

News from Town of Cutler Bay
For Immediate Release

Contact: Sandra Cuervo, CFM
Building & Code Compliance
Division Manager
Dept. of Community

Development

(305) 234-4262

The Town of Cutler Bay seeks Public Input for new Flood Mitigation Plan

Cutler Bay, FL, October 11, 2013. On October 1, 2013, the 2012 Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act went into effect. This new law might cause the flood insurance rates of over 268,000 homeowners in Florida to increase, including over 300 property owners in Cutler Bay. Residents that have older homes or non-elevated structures have a higher level of flood risk and may face the greatest impact.

The Town of Cutler Bay seeks to implement a Flood Mitigation Plan with hopes of reducing the flood insurance rates of residents in Cutler Bay. To accomplish this goal, the Town has established a Flood Mitigation Plan Advisory Committee consisting of Town residents and business owners with expertise in real estate, water management, flood insurance, construction and more. The first meeting of the Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, October 24, 2013 at 5:30 pm. This meeting will take place in the Town of Cutler Bay Council Chambers, 10720 Caribbean Blvd. in Cutler Bay, FL and is open to the public.

The Town and Advisory Committee also invite all residents and interested parties to attend the "Flood Mitigation Plan Kick-Off Meeting". Property owners that currently are required to have flood insurance, have experienced property loss/damage due to flood, or simply want to learn more about what the Town is doing to protect their property are encouraged to attend the meeting. We want to hear from you. The Public Meeting will be held on Thursday October, 24, 2013 at 6:30 pm; following the Advisory Committee Meeting, in the Town of Cutler Bay Council Chambers.

For more information, please contact Sandra Cuervo, CFM Building & Code Compliance Division Manager, Department of Community Development at 305-234-4262 or visit the Town's website at www.cutlerbay-fl.gov.

NEIGHBORS CALENDAR

• CALENDAR, FROM 28SE

with vendors, live music and DJ.
11 a.m. Oct. 20, News Lounge,
5580 NE Fourth Ct., Upper East Side.
\$10-\$15. 786-970-9296.

**Halloween Psychic Faire and Witch-
es' Gathering:** Honors our ancestors
and those who watch over us in the
world of spirits and asks them for
their empowerment and protection.
Features psychic readings, dream
interpretation and spiritual healings.

1 p.m. Oct. 26, Celestial Treasures,
3444 Main Hwy, Suite 17, Coconut
Grove. \$25-\$45. 305-461-2341.

Happy Hour: Through December,
enjoy special drink and food offers
Wednesdays and Sundays.

6:30 p.m. Oct. 20, Villa Azur, 309
23rd St., Miami Beach. 305-763-8688.
www.villaazurmiami.com.

**Hispanic Heritage Month Celebra-
tion-Dolphin Mall:** Features 20
percent off at the mall's participating
restaurants plus live performances
by cultural acts representing Spain,
Colombia, Mexico, Argentina, Bolivia,
Venezuela, Cuba and Puerto Rico.

10 a.m. Oct. 22, Dolphin Mall, 11401
NW 12th St., Sweetwater. Free.
305-365-7446.

Hoppy Halloween @The DRB:

• TURN TO CALENDAR, 37SE



Fall Arts & Crafts Festival

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD (10AM-5PM)

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Miami, FL 33186**

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Unique One-Of-A-Kind Items & Gifts,
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VILLAGE OF PINECREST Community Center Master Plan

The Village of Pinecrest is developing a Master Plan for the Pinecrest Community Center. This effort will culminate with a presentation to the Village Council in early 2014. Community meetings have been scheduled to solicit public input. Please join us and attend the meeting that is most convenient for you. All three meetings will include the same presentation and equal opportunity for input.

- Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
- Monday, October 28, 2013, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Saturday, November 2, 2013, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

All meetings will be at the Pinecrest Community Center, 5855 Killian Drive, Pinecrest, Florida 33156.

In addition, a survey has been prepared to assist in gathering information for a needs assessment and the evaluation of a potential expansion to the Community Center. The survey is available online at www.pinecrest-fl.gov/PCCMasterPlan. Paper copies of the survey can be obtained at the Pinecrest Community Center.

Guida H. Inguanzo, Jr., CMC
Village Clerk

pccmasterplan@pinecrest-fl.gov | www.pinecrest-fl.gov



FLOODPLAIN MITIGATION PLAN NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Town of Cutler Bay will hold a meeting of the Floodplain Mitigation Advisory Committee on Thursday, October 24, 2013 at 5:30 pm in the Town Council Chambers, Cutler Bay Town Centre, 10720 Caribbean Blvd., Cutler Bay, FL 33189.

