

PO Box 421232  
Ramrod Key, FL 33042

## 2009 Board of Directors

### President

Ralph Borland  
872-4658

### Vice President

Paul Gerson  
872-2780

### Secretary

Mary Ann Close  
872-7454

### Treasurer

Sherri Brye  
872-5525

### Directors

Bob Crumley  
872-0502

Ron Poller  
872-3616

Dick Schuenger  
872-4419

Ralph Close  
872-7454

### Past President

John Clark  
872-4114

# The BBECA Times

*Breezeswept Beach Estates Civic Association*

Winter/Spring 2009

## Mark Your Calendars!

### Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, March 18th, 7:00 pm  
at 27398 St Vincent Lane

### General Membership Meeting

Saturday, March 21st, 9:30 am  
at 831 West Indies Drive

### Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, May 19th, 7:00 pm  
at 27398 St Vincent Lane

### General Membership Meeting

Saturday, May 23rd, 9:30 am  
at 831 West Indies Drive

## Community Events

### Welcome Back Party

Saturday, February 21st, 4:00 pm  
at 27398 St Vincent Lane  
Association will provide main course and drinks.  
Please bring a dish to share

### Yard Sale

Saturday, March 14, 2009  
See inside for more information.

### Spring Party

Saturday, April 4th, 3:30 pm  
at 403 Indies Drive



# EXPO

**Saturday March 28th  
2009**

**Marathon High School, 350  
Sombbrero Beach Rd,  
Marathon, FL 33050**

GLEE Expo is a **free-to-the-public event** providing exhibits, networking and education for practical solutions to sustainable living. Exhibits and workshops will address water and energy conservation, renewable energy, and green building, all of which lead to healthier lifestyles, reduced business costs, improve our communities and make a healthier planet.



## **The City of Marathon will be holding a FREE ELECTRONICS RECYCLING DROPOFF**

**Where:** City Hall, Events Field between 98<sup>th</sup> and 99<sup>th</sup> Street

**When:** Saturday, February 28, 2009

Free drop off at the Recycled Electronics Truck from 9:00 am until 2:00pm

**For more information,** visit [www.ci.marathon.fl.us](http://www.ci.marathon.fl.us) or contact Patti Childress at 305/289-4110, [childressp@ci.marathon.fl.us](mailto:childressp@ci.marathon.fl.us)

## *Minutes from General Membership Meeting*

*Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009*

BBECA President Ralph Borland convened the meeting at 10:00 A.M. It was agreed that we would defer the reading of the minutes of our prior meeting since Secretary Maryann Close is away.

The updated Treasurer's report reflects a balance of \$8,849.27 entering 2009. Membership now stands at 104 paid year to date. The navigation and landscape committees reported no new developments. The social committee reports a successful holiday party and there will be a general party on 2-21-09 for members at the Borlands (details forthcoming on the web). Our yard sale is scheduled for 3-14-09 with Mary Lou Hawks serving as coordinator.

The culvert is nearly complete with final inspections and the installation of safety screening pending.

The membership approved the proposed 2009 budget with President Ralph Borland projecting decreases of 30% in revenue and 15% in membership while expenses may increase by 11%. There was discussion regarding an additional fundraising function to offset our decline of revenue.

Our objectives for the year include channel marker repair, mangrove trimming, landscaping the culvert area and updating the website with new photos. Where needed, bids will be solicited, permits sought (landscape) and, perhaps, a photo contest.

With no new business offered by members, President Borland closed the meeting at 10:45 A.M.

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?** If not, you can no longer log onto the members only section of the web and/or this is the last newsletter you will receive.

Did you know that you can now advertise to members through the BBeca website?

Email [admin@bbeca.org](mailto:admin@bbeca.org) for details.

## New year brings old need for \$\$

By Steve Estes, The News Barometer, January 16, 2009

To have any chance at all of continuing progress on the upgrading of wastewater treatment in the Keys, the approach to funding the more than \$300 million in outstanding projects will have to be a multi-faceted approach, says County Mayor George Neugent.

