



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.

Board of Directors

- Sharon Coldren
- Bonny Corbeil
- Jean E. Cottrell
- Kent Irish
- Amelia Jones
- Marie Naisby
- Joan Thomas
- Barbara Dalmida Thompson

Advisory Council

- Guy Benjamin
- Mary Blazine
- Elvis Marsh

Officers 2008

- President*
- Sharon Coldren
- Vice President*
- Barbara Dalmida Thompson
- Secretary*
- Amelia Jones
- Treasurer*
- Jean E. Cottrell

The Coral Bay Community Council is celebrating its 5th anniversary this November. It's hard to believe five years have passed since we began to work together on the common concerns in our community using the CBCC and volunteerism. This year we took the next step: applying for and receiving a \$300,000 grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency, to deal with the stormwater erosion and sedimentation issues -of high concern to all Coral Bay residents. This means we begin the next five years by having paid employees and starting to grow the sustainable financial infrastructure of an expanded organization. Volunteers will still be the drive behind CBCC, enhanced by the projects we will be able to accomplish through federal grants and other donations, and increased professionalism.

2008 Projects & Activities



\$300,000 US EPA GRANT RECEIVED: To deal with the stormwater pollution and sedimentation problem impacting our coral and marine resources. CBCC will hire expertise during 2009 and 2010 to assist residents in correcting drainage flows caused by roads and development over the years. We will work to implement the Watershed Management Plan described below.

WATERSHED ISSUES: The Coral Bay Pilot Watershed Management Plan (A pilot project for the Virgin Islands, funded by NOAA with DPNR, EPA and CBCC involvement) was released in March and immediately used to obtain the grant above to begin implementation. It is expected to lead to visible actions improving stormwater management in Coral Bay, and improvement of government regulation and practices. The plan is available on the CBCC website.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH: CBCC continues to provide voluntary support to a shark research team studying the shark nursery habitat of Inner Coral Harbor, as well as handling their \$10,000 in grant funds. Few people fully realize the importance of the shallow seagrass beds and mangroves in Coral Bay's harbor in the juvenile lifecycle of many marine species. CBCC actively encourages researchers to study Coral Bay, and provides volunteer resources to assist the activities, such as the current project recording sedimentation rates at various storm runoff points in the Bay.

PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT: 2008 has been a "non-event" year locally in planning activities, although in the background the VI has begun the process for developing a comprehensive plan and revising zoning/development within the next several years. A St. John planner still needs to be hired, and the Territorial Chief Planner recently resigned and will need to be replaced. CBCC will continue to be focused on visioning and appropriate development, infrastructure planning, capital expenditures, and environmental protection.

POLICE PROTECTION: CBCC has monitored and encouraged community policing by the VIPD in Coral Bay, including promoting neighborhood crimewatch programs. Although the VIPD has recently changed its policing practices in Coral Bay, the overall atmosphere has been safer. Board Member, Bonny Corbeil continues as our liaison to the Police Department. She has helped organize Crimestoppers VI, and other efforts to build effective policing.

PROPERTY TAX REVALUATION: CBCC has continued to monitor and provide information via email and website about the revaluation process and the new property tax rate proposals that were enacted into law this year. There are still strong concerns about the fairness and equity of the system. Without additional 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. CBCC has worked actively to help identify and bring errors in valuation and the larger tax policy issues to the attention of the Court, so that an equitable system will be developed.

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.

NEW MONTESSORI PRE-SCHOOL: CBCC is encouraging the efforts of the John's Folly Learning Institute to foster a new Montessori pre-school at the facility. A highly experienced teacher has transferred all her teaching tools here and started the school in mid-September. There is room for over 20 children in this program. It is moderately priced and intended that no Coral Bay child be turned away. It will need community financial support. Board Member and parent, Amelia Jones, is championing this new pre-school.

GUY H. BENJAMIN SCHOOL: CBCC continues to assist in the maintenance and improvement of the children's playground, as this public school program and facility becomes better and better. We continue to seek a means to repair the adjacent basketball court so it will be safe and enjoyable for the youth of Coral Bay.

CLEANUPS: CBCC, in cooperation with neighborhood groups, individuals, CBYC, KATS, FVINP, and Public Works, held a shoreline cleanup at Johnson Bay and Calabash Boom beaches. Informal efforts are also continuously encouraged around Coral Bay.

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.

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 sites. In our office we have a complete set of VI government regulations, and zoning and other useful materials and research.

Visit coralbaycommunitycouncil.org
You'll find lots of useful information and links...

Email: coralbaycommunitycouncil@hotmail.com