The Committee meeting will be followed at 6:30 pm by a Community Meeting to kick-off the development of the Town of Cutler Bay Floodplain Mitigation Plan and to inform property owners how the 2012 Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act may affect them. Interested parties are invited to attend the public meetings or provide written comments to the Town.

The public meeting documents may be inspected by the public at the Town Clerk's Office at 10720 Caribbean Boulevard, Suite 105, Cutler Bay, FL 33189. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), persons needing special accommodations to participate in these proceedings should contact the Town Clerk's office for assistance at (305) 234-4262 no later than four (4) business days prior to such proceeding.

Debra Eastman, MMC, Town Clerk

CUTLER BAY

Officials want public input on flooding

■ The town is trying to improve flood-mitigation to offset flood-insurance premiums that are expected to rise.

BY ALEX BUTLER
Special to the Miami Herald

Cutler Bay officials are looking for residents' input as they work on a plan to reduce flooding in the town.

The town's anti-flooding efforts come after last year's passage of a new federal law governing flood insurance. The Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Act aims to reduce government subsidies that now pay part of the cost of flood insurance for many

property owners. The law will not immediately affect primary residences, unless the homeowner moves, has a major claim, or changes insurance. Also, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, only about 20 percent of properties were subsidized to begin with.

"Homeowners who have lived in their home, are current with their flood insurance and do not let it lapse, will not see an impact," said Sandra Cuervo, building and code compliance manager for the town of Cutler Bay, "but the moment that the homeowner doesn't renew a flood policy and goes

For more information

To learn more about the new federal flood-insurance law, visit www.fema.gov/flood-insurance-reform-act-2012.

to get flood insurance again, they will see the true flood risk."

But owners of vacation or investment homes, business properties with subsidized premiums, and properties with multiple large flood claims will see an increase of 25 percent in premium

rates each year until those premiums reflect full-risk rates.

The town had formed a Flood Mitigation Plan Advisory Committee to try and offset the rate hikes by improving drainage.

Now, Cutler Bay property owners get a 20 percent discount based on the town's rating of 6 under the FEMA's Community Rating System, or CRS. If the rating lowers to 5, the new discount would be 25 percent and could be effective by the end of 2014.

"Because of all of the issues with flooding in the area, we were able to qualify for a grant to get a flood mitigation plan," said Sandra

Cuervo, building and code compliance manager for the town of Cutler Bay. "We need to figure out what we can do and what areas can be improved to mitigate any potential flood hazards."

The five-member committee, which includes specialists in real estate, public works and insurance, will hold its first public meeting at 6:30 p.m. today, Oct. 24, at Town Hall, 10720 Caribbean Blvd.

More than 268,000 Florida homeowners will see an increase in flood insurance rates as a result of the act. Residents of older homes and residents of nonelevated structures will see the

largest impact as they are at a higher level of flood risk.

"We want to analyze and determine what we are doing in CRS and what is going on as far as areas that have more prone to flooding and figure out what can be done and what kind of projects need to be spelled out and what we can do to reduce our flood risk.

"I think there are several goals," Cuervo said. "It will tie in to CRS and try to see if we can improve our rating so that our discount is higher but that is just one component. It's how we can improve what we are doing right now so that we are not exposed..."

MOZART CHOIR HONORED



PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BORNS/MIAMI HERALD STAFF

On Oct. 20, the Coconut Grove Black Heritage Music Series concluded its first season with a performance by Edward Waters College Choir at Greater St. Paul A.M.E. Church. The performance honored members past and present from the Mozart Choir that was founded in 1902. Among them are, from left, Jimmie Ingraham, Liz Daniels, Helen J. Davis, Bobby Sands and Juanita Smith.



Director Barbara McNeely-Bouie leads the Edward Waters College Choir.



Carla Ross, left, and her mother Mel are all smiles at Sunday's performance.

The Jensens Hit The
Road Again - 5A



Revving Up For The Races

1B



NEWS LEADER

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50¢

Flood Insurance Changes Affect Locals Cutler Bay Holds Town Hall Meeting

By Chris Himmel

Concerned for the consequences that new federal flood insurance rules could have on their properties, Cutler Bay residents attended the municipality's newly formed Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee's first Town Hall Meeting on October 24th at the Cutler Bay Town Hall Council Chambers. Brought forth as a result of legislative changes in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) enacted in the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, Cutler Bay officials estimate that about 300 local residential property owners will be affected.

