

## July 2004 Coral Bay Community Council Newsletter

On Monday evening, July 12, 2004 the Coral Bay Community Council (CBCC) held its 9th monthly meeting.

### **Highlights of the June meeting:**

- ? A copy of the Draft VI Comprehensive Land and Water Use Plan is now available on CD to CBCC members. The CD can be borrowed from our folder at Connections East. Please leave a \$3.00 refundable deposit.
- ? The Coral Bay Community Council's website is now up and running. The address is [www.coralbaycommunitycouncil.org](http://www.coralbaycommunitycouncil.org)
- ? Coral Bay residents are encouraged to join the CBCC and participate in shaping the future of Coral Bay. Applications are available from the CBCC office located in the office building across from Skinny Legs, upstairs above K-2 video, and also from Connections East.
- ? Elections will be held this coming November for the Virgin Islands legislature. CBCC urges all St. John residents to vote in this election. Register to vote by August 12, 2004 to vote in the Democratic Primary this September. Contact the St. John Administrator's office for instructions on how to register to vote. CBCC may hold a voter registration drive.

Alvis Christian informed members of the John's Folly Learning Institute's **Summer Program for Children**. So far, 31 children in the community have applied for the program. There are approximately three to four counselors involved in the program.

The Summer Program is in partnership with the VI National Park. The National Park is sponsoring an "Introduction to the Park," birdwatching, hiking to Salt Pond and a range of other activities for children in the program.

Mr. Christian also noted that seniors in the community are invited to pass on traditional arts and crafts to the children, in an effort to preserve and teach local heritage to the community's children. Seniors will teach basket weaving, baking bread, constructing a charcoal pit, making fish traps and other cultural artisan forms.

Other activities include an hour-long swim class every Thursday at Trunk Bay. Summer Program hours are 9am to 3pm, Monday through Friday. The cost of the summer-long class is \$25 per family.

To make donations, which support the Summer Program for Children, make checks to the John's Folly Learning Institute. Residents are encouraged to partake in the weekend food sales at the "triangle" in Coral Bay. Proceeds from these food sales are used to support the children's summer program.

---

The VI Resource Conservation and Development Council is holding a **two-day course on Project Design and Evaluation**. This course is designed to help individuals learn

how to organize and put together a project plan to submit to a government agency for grant funding. The course will be held July 29 – July 30, 2004. The cost is \$25 per person. To sign up, please call 692-9632, ext. 5.

---

**We may have more speed bumps in Coral Bay.** Merchants in the area of Voyages restaurant and Island Blues bar are concerned that the road through that area has become a sort of “raceway.” More vehicles are driving along the straight-away at faster speeds. With the increase of people visiting and living in the area, there are more pedestrians at risk. Merchants feel that a speed bump in that area would slow down traffic and create more safety for pedestrians.

Local police are soliciting input from the community on the idea of a speed bump. The police have noted that a signed petition by area residents might speed the process of potentially developing a speed bump in that area.

CBCC sent an email to members of the community asking for input. About 15 people were in favor of a speed bump and approximately 3 were not in favor. These emails are being shared with the government. One member at the meeting suggested that some input be made on the design of such a speed bump. He noted that the longer mounds are preferable because they do not force you to come to a complete stop.

---

**Moravian Church land:** The CBCC wrote a letter to the VI Conference of the Moravian Church to communicate our concerns about the current and future use of the land, which is slated for development by the church. The June 25th letter requested that the CBCC and community residents be able to participate in the church’s planning process for developing the land. The CBCC would like to provide a forum for the community’s concerns and ideas about the use of the land.

Two proposals were made in the letter: 1) the CBCC invited the church to participate in the CBCC’s planning and visioning process and 2) the CBCC invited church representatives to speak at the CBCC’s July 12 meeting at the John’s Folly Learning Institute. The CBCC received a short letter from Reverend Connor acknowledging the letter and stating the church is considering the CBCC’s request, but would not be able to attend the CBCC’s July 12 meeting.

