



Our Mission

The CBCC's purpose is to provide an effective means for residents of Coral Bay to participate in planning the future of Coral Bay development, by providing education and information on planning processes, and a forum for government, citizens, and developers to discuss plans. The agenda focuses on: land and water use planning, infrastructure, development and environmental issues. The Council seeks community consensus on the future of Coral Bay. The organization, with its nonprofit status, can implement community improvement and research projects through grants and donations, and serve a broader agenda of community services and concerns.

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The Coral Bay Community Council is concluding its fourth year in operation this November, with a lengthy list of issues and projects completed and underway. With over 230 members providing volunteer and financial support in \$20 dues and \$100 donations, and general community participation, the Council has broad grassroots resources behind our activities. All of CBCC's events and activities are open to the public. The CBCC has become respected as a community resource by residents and property owners in Coral Bay.

2007 Projects & Activities

CZM/DEVELOPMENT ISSUES: 2007 has seen fewer major development applications in Coral Bay, but more concern about implementation and enforcement of storm water management practices for recently permitted projects. Some possible developer planning for marina and shoreline development continues, but no formal applications are in process. The Bordeaux Mountain Villas condominium project is about to receive a Group Dwelling Permit, despite opposition by the Bordeaux neighbors, and concerns expressed by the CBCC.

WATERSHED ISSUES: CBCC has been active in accumulating information about stormwater problems and encouraging better practices. Coral Bay was selected as the Pilot Watershed Management Plan for the VI, in part based on the resources available from the CBCC. This is a NOAA funded project with DPNR and EPA. It is expected to lead to visible actions improving stormwater management in Coral Bay. Over 30 residents participated in 3 days of site visits, showcasing the full range of problems we face in managing dirt roads, guts, and stormwater drainage on steep slopes.

EPA 2007 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AWARD: The entire membership of the Coral Bay Community Council was lauded this year by the EPA for our persistence in pursuing environmental concerns, esp. stormwater management and resource protection to preserve the Bay's habitat.

NEW GOVERNOR'S ADMINISTRATION: Much of 2007 has been spent introducing CBCC's concerns to Governor deJongh's administration, especially DPNR.

GUY H. BENJAMIN SCHOOL: After being stymied in our efforts to refurbish the community basketball court, it was decided, along with the PTO and the Coral Bay Yacht Club, to purchase badly-needed new desks and chairs for all the classrooms in the school. The children began this school year with colorful new desks. Thanks to everyone who made it possible.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH: CBCC supports a team studying the shark nursery habitat of Inner Coral Harbor. Few people fully realize the importance of the shallow seagrass beds and mangroves in Coral Bay's harbor in the juvenile life cycle of many marine species. CBCC actively encourages researchers to study Coral Bay, including making a presentation to the Water Resources Conference in October. EPA is funding and conducting significant water quality and sedimentation research in Coral Bay this year to provide baseline information.

COMMUNICATIONS: CBCC's members receive several emails each month about news and upcoming events. It is the major way we "call" for volunteers, participation and donations. We also maintain a list of other people in the community that we can contact and include in public issues and activities.

VISION AND PLANNING: CBCC has been anticipating the hiring of a St. John Planner by the new administration to assist us on a Vision statement and evolution of a planning process for Coral Bay and St. John.



EAST END OLD SCHOOL HOUSE, BAY RUM FACTORY AND OTHER PUBLIC LAND AREAS: CBCC is continuing discussions with government officials on appropriate uses of our limited public land in Coral Bay. We are encouraging planning, community input, volunteers and donations as important elements for choosing and implementing public land uses.

CORAL BAY SIGN: We are working on erecting a "Welcome to Coral Bay" sign.

CBCC'S INFORMATIVE WEBSITE AND ARCHIVES: If you are looking for information on environmental building practices or choices in wastewater systems -- its on the CBCC website. Also check out our links to the VI Code and other government sites. In our office we maintain a complete book of VI government regulations, and zoning and other useful materials and research. We are looking for volunteer efforts to continue to expand the offerings.

PROPERTY TAX REVALUATION: The Virgin Islands is undergoing a court-ordered revaluation of all properties for property tax assessments. Without major changes in tax policy and rates, the enormous increases in property values here over the last two decades will lead to taxes four to ten times higher for some people -- well beyond their ability to pay. In addition, there are many errors in the valuation process which need to be corrected. CBCC is working actively to help identify and bring these errors and the larger tax policy issues in the open, so that an equitable system will be developed.

Have you visited our website? Visit coralbaycommunitycouncil.org You'll find lots of useful information and links... Email: coralbaycommunitycouncil@hotmail.com