According to a presentation made by Cutler Bay Community Development Department senior staff members, the Biggert-Waters Act (signed by President Barack Obama on July 6, 2012) is designed to stabilize the National Flood Insurance

See FLOOD 2A



Members of the Cutler Bay Town Council discuss changes to flood insurance in Florida. Photo courtesy Town of Cutler Bay

FLOOD

Continued from 1A

Program (established by the United States Congress in 1968); enabling it to exist by having actuarial soundness. The legislation reauthorizes the NFIP through September 30, 2017.

Among the Act's intended reforms are changes in flood insurance, mapping, mitigation programs, and levees.

According to an April 2013 published Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) document, 81% of flood insurance policy holders under the NFIP will not be impacted by the Act.

Furthermore, according to the same documents the Act "encourages Program financial stability by eliminating some artificially low rates and discounts." The same documents also state that the U.S. Congress approved the Act "to make the NFIP more sustainable and financially sound over the long term."

The Cutler Bay flooding insurance Town Hall meeting arose out of portions of the Biggert-Waters Act taking effect on

October 1st. Councilmember Sue Ellen Loyzelle expressed that the Act "has a regional impact in South Dade. Just in Cutler Bay alone it will affect over 300 homes." In a reflection of the wider geographic impact, Florida State Representative Holly Raschein (South Dade and the Keys) co-authored an October 24th dated letter sent to U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives John Boehner of Ohio, and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of California requesting that the Biggert-Waters Act "be immediately suspended until such time as a reasonable method for instituting any rate increases can be determined." In her letter Raschein noted that in "the Florida Keys, a pending home sale stalled after receiving a quoted increase of more than \$43,350 per year. At this time last year, the policy for this home was \$695 per year."

In addition to the municipal charter authorized Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee, the Town of Cutler Bay has active flood

mitigation management ordinances, participates in the NFIP Community Ratings System (which provides discounts to policy holders based on a number municipal efforts pertaining to flooding matters, Cutler Bay's rating enables at present for flood insurance policies there to get a 20% discount). As Councilmember Loyzelle noted, the Cutler Bay Town Council sent a letter to Florida Governor Rick Scott on the impact that the Act will have on Cutler Bay.

According to Cutler Bay Building and Code Compliance Division Manager Sandra Cuervo, even if they have federally subsidized rates with their premiums, residential property owners in the municipality will not have their flood insurance policies impacted by the Act if they do not sell their primary home (where they have to live 80% of the time), let their current policies lapse, do not buy new policies (after July 6th, 2012), or if they have not had a severe, repeated loss in past flood events.

Non-primary, secondary residence, investment properties, and commercial properties

flood insurance policy holders in Cutler Bay will however be immediately affected with 25% annual rate increases until their rates reflect true flood risk.

Cutler Bay residents interviewed before and after the public meeting expressed their concerns on how the Biggert-Waters Act will impact them and their local community. As he is currently paying about \$1,700 annually for flood insurance, homeowner Andy Moravec said "This will affect me drastically I've had three different claims from localized street flooding in forty years. We've had flooding that entered the garage two other times. So when it rains heavy and we don't know when that's going to be, we mitigate by picking up everything off the floor."

A Cutler Bay resident since 1959, Art Nanni expressed his concern for how the legislation will impact the local real estate market, saying "I've known realtors who've lost closings because of flood insurance costs. Something has to be done. There has to be an equitable solution for all homeowners."

Cutler Bay NEWS

Happy Thanksgiving!

NOVEMBER 12 - 25, 2013

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305-669-7355

Town launches program to cut flood insurance rates

BY GARY ALAN RUSE

With the high cost of flood insurance on the minds of everyone in South Florida, especially those in the coastal areas vulnerable to storm related flooding, the Town of Cutler Bay has begun a program intended to reduce those costs for its residents.

On Oct. 24, the town hosted the first meeting of its Floodplain Advisory Committee and a town hall meeting on the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012. The Floodplain Advisory Committee was created as a result of a grant from the State of Florida to develop a town-wide Flood Mitigation Plan. Cutler Bay is one of only two Florida municipalities to receive such a grant.

The job of the committee is to work with town staff, consultants, residents and interested stakeholders to develop and implement the town's Flood Mitigation Plan, according to Rafael Casals, town manager.

