

Burnt Store Village Voice

Volume 2, Issue 3

www.burntstorevillagepoa.com

October-December 2009

Wildlife in the Village

How often have you driven down Zemel or Burnt Store Road and seen a turtle crossing the street? Ever wondered whether you should move the turtle to the other side of the road? Is it legal? Is it safe? We'll try to answer a few of these questions.

Is it legal to move a turtle or tortoise?

If it's a gopher tortoise, absolutely not. Florida law states "No person shall buy, sell, take or possess any gopher tortoise, or any part thereof, except by permit from the FWC executive director." Moving a tortoise could constitute temporary possession.



This Florida Gopher Tortoise (*gopher polyphemus*) is a regular parking lot visitor in Turtle Crossing and has his burrow just off Doredo Drive.

But in reality, people move turtles & tortoise all the time. We were unable to confirm the exact legality, but we've been told that it is strongly ill-advised to move a turtle or tortoise, because it could be against the law. Especially if you are not sure what type of turtle you are handling. And turtles bite and carry disease. However, the need to preserve the ever diminishing turtle population inspires most folks to take the legal and physical risk to move turtles anyway. The Burnt Store Village Association can't give you legal advice on what to do. But if you do decide to save a turtle or two...

How do you safely pick up a turtle?

First make sure that you have pulled completely off to the side of the road and engaged your emergency blinkers. Children should not leave the vehicle. Before exiting your vehicle, make sure the road is clear in both directions.

Try to determine the species of turtle. Snapping turtles are known to be especially persnickety and many a handler has lost a finger in their relocation efforts. The suggested method for moving a snapping (or other) turtle is as follows.

1. Approach the turtle from the rear.
2. Grab firmly the turtle's carapace from behind its head with one hand and above its tail with the other.
3. Move the turtle across the street.

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Village Events

Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 14

7:00 pm

If interested in attending, please contact Bob Mercier at 941-639-3952

BSVPOA Annual Meeting

Wednesday, October 21

7:00 pm

Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association Center
2001 Shreve Street

Ice Cream Social

(see enclosed flyer)

Sunday, October 24, 2009
3-4pm

Christmas Light Contest

December, 2009

Entries will be due before December 15th. Judging on Sunday, December 20th. More details to follow

Yard Sale with Pirate Harbor & Burnt Store Colony

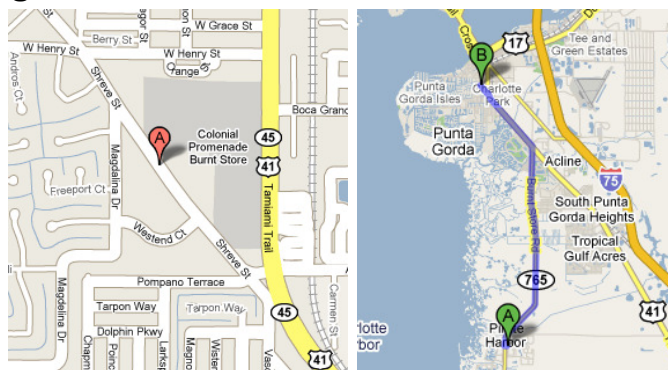
January – Date TBD
Details to follow

BSV POA Annual Meeting

Don't miss the BSV POA Annual Meeting on Wednesday, October 21st!

The meeting starts at 7pm inside the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association Center at 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, FL 33950.

Come to Visit, come to Vote! ■



BSV POA Board Discusses Above-ground Pools

Above-ground pools are considered structures. Installation of an above-ground pool, or any structure, is not allowed per the Burnt Store Village deed restrictions without prior written consent. The Village had always denied the installation of above-ground pools.

In 2004, the Board voted to allow temporary pools no greater than 24" deep if they were erected after June 1 and taken down by October 1. Since that time, there have been several varieties of pools erected, some semi-permanently. Further, most of these pools do not meet County safety and electrical codes.

At our September meeting, the Board voted unanimously to reverse the previous Board's interpretation of the restrictions and eliminate any above-ground pools.

Residents are requested to remove their pools effective immediately. ■



Residents who have above-ground pools are requested to permanently remove the pools.

Classifieds Turned Testimonials

We'd like to make a change and instead of running classified ads in the next issue of the Village Voice, we'd like to include your testimonials and recommendations for local service providers. For example, do you know a person or company you can recommend for the following?

- Lawn Care
- Air Conditioning
- Handyman Services
- Plumbing Services
- House Cleaning
- In-Home Computer Repair

If you would like to write a few sentences of testimonial for a company to feature in the next issue of the Village Voice, let us know by emailing us at bsv.voice@gmail.com.



BSV Resident Opens Bookstore in Turtle Crossing

The latest addition to Turtle Crossing Plaza is an independent bookshop owned by Village residents Heidi Lange and Scott Hill. Sandman Book Co. has about 15,000 books in stock; according to Heidi, they "try to make sure... [they] have something for everyone." In addition to the usual fare (Fiction, Mystery, SciFi & Fantasy, Romance, Cookbooks, Children's) they have sections like "Home Improvement," "Economics," and "Planes, Trains and Automobiles," which are specifically designed to appeal to customers who might be looking for reading material off the beaten path.

Heidi and Scott had about five years of experience selling books online through websites like amazon.com and eBay, and earlier this year they decided to expand their business to include a retail location. They remodeled the unit which used to be occupied by Em and Enn's Convenience Store, installing new flooring and built-in bookcases to customize the space for books. Some of the bookcases are eighteen feet tall!

Every Saturday at 2pm, Sandman Book Co. holds a Children's Hour where Heidi reads aloud to the children (including her son Tyrion, who started Kindergarten at East Elementary this year). Later this month, the store will be competing in the Harper-Collins "Graveyard Book Party" contest, and hosting a Halloween Party on October 24th which will be themed around Neil Gaiman's *The Graveyard Book*.