"We're going to have to track the possibility of the Mayfield money, the state bonds authorized last year but never allocated, through the Legislature very closely and stay on top of State Rep. Ron Saunders for information and support," said Neugent. "We're also going to have to prepare our own legislative proposal to allow Monroe County to add a penny to its existing sales tax."

And, said Neugent, the county is going to have to consistently present a unified front in demanding that the state and federal holders of the purse strings understand what it means if Monroe County doesn't get any outside help.

All of this must transpire while Florida and the US are cutting budgets in the wake of the worst economic conditions around the world in decades, and the July 1, 2010 mandate to have the sewer upgrades completed moves inexorably closer.

"All of us, from staff to elected officials, in every governing body, are going to have to talk to the folks in Tallahassee constantly to make sure they understand the importance of the bonds to us to get this project underway. If they can't approve the bonds, then they have to be made to understand the importance of approving legislation allowing us another one penny in sales tax to fund the projects ourselves," said Neugent.

One of the drawbacks to an additional one penny in sales tax is that if the legislature decides to allow the county to go after it, county officials might have to send the idea out to referendum from the voters to institute the tax, he said.

"If the legislature agrees that we need to do this, I would hope they would give the county commission the authority to levy the tax without voter approval," said Neugent.

His reasons for that request are many, he said, but they all hinge around the lack of trust people have in county government after nearly a decade of scandalous spending practices, and the relatively small number of people affected by the lack of compliant sewer systems.

A year ago, county staff estimated that a one penny jump in sales tax might generate as much as \$30 per year. Neugent suggested a 15 year term, realizing about \$450 million in monies that could be used to nearly finish every project in the Keys.

Of course, the county would have to borrow against that revenue stream to do the projects in a timely manner which is more expensive than grants, but he felt it was the only solid proposal to raise the needed money without state or federal intervention.

"The staff is projecting a reduction in sales tax revenues of about \$4 million per year, which leaves us short, but closer than we were," said Neugent.

Out on the horizon is also the federal infrastructure stimulus package being put together by President Barack Obama and his staff, which anticipates nearly \$1 trillion in money for capital projects to put people back to work.

County officials have already said that if the state and federal governments don't come through with some funding, there is a very real danger that those not already in the process of being hooked up or hooked up will have to pay the full freight to meet the state mandate. That is estimated as high as \$22,000 per home.

"If that happens, there will be some very ticked off people, and rightfully so, in the areas that have not yet started projects," said Neugent. "We're going to be in a very tight spot if we can't get the \$200 million from the state."

If funding issues get solved, however, it releases the possibility of the state bringing punitive actions on the homeowners for being out of compliance with the mandate.

"From what I'm hearing from the Department of Health and the Department of Environmental Protection, as long as we're proceeding in an uninterrupted manner, the state won't penalize our residents for that. If we interrupt progress, they have the right to start enforcing the state statute for non-compliance with wastewater mandates. It would take legislative actions to delay that enforcement or change the parameters," he said.

Saunders told crowds at recent meetings that if the state doesn't agree to pony up the \$200 million, he will have a case to take to the powers that be and argue that the deadline needs to be extended.

Also on the funding scene for the long term is the possible extension of the current one cent infrastructure sales tax. That tax is due to end in 2018, and the county has used or borrowed every penny from it that it can realistically out to its end date.

"In light of the way that money was spent on unnecessary toys, i.e. the Hickory House and the Vandenberg, a new government center, a new airport terminal, I'm not sure the people would vote to allow us to extend that tax," said Neugent.

"I think we have to work on the one penny sales tax first, and then sell the people that we need to extend the other one to finish the job," he said.

# YARD SALE

Saturday March 14, 2009

Please price your items.

NO JUNK! Only good sellable items.

Drop off week of March 7th

Lore & Tom Stiefel @ 831 West Indies Drive

Call Mary Lou Hawks at 872-4126 to sign up for a work shift.

January 20, 2009

## Teens charged with auto burglaries

**Ramrod Key** - An alert witness who called to report suspicious activity in his neighborhood helped deputies catch a gang of teens burglarizing vehicles in a Ramrod Key neighborhood early Monday.