"The town hopes that the implementation of the Flood Mitigation Plan will further improve its current rating in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS) and further reduce flood insurance premiums for its residents," Casals said.

Town Councilmember Mary Ann Mixon was appointed by the town council to serve as liaison to the Floodplain Advisory Committee.

"I am honored to be named as liaison for the town's Floodplain Advisory Committee," Mixon said in an Oct. 28 interview. "This is an excellent and exciting opportunity for our community. We are very fortunate to have such knowledgeable people working on this project.

"Between the expertise of the town staff and the members of the committee, I feel confident we will reach our goal of a

Pictured is the town hall meeting about the Flood Insurance Reform Act.



Classification 5 certification thereby saving the town a tremendous amount of money on their flood insurance."

As a participant in the CRS program the town currently has received a Classification 6, which means that all policy holders in the town's Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) are receiving a 20 percent discount on the total cost of their flood insurance. A Classification 5 rating would provide a 25 percent discount.

David Stroud, the town's technical consultant, provided an overview of the CRS program at the meeting. The CRS is a voluntary program implemented in the 1990s by FEMA. It recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP standards. Participation rewards community actions that meet its goals with adjusted flood insurance premiums. Stroud explained that BW-12 was signed into law by President Barack Obama on July 6, 2012.

Mayor Edward P. MacDougall praised the efforts of the new committee members working on the project.

"The Town of Cutler Bay has 160 homes which are financially affected in a negative way," MacDougall said. "Due to our closeness to the coast and some homes built below

recommended flood elevation, Cutler Bay bears a serious impact.

"This affects not only our homeowners but our real estate market, just now returning to some degree of health. With new congressional legislation on the horizon, we are very hopeful for a solution. I thank our town staff and their great efforts to be proactive in this national problem."

Stroud said that owners of primary residences in the SFHA will be able to keep their subsidized rates unless or until:

- owner sells the property (new rates will be charged to the new owner if they insure);
- owner allows the policy to lapse;
- property suffers severe, repeated flood losses, or
- owner purchases a new policy after July 6, 2012.

Stroud also noted that properties in moderate to low-risk areas are not affected by BW-12 because properties in these areas (Flood Zones B, C or X) do not pay subsidized rates.

For information, residents should contact Sandra Cuervo, CFM Building and Code Compliance Division manager, Department of Community Development, or Yenier Vega, CGC, Stormwater Utility manager at 305-234-4262, or visit the town's website at <www.cutlerbay-fl.gov>.

Meeting to discuss protecting your property from floods



Michael Miller

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

AROUND TOWN

sibilities are as members of the committee, and their schedules.” The meeting is on Wednesday, December 11, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., in the Community Room, Suite 220, of the Cutler Bay Town Center, located at 10720 Caribbean Blvd. For information please contact Sandra Cuervo at 305-234-4262 or visit the Town’s website at <www.cutlerbay-fl.gov>.

Kudos to the finance department, as we hear that the Town of Cutler Bay received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the sixth consecutive year in a row. The award is presented by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (“GFOA”) for its annual Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (“CAFR”) for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012. Quite an accomplishment for a community that was incorporated in 2005.

Great job... We hear from a reliable source that Steve Zarzecki, President of the Concerned Citizens of Cutler Bay, did a great job with the December 3rd meeting at the Cutler Ridge United Methodist Church. The church’s Paella Fundraiser dinner preceding the meeting was a big hit with attendees. January’s meeting should

be interesting, too, with the election of officers.

Keep it up... Well, the official Small Business Saturday event has come and gone, but the idea behind it of supporting the neighborhood businesses in your community, the “mom and pop” independent stores, restaurants and services, is a great thing to do year ‘round. They will appreciate your business and often provide better customer service than the big national chains. Besides, the money you spend there stays in the community and helps the local economy.

Holiday show... Those of you familiar with Actors’ Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre may want to take the kids to see “Madeline’s Christmas” there. There’s an ‘All Kids Included’ Sensory-Friendly Saturday Performance on Saturday, December 14, 2013 at 11 a.m., and holiday performances on Saturday, December 21 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, December 22 at 3 p.m. The book and lyrics are by Jennifer Kirkeby, music and lyrics by Shirley Mier. This holiday favorite begins with the classic storybook line, “In an old house in Paris that was covered with vines lived twelve little girls in two straight lines.”



Actors’ Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre

Actors’ Playhouse is located at the Miracle Theatre, 280 Miracle Mile, in Coral Gables. Call 305-444-9293 for ticket info or visit their website at <www.actor-playhouse.org>.

