluations provided in the Zagat Survey of restaurants. If you would like to add a more detailed comment it will be included with the evaluations -- but again provided without attribution.

Please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it to:

The Sanibel Rocks Civic Association
PO Box 281
Sanibel, FL 33957

OR

Using these categories as a guide, email your ratings to rocksasn@aol.com (soon the forms will be available at our web site www.therocks.org)

OR

Bring the forms to the annual meeting on March 21, 2007

Be assured that the service we look to provide members of the Rocks Association and other residents of Sanibel is intended to provide the community with an important reference tool. It is not and will not become a commercial service that is later provided for a fee. If you have any questions about the evaluations please let us know.

We look forward to hearing from you now and throughout the year. This can be a valuable tool for all of us, but only if we all participate and keep it current.

ALLIGATOR STUDY

In a few weeks, the University of Florida in partnership with J.N."Ding" Darling Wildlife Refuge, the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation and the United States Geological Survey will initiate a study into the abundance and distribution of alligators on Sanibel Island. The purpose of this project is to provide a scientific basis for managing alligators on Sanibel. With the joint goals of insuring public safety and conserving ecological integrity,

Christie Sampson and Cheryl Parrott have been hired to serve as the island alligator technicians. They will be conducting a survey of the Island people and the alligators. Anyone who would like to be part of the survey or to give permission to access water through private land can contact the team through the "Ding" Darling NWR at 239-472-1100 ext 247 or 255.