The witness called Sheriff's dispatchers because he saw a dark colored Sport Utility vehicle cruising up and down West Indies Drive around 3 a.m. He said he saw kids jumping out of the vehicle periodically. He said it looked like they were trying car doors to see if they were unlocked.

When Deputy Deborah Ryan and Sgt. Tom Walker arrived in the area, they spoke with the witness and spotted a van on the street with its side door wide open. They then began checking the neighborhood for the suspicious SUV. When they did not find it driving on any of the neighborhood streets, they began checking driveways for it. They found a red Ford Explorer parked in a driveway on St. Vincent Lane. The hood was still warm and a glance in the windows revealed lots of items which could have come from vehicle burglaries, including rods and reels, multiple sunglasses, radar detectors and cell phones.

Sgt. Walker met with the owner of the van which had been burglarized. He said rods and reels were missing

from his van and the ones in the red SUV looked like his. The officers began checking around the area where the SUV had been found. Inside a boat parked behind the residence, they found three teens hiding. They immediately detained 16 year old Carina Morrell of Cudjoe, 16 year old Tommie Daniels of Summerland Key and 18 year old Vincent Massacci.

During questioning, all three admitted to being involved in vehicle burglaries in the Ramrod neighborhood. They also implicated 16 year old Frank Randleman. Randleman was picked up at his Big Pine Key home and he also admitted to involvement in the crimes. Detectives say they are investigating at least nine vehicle burglaries related to this crime spree. All four teens are being charged with multiple counts of vehicle burglary and multiple counts of grand theft and theft.

Massacci is also being charged with an outstanding warrant for failure to appear in court ref. fleeing and eluding police and driving a motorcycle without an endorsement. The charge stems from an incident in September when Sgt. Andrew Ensminger spotted Massacci on a motorcycle without eye protection. When he tried to pull him over, Massacci fled at high rates of speed through the same residential neighborhood

where the burglaries took place. Massacci was finally stopped and arrested. He failed to show up for trial on the charges and a warrant was issued for failure to appear in court.

Welcome  
Back  
Party

Saturday

February  
21st

At

4:00 pm

27398 St.

Vincent Ln



CULVERT UPDATE – We're Almost Finished!!



We're almost there...with a little help from Mister Diver! And a couple of CATS.





01/30/09



*A cormorant stops by to check out our progress.*

## *It's Time to Pay Your 2009 Dues!*

### BBECA Offers its members:

-  Informative newsletters – also available on the web
-  Voting privileges at membership meetings.
-  Great social events.
-  A web site full of information and news!



Dues are payable annually and provide you with membership benefits from January thru December. Pay today to insure that you will be included in the membership roster and will have access to the member's only section of the Web Site!

Please complete this page and mail with your check.  
Make your check payable to BBECA and mail to  
**BBECA, PO Box 421232, Ramrod Key, Florida 33042**

Individual - \$15.00 (entitled to 1 vote) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Family - \$30.00 (entitled to 2 votes) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donations: Unrestricted = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Landscaping=\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Water issues=\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount of check enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Ramrod Key Address: \_\_\_\_\_

P.O. Box #: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Addresses: \_\_\_\_\_

Off Island Address: \_\_\_\_\_

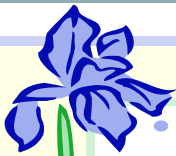
Off Island Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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Has your phone number or email changed?  
Be sure to send an email to [admin@bbeca.org](mailto:admin@bbeca.org) so that we can update your listing.

BBECA  
P.O. BOX 421232  
RAMROD KEY, FLORIDA 33042

[www.bbeka.org](http://www.bbeka.org)



### **Bouquets and Bouts**

-  To the 2008 Board of Directors for another great year
-  To all who hosted the Holiday Progressive Dinner
-  To Carole and Bill DeHart for being nominated for GLEE's Green Living Award
-  To John Clark for his persistence in keeping the culvert going to completion