Thought of the Day:

There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humor.

— Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol

Gary Alan Ruse contributed to this column.

Got any tips? Contact me at 305-669-7355, ext. 249, or send emails to <Michael@communitynewspapers.com>.



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Cutler Bay News

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Contact: Sandra Cuervo, CFM
Building & Code Compliance
Division Manager
Dept. of Community

Development

(305) 234-4262

The Town of Cutler Bay to hold Public Meetings on April 22 and 23, 2014

Cutler Bay, FL, April 14, 2014 - On April 22nd and 23rd, Town residents are encouraged to participate in two Public Information/Involvement Meetings regarding the Town's Floodplain Mitigation Plan which is being funded in part by a State of Florida grant. As a result, the Town Council has created a Floodplain Mitigation Plan Advisory Committee comprised of Cutler Bay residents with expertise in construction, water management, insurance, real estate, and more. Additionally, the Town Council has appointed Council Member Mary Ann Mixon to serve as the Liaison to the Committee. The Town hopes that the implementation of the Cutler Bay Flood Mitigation Plan will further improve its current rating in the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIPs) Community Rating System (CRS) and further reduce flood insurance premium for its residents.

Currently, Town residents who require flood insurance are receiving a 20% flood insurance premium discount as a result of the Town's CRS rating of "6". The Committee Meeting is open to the public and the meeting details are as follows:

Floodplain Mitigation Plan Advisory Committee

Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at 5:30 pm
Town Center Community Room, Suite 220
10720 Caribbean Boulevard
Cutler Bay, Florida 33189

As a follow-up to the Committee Meeting, the Town will host a Public Information Meeting on Wednesday, April 23. During this public involvement meeting, the Town's consultant and project staff will provide participants with an overview of the Committee's progress and will facilitate a public comment period to assess the needs of all residents. The meeting details are as follows:

Floodplain Mitigation Plan Public Meeting

Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 7:00 pm
Cutler Ridge Park
10100 SW 200 Street
Cutler Bay, Florida 33157

Residents who would like to receive additional information, or who have questions regarding the Town's Flood Mitigation Plan, can contact Sandra Cuervo, Building & Code Compliance Division Manager, at (305) 234-4262 or via email to scuervo@cutlerbay-fl.gov. Residents are also encouraged to visit the Town's website at www.cutlerbay-fl.gov.



NEWS LEADER

Aligator Mating
Season 7A



Vol. 102 No. 7

Friday, April 25, 2014 ♦ 102 years of service to the South Dade community ♦ Visit www.southdadenewsleader.com

Farm Bureau BBQ Saturday

Bill Losner HOF Induction, Harvest Queen Crowning Highlight Events For 2014

By Sonia Colon

Every year, Dade County honors an individual who has made an impact in Miami Dade agriculture at the Annual Barbeque and Fundraiser. At the 36th Annual Barbeque on April 26, 2014, Bill Losner will be inducted into the Hall of Honor for his outstanding contributions to agriculture. Dade County Farm Bureau is thankful to have had Bill Losner as an advocate for agriculture for so many years.

Bill Losner is a third generation Homestead resident. His grandfather, Max Losner helped open First National Bank in 1932 and became the bank president Bill followed in the footsteps of his grandfather and father and became a banker after graduating from South Dade High School in 1956.

His grandfather urged him to work in banking even though he initially wasn't interested in getting into the family business. However, he began working as a teller at 1st National Bank of South Florida. Glad he took his grandfather's



Jade Sanders will perform live at the annual Dade County Farm Bureau BBQ.

advice, Bill Losner moved on to work for the Bank of Perrine and becoming president of the bank in 1974. After Bill's father retired from 1st National Bank in 1980, Bill Losner became president of the bank.

Bill Losner has been actively volunteering for the community his entire life. He is a member of Dade County Farm

Bureau, Homestead/ Florida City Chamber of Commerce, and Rotary Club just to name a few. He has taken a particular interest in helping the farmers of Miami Dade County with several issues that have plagued the farming industry over the years.

"Everyone I grew up with was involved
See BBQ 2A

Coming Of Age

Some Seniors Don't Slow Down

By Marion Callahan and Gwen Shrift, Calkins Media

my body working," Arbani said minutes after she finished taking a Zumba dance class.