---

The CBCC is trying to organize an **overall planning process for Coral Bay**. This planning process would incorporate the land use and infrastructure goals of Coral Bay. In order to develop this process, the CBCC is first trying to establish the community’s goals or “vision” for the development of Coral Bay. Small group meetings have been gathered to discuss ideas and individual views regarding the future of Coral Bay. CBCC invites more people in the community to participate and share their views in these interactive meetings. Call the office and leave a message if you would like to participate: 776-2099.

The CBCC learns about newly proposed developments from its members via email and phone calls – so keep the information flowing! The CBCC then invites developers to collaborate with the community during their planning process before they seek permits and finalize their development plans.

An example of this effort to communicate with developers is demonstrated in the recent agreement between the CBCC and the **Reliance Affordable Housing Project**, which is planning to develop affordable homes and apartments in the Calabash Boom area of Coral Bay.

The Reliance developers sent an initial email highlighting their proposed plans to develop eight acres around the area of the old clinic (Parcel #1) in Calabash Boom. The plan basically consists of two “communities” sharing the same infrastructure and possibly the same management.

One community would consist of 24 affordable for-sale town houses. The other community would consist of 48 affordable for-rent apartments.

A committee of the CBCC and the Reliance Housing Foundation plan to meet and review the general plans for the proposed development. In mid to late August, they will review the general plan for Calabash Boom and discuss issues of joint concern: roads, water, sewer, drainage, site plan and design. Reliance said they would attempt to respond to the committee’s concerns and adjust their plans accordingly.

In mid September, Reliance and the VI Housing Finance Authority will make a presentation of the plans to CBCC’s membership. Reliance said they would not apply for CZM permits and rezoning until after this meeting.

A sub-committee of the CBCC has been formed to address the Reliance Affordable Housing Project. So far, members of this sub-committee include Bonny Blair, Paul Fredsell, Terry Conklin, Joan Thomas, Judith Kane, Eirleen January, and Lori Walden. Initial concerns regarding the housing project include:

- ? Whether or not the apartments proposed will be two or three-story buildings and the impact of 3-story buildings in the area.
- ? Potentially higher than normal population density and the related effects of that density on traffic, the environment and the surrounding community in general.
- ? A sediment basin for run off.
- ? The safety and possibility of extended service (to the surrounding area) of a proposed waste treatment plant.
- ? Proposed desalination plant.
- ? Plan for garbage pickup/disposal.
- ? Impact of development on the neighboring cemetery.
- ? Whether or not the area may be an archeological site.

The CBCC invites more residents to participate on this sub-committee. Please email or call the office if you would like to participate. 776-2099

Residents who are interested in living in either of the Reliance Housing communities must apply in advance. There are a number of income guidelines and other criteria that will limit who can apply to the program. The CBCC will post more information as it becomes available.

CBCC hopes that all developers will attempt to integrate community concerns into their proposed plans. Early involvement and communication between the community and developers will bring to light the needs and concerns of Coral Bay residents. CBCC would like to foster this communication and collaboration in an effort to retain the character of the community, improve the infrastructure and protect the environment.

---

**The VI National Park will be holding public meetings in July for the new General Management Plan (GMP),** “a blue print for guiding the actions of the Park into the future. The new GMP replaces an antiquated document from over 20 years ago and will increase the efficiency of the Park operations as well as enhance visitor enjoyment and safety,” as stated in the Summer/Fall issue of the Kapok Chronicles, the Parks local newspaper. Note: CBCC is holding a meeting for members on our response to the request for input, Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm in our office.

The CBCC urges residents to participate and offer suggestions for the Park’s General Management Plan before August 16, 2004.

---

Regular monthly member forums of the Coral Bay Community Council are held the second Monday of each month at 5:30 pm. The next meeting will be held Monday, August 9, 2004.