The store is open six days a week; for hours, specials, or more details about the Graveyard Book Party, check out their website: www.sandmanbooks.com. ■



Sandman Book Company
quality used books at affordable prices



What's On Our Website?

The Burnt Store Village POA website is a community resource with the following information:

- Board of Directors
- Committees w/email links
- Helpful Links (to be expanded)
- Past Newsletters
- Board Meeting Minutes
- Quarterly POA Minutes
- "About" Burnt Store Village
- Upcoming Events and Meetings
- Contacts
- Our Deed Restrictions
- Our Bylaws
- Information on Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association
- Coming soon: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

You can view the website at:
www.burntstorevillagepoa.com

If you have questions or suggestions, please email julie.balogh@gmail.com.

Halloween Events

Harpoon Harry's Kid's Day Halloween Party

October 25, 12 Noon-3 pm.

Games, clown, prizes, costume contest, and lots of candy. Dress to Impress! Call (942) 637-1177 for more information. Inside Fisherman's Village, Punta Gorda.

Kids Halloween Yoga Class

Oct 29th, 3:30 pm.

The Yoga Sanctuary in Punta Gorda is offering a special Kids Halloween Yoga class mixing creepy holiday stories with fun yoga poses. Call (941) 505-9642 for more information.

Trunk o' Treats

October 30th, late afternoon and early evening.

Burnt Store Presbyterian Church and the *Veterans Auto Club* will be at Muscle Car City (inside the old Wal-Mart on 41). Members will be decorating the trunk of their vehicles, dressing in costume, and will be giving out treats to the children. Other activities for the children and parents are being planned.

Healthy Kids Halloween Festival

October 31, 10-2pm.

The Charlotte County Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Department will host a Healthy Kids Halloween Festival on Halloween morning, at the Harold Avenue Recreation Center (23400 Harold Avenue, Port Charlotte). There is an entry fee of \$2 per child, but parents get in for free. For more information, please call (941) 627-1074.

Historical District Halloween Celebration

October 31st, mid-day to late!

If you've never been to the Punta Gorda Historical District for Halloween, don't worry – you can't miss it. Just head into town and park near the downtown area. Decorated houses and costumed children and hundreds, if not a few thousand, avid Halloween enthusiasts will be between the downtown area and Fisherman's Village. It's the biggest, and also busiest, place to take your children on Halloween.

On that note, the Punta Gorda Police Department offers the following advice for those attending this event:

- Observe the 15 MPH speed limit throughout the Historical District.
- Be particularly alert for children and adults veering from sidewalks onto roadways, and for pedestrians wearing dark colored clothing.
- An adult should accompany children at all times [it is an extremely busy, populated event and it would be easy to get separated from excited young ones].
- Make-up instead of masks for better vision and comfort.
- Make sure kids wear light colors, carry a light, wear a blinking light, or put reflective tape on their costumes.

Save treats for inspection and eating at home, not at night in the dark.

Harpoon Harry's Halloween Party

October 31st, late afternoon & evening for adults.

Costume Contest for scariest, sexiest, group, funny, and most original. Call 637-1177 for more information. ■



Wildlife in the Village (Cont from Pg 1)

No snapping turtle can swivel its head, owl-like, around to its back and snap your finger off. In theory.

Once home, be sure to wash your hands thoroughly. Turtles can pass disease to humans.

Which side of the road?

The common practice is to move the turtle to the side of the road it appeared to be heading. This isn't fool-proof, as the turtle might have been turned or spun around before you arrived. But it's generally considered the safest option, unless the other side of the road is an obvious danger to a turtle's survival (i.e. a construction zone).

For more information, search for "Southwest Florida Turtles" online. You'll find pictures, detailed information for identifying different species and pertinent rules and regulations specific to our area. ■



Florida Snapping Turtle

This rather large turtle reaches an average size of 8-14 inches, and average weight of 10-35 pounds. It is easily recognized by its large head and long, saw-dash-toothed tail. The dark shell is very rough and has three well-defined ridges, or keels, running from head to tail. Caution: Do not attempt to pick up these turtles, as their necks stretch out far and they can strike extremely fast, resulting in a painful bite.

Two Often-Confused Turtles

Fortunately, it's not the turtle that's confused. It's how people identify them!



Florida Chicken Turtle

This turtle can reach about 6 inches. Its shell pattern is usually described as "netlike," and when they stick their brightly striped necks out they are long in comparison. They inhabit still waters such as ponds and marshes, and can frequently be seen traveling on land.



Florida Redbelly Turtle

These guys can reach up to 12 inches in length. Their name is a great description for how to identify them: Almost all have at least a hint of red on their stomachs, and most have a red hue covering their shells. Found in all the usual locations: streams, ponds, lakes and ditches.

Information provided by the Naples Dailey News.

In-Home Computer Training Offered by New Village Resident



Serving you with Integrity, Communication and Skill

One of our newest residents, Roshan Searcy, owns a web design and computer training company based out of Fort Myers. She officially opened her business about a year ago after moving to Florida from Wisconsin, but she has been building websites for more than half her life!

Roshan's business (White Crossroads Web Designs) focuses on building websites and graphics for local businesses and providing one-on-one computer training for individuals in their own homes, on their own computers. Roshan offers weekend and evening training hours, especially, she says with a smile, "for neighbors who live close by!"

White Crossroads offers a variety of training options including how to set up and use e-mail, online photo sharing, Microsoft Word & PowerPoint training, website design and much more. If you are interested in finding out more about White Crossroads' services and rates, check out their website at www.whitecrossroads.com or give Roshan a call at (239) 470-4275. ■