Baynanza Returns Yearly Park Cleanup Enters 32nd Year of Service

By Denise Sleeper

Baynanza is Miami-Dade's way of celebrating one of the

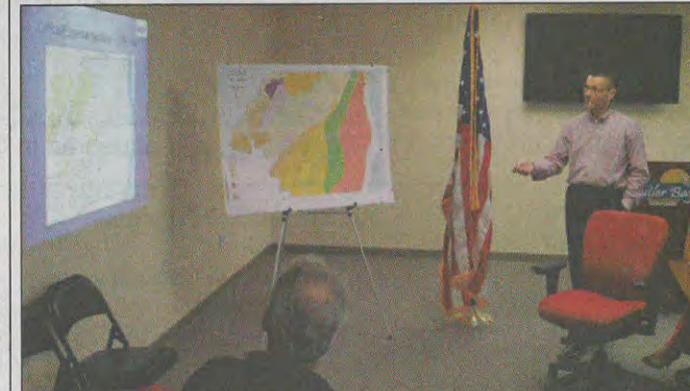
suffering from pollution and the marine environment was in extreme decline. Every April, for the past 32 years

Weathering The Rising Tide Federal Flood Insurance Changes Impact South Florida Residents

By Chris Himmel

The Town of Cutler Bay Floodplain Mitigation Plan Advisory Committee held its fifth meeting in on April 22nd at the Cutler Bay Town Center. The group organized in October 2013 is part of the municipality's efforts following Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements that ultimately can enable residential property holders discounts on insurance policies in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Points given by FEMA include municipal public outreach efforts.

See FLOOD 2



David A. Stroud discusses Cutler Bay's flood mitigation plan at a recent Advisory Committee meeting. Photo by Chris Himmel

and Economic Resources (RER) and the Division of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) have organized Baynanza with contributions from sponsors

brations. This year's Baynanza began March 16th at the Biscayne National Park Dante Fascell Visitor Center and has included over 30 activities that will

Continued from 1A

with agriculture. I went to bat for farmers because they work from sunrise to sunset, they don't have the time," Losner said.

Bill has gone to bat over and over for agriculture in South Dade. He has faced water issues, the incorporation of the Redland, and other issues that could negatively affect local growers. Bill continues to advocate for agriculture because it is important to him.

is very important to me. My roots are here. I grew up here," he said.

In his spare time, Bill enjoys spending time with his wife Doyleene, their sons and grandchildren. He also enjoys flying and fishing.

The historic DCFB barbeque and fundraiser will feature succulent prime rib, chicken, and pork tenderloin with the freshest locally grown vegetables.

Local country star, Jade Sanders will be performing her new music and the SiFuentes brothers will perform an Andalusian Horse

Sanders' family are pioneers in the Homestead farming industry dating back to the 1940's. She is very excited to be a part of an event that focuses on agriculture in South Dade. Sanders recently traveled to Nashville, Tn. to record her first professional EP album called "What About That," which will be available on iTunes May 9th. Sanders will be selling a limited amount of her new EP at the BBQ with 10% of her total sales from that night going to the Harvest Queen Scholarship Foundation.

She will be accompanied by

South Dade High students - Ridge Murphy on the drums, Chase Varnadore on guitar and her brother Jeffrey Sanders on bass.

Tickets for the event are \$100 per couple and can be purchased in advance or on the night of the event. Tickets for children 12 and under are \$25. Gates will open at 4:30 p.m. Event proceeds benefit the Dade County Farm Bureau's efforts to keep agriculture economically viable through educational, promotional and legislative efforts.



Attendees can expect great food and good fun at the Annual Farm Bureau BBQ and "Fun" Raiser.

HISTORY

Continued from 1A

tions himself.

The Florida City Town Council constituted the Town Board of Health.

Later on March 30, 1915 Ordinance No. 14 was passed which dealt specifically with privies. It required that a galvanized iron bucket equal in numbers to the number of privy "holes" be installed under the holes. The Town Marshal was to collect 50 cents per bucket per month for the weekly emptying of the buckets by the town "scavenger." This title was seen in local newspapers in articles about collection but the name of the person occupying the position was not

publically identified. Early scavengers used tank wagons pulled by mules which were then replaced by motorized tank trucks. The collected material was then dumped out

in the country away from homes.

Anyone violating the sanitation ordinance was subject to a fine of \$10.00 or ten days in jail and the jail was an out-

door facility without protection from mosquitoes or the heat.

On March 13, 1917 the town really got down to detail in an ordinance which

addressed privies. The Town Marshal was given the additional title of Chief of Sanitation. Privies were to have fecal material removed at least once per week by the scavenger. A standard bucket 14 inches in diameter and 20 inches in height was to fit on a slide with only one inch separating the top of the bucket from the underside of the seat. The buckets were the property of Florida City.

The Scavenger took away dirty buckets and left clean ones in their place. Property owners were responsible for using an approved disinfectant. The Scavenger took over responsibility from the town marshal for collection of the monthly fees.

Elected officials were very intent on ensuring the highest

level of sanitation to reduce the possibility of the spread of diseases. At this time many families lost several children to diseases.

The Florida Pioneer Museum is indebted to Charlotte Geronimo Schunk for the donation of her father William Geronimo's copy of the 1915 Code of the Town of Florida City. William Geronimo annotated certain articles of particular use to him in pencil. To this writer it seems as if at the time of incorporation in 1914 a "standard issue" set of ordinances for Florida towns was approved and then slowly modified as necessary. It was printed by the Florida City PTG (Printing) Company a name, which has not been seen elsewhere.



Florida City as it appeared in the early 1910's. Courtesy Photo

FLOOD

Continued from 1A

Among the target audiences that will be reached out are the greater Cutler Bay community, developers and general contractors, homeowners associations, insurance/real estate agents, repetitive loss properties owners, school children, and Spanish language speakers (the Town has a significant Latin-American population). Stakeholders that will be reached out include Biscayne National Park, FEMA, Miami-Dade County, and the South Florida Water Management District. A Program for Public

Information (PPI) is also planned.

According to Cutler Bay Mayor Edward P. MacDougall, the municipality has also received points for storm drainage improvements and elevation for homes built 2012 onwards from ten to eleven feet. As Mayor MacDougall commented, "In terms of Cutler Bay it's important that we get our homeowners the 20-25% premiums. It's a quality of life issue."

An example of the Town's outreach was evident in Cutler Bay residents Lloyd and Paulette Kossally's attendance. It was the S.W. 185th Terrace and S.W. 79th Court neighborhood residents' first

time at the meetings. "Neighbors have told us about the flooding that occurs at an adjoining lot. We have experienced it just after a heavy rain shower," Mr. Kossally expressed in an interview after the meeting's conclusion. Mrs. Kossally added "I found it very informative. It reinforced the need of having flood insurance where we are."

As the Cutler Bay Town Council's Liaison to the Committee, Councilmember Mary Ann Mixon expressed "Its going quite well. We're moving along, moving forward." Councilmember Mixon will report the Committee's April meeting to the Council at its May 21st

meeting. As the meeting approached its conclusion Consultant and Facilitator to the Committee David A. Stroud, a Certified Floodplain Manager at AMEC, stated that the next meeting would include mitigation strategies, as he specified "What can we do as a community to mitigate flood damage."

Following the meeting, in an interview Mr. Stroud expressed, "We're going through a strategic planning process to developing the Flood Mitigation Plan and we're basically in the middle stages of the ten step CRS (Community Rating System, part of the NFIP) and we're at this point presenting the

Risk Assessment which identifies the flood hazards and the impact the hazards have on the community. We're looking at a finish in August 2014 for the final Flood Mitigation Plan."

Commenting on recent United States Congress passed revisions to the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, Mayor MacDougall expressed "It's a good move, but after four years (2018) from now, it will be a full increase (for the residential properties)." Essentially, he sees the revisions as just delaying the flood insurance policies increase. He does see that actions such as Cutler Bay's are helpful in finding a

final solution to the pending flood insurance crisis for owners of primary residences.

As the Cutler Bay Floodplain Mitigation Plan Advisory Committee continues its work, Cutler Bay Building and Code Compliance Division Manager Sandra Cuervo pointed out its function

"This is our fifth meeting. The main purpose is to develop a flood mitigation plan for which we received a Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant, a FEMA grant administered by the State of Florida."

News from Town of Cutler Bay
For Immediate Release

Contact: Sandra Cuervo, CFM
Building & Code Compliance
Division Manager
Dept. of Community

Development

(305) 234-4262

The Town of Cutler Bay Unveils Draft Flood Mitigation Plan for Public Input

Cutler Bay, FL, September 12, 2014. The Town of Cutler Bay seeks to implement a Flood Mitigation Plan with hopes of reducing the flood insurance rates of residents in Cutler Bay. To accomplish this goal, the Town established a Flood Mitigation Plan Advisory Committee consisting of Town residents and business owners with expertise in real estate, water management, flood insurance, construction and more.

The purpose of the Flood Mitigation plan is to identify, assess and mitigate flood risk in order to better protect the people and property of Cutler Bay from the effects of flood hazards. The Floodplain Advisory Committee, along with AMEC, the Town Consultant for this project, Town Staff and Council Liaison, Council Member Mixon, held six (6) meetings in which a hazard assessment was conducted to better understand the Town's potential risk to natural disasters and laid out the framework for prioritizing mitigation actions to reduce risk from future hazard events.

The Floodplain Advisory Committee will hold a committee meeting to review the draft of the Flood Mitigation Plan on Thursday, September 25, 2014 at 5:30 pm. This meeting will take place at the Town of Cutler Bay 10720 Caribbean Blvd. Suite 220 in Cutler Bay, FL and is open to the public.

The Town and Advisory Committee also invite all residents and interested parties to attend a public meeting to discuss the draft of the Flood Mitigation Plan. The plan will be unveiled in order to gain public input and comments from Town residents and business owners. The Public Meeting will be held on Thursday September 25, 2014 at 7:00 pm at the Town of Cutler Bay Council Chambers at 10720 Caribbean Blvd. in Cutler Bay, FL

For more information, please contact Sandra Cuervo, CFM Building & Code Compliance Division Manager, Department of Community Development at 305-234-4262 or visit the Town's

website at www.cutlerbay-fl.gov.





Floodplain Mitigation Plan Workshop is October 1



Concerned about flood insurance rates? We hear from the office of Sandra Cuervo, CFM Building & Code Compliance Division Manager of the Town of Cutler Bay's Department of Community Development, that a Floodplain Mitigation Plan Workshop is scheduled for Wednesday October 1 in the Town Hall Council Chambers at 5:00 p.m. Residents are invited to attend.

The town has been working on a flood mitigation plan for some months now with the hopes of reducing the flood insurance rates of residents in Cutler Bay. A committee comprised of town residents and business owners with expertise in real estate, water management, flood insurance, construction and other areas was formed and the committee members have attended six meetings thus far with AMEC, the town consultant for the project, members of the town staff and town liaison Council Member Mary Ann Mixon.

The idea is that by identifying, assessing



Council Member Mary Ann Mixon (right side) and members of the Floodplain Mitigation Advisory Committee discuss the proposed Flood Mitigation Plan.

and mitigating flood risk in the town, and coming up with safety measures that will reduce hazards during storm and other disaster caused flooding, there may be savings in insurance costs. The most recent meeting took place on Thursday, September 25.

For those interested in attending the October 1 workshop, Town Hall is located at

10720 Caribbean Blvd. Suite 220 in Cutler Bay. For more information, please contact Sandra Cuervo at 305-234-4262 or visit the town's website at <www.cutlerbay-fl.gov>.

And by the way... Speaking of Town Hall, which is in the Cutler Bay Town Center there at 10720 Caribbean Boulevard, they still have some office space for lease in that big multisto-

ry building there behind Southland Mall. If you're interested you can find the details at <www.cutlerbaytowncenter.com>.

New restaurant... Miami Grill, which is a re-branding of the original Miami Subs, opened in Cutler Bay the beginning of September with a crowd of folks eager to get their favorite sandwiches, gyros and seasoned fries again. It's located at 118660 South Dixie Highway, on the west side of the street. Call them at 305-251-5816.

Don't miss this! The Cutler Ridge Woman's Club is having their Autumn Bunco Party on October 11th at 10:00 a.m., with lunch at noon. This is their charitable fundraiser, with door prizes, an auction table, bake sale, books, a treasure table and more. The cost is \$17. Location is at Cutler Ridge Park, 10100 SW 200 Street. For reservations or questions please call Carol Ponzini at 305-233-3965.

Thought of the Day:
If we were meant to talk more than listen, we would have two mouths and one ear.
— Mark Twain

Gary Alan Ruse contributed to this column.

Got any tips? Contact me at 305-669-7355, ext. 249, or send emails to <Michael@communitynewspapers.com>.

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Cutler Bay Business Association

Our next Luncheon is
Thursday, October 9, 2014
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

SPEAKERS: Cutler Bay Mayor Candidates
Peggy Bell and Art Nanni.
We will be having a Q & A forum discussion.

NEW LOCATION:
Cutler Bay Town Hall
10720 Caribbean Blvd, PH
Cost: \$10 Members • \$20 Guests

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