

# Burnt Store Village Voice

Volume 3, Issue 1

www.burntstorevillagepoa.com

January-March 2010

## Animal Welfare League of Charlotte County By Pat Francis



The Animal Welfare League of Charlotte County, Florida, is a non-profit organization that takes in approximately 5,000 animals a year. It provides a temporary home, medical services and loving care for the animals who come to its door.

It operates through fundraising events, donations and a wish list which you can view online. Through the generosity of the community, a new 10,000 sq ft building opened its doors in January 2008.

The staff are wonderful people who truly care about the animals and provide a positive atmosphere for them. It is their home until they are adopted since there is no limit to how long they can stay.

It also takes dedicated volunteers to be able to accomplish all the daily chores such as cleaning, feeding, walking, etc. Each and every volunteer's time and talents are appreciated and they welcome everyone to become a part of their "Shelter Family." If you are interested in volunteering, orientation for volunteers is held at noon on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of every month – the next being February 6th at noon. You can fill out an application online or at the shelter.

Shelter hours are Monday thru Sunday from 11:00am - 5:00pm. Please visit [www.awlshelter.org](http://www.awlshelter.org) for more information.

### Volunteer Positions

- Dog Walkers/Cat Cuddlers
- Bathers
- Laundry/Dish Washers
- Fund Raisers/Special Events
- Foster Care/Transport

### Contact

Pat Francis  
Volunteer Coordinator  
AWL Port Charlotte  
3519 Drance St  
941-625-6720 ■

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## Village Events

**Quarterly Meeting**  
Wednesday, January 27  
7:00 p.m.  
PGI Civic Center

**Village Community Yard Sale**  
Saturday, February 6  
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Village BBQ**  
Saturday, March 13th  
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**Dessert Social and Bake Sale**  
Sunday, May 2nd  
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

**Trunk and Treat for Halloween**  
Sunday, October 31st  
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**Christmas Decorating Contest**  
December 2010

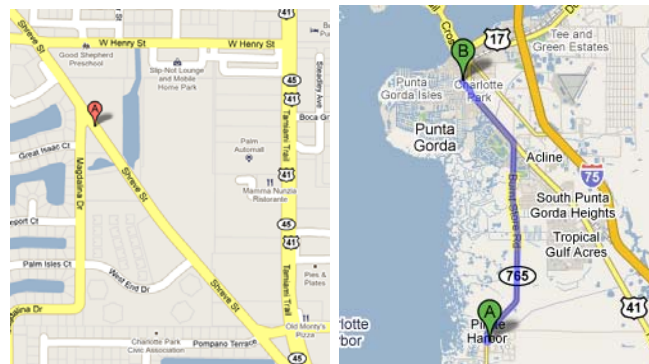
All events take place at the Park unless otherwise noted.

## BSV POA Quarterly Meeting

Don't miss the next BSV POA Quarterly Meeting on Wednesday, January 27th!

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

Come and visit! ■



## Annual Meeting Report By Dawn Carriere

At the annual meeting on October 22, 2009, the Burnt Store Village POA members voted Nancy Femrite and Jennifer Chambers to serve a second term. Elected by the members were Patricia Francis and Kathy Russo who had been appointed by the Board to fill mid-year vacancies. Mrs. Chambers has since resigned and the Board appointed Mrs. Isabel Benson to fill the position until the next election. Bob Mercier will continue as president, Dave Servis as vice president, and Kathy Russo will serve as secretary/treasurer.

The budget was approved as was an increase in the annual assessment from \$90 to \$100. Invoices reflecting the increase were mailed the end of October and were due December 31, 2009. Starting January 1, 2010, all past due accounts will begin to accrue interest at the rate of 1 1/2 % per month as permitted by law and stated in the BSV POA bylaws. The bylaws permit, upon notice by Certified Mail/Return Receipt, the placing of a lien on all past due assessments. ■

## Road Improvements

Brian Barnes, PE Charlotte County Capital Roads Improvement Manager, gave a Burnt Store Corridor widening project status update as follows:

Improvement south to Notre Dame, a new bridge at Alligator Creek, side walks on the East side of the road and River Haven park to move, starting March/April 2010 and taking approximately two years to complete at a cost of \$17.5 million.

## Grounds Clean-up Project By Dave Servis



By now everyone should have noticed the clean-up project undertaken in the Village. The primary focus was the removal of Brazilian-pepper trees and to make our open areas mower-friendly. This is part of our on-going effort to increase curb appeal and property values in our community. The following article was taken from the website [www.floridagardener.com](http://www.floridagardener.com).

### Brazilian-pepper tree, Christmasberry tree, Florida Holly

First, the warnings: This shrub/tree is one of the worst exotic pest plants in the State of Florida (please do not plant it or encourage its growth: It is regulated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection under 62C-52.01 I Prohibited Aquatic Plants. It is a Class I Prohibited Aquatic Plant, which means "Under no circumstances will this species be permitted for possession, collection, transportation, cultivation, and importation except as provided in Rule 62C-52.004, F.A.C) as it produces a dense forest canopy that shades out all other foliage and which in turn produces such a poor habitat for native wildlife species that almost nothing other than the Brazilian Pepper itself will grow or live in the areas it colonizes. To put it in perspective, over 700,000 acres in Florida are covered by this weed.

While it is commonly known as Florida Holly, *Schinus terebinthifolius* is neither from Florida nor a holly. The plant was brought to the state in the early 1800's from South America to be cultivated and sold as an ornamental plant. *S. terebinthifolius* is a member of the *Anacardiaceae* family which includes poison ivy, poison oak, poison sumac, and poisonwood. Sensitive people may develop severe dermatitis if their bare skin comes into contact with the sap or resins of *S. terebinthifolius*. Many people also report respiratory problems when the plant is in bloom.

Bad Habits: Birds -- especially robins -- eat the fruit and spread the seeds in their droppings. The plant is very good at establishing itself in most areas of the state and forms dense brushy thickets which eventually choke out all native vegetation. *Schinus terebinthifolius* releases allelopathic chemicals where it grows which often prevents other species of plants from growing around it.

Propagation: **Prohibited!** ■



## Service Testimonials

The following professionals have been recommended by your neighbors in Burnt Store Village.

### Lawncare

Tropics Landscaping  
Joe Cangialosi  
(239) 244-6851  
[www.tropicslandscaping.com](http://www.tropicslandscaping.com)

### Housekeeping

Merry Maids  
(941) 255-5656  
[www.merrymaids.com](http://www.merrymaids.com)

### Wind Mitigation & Roof Inspections

Affordable Inspections  
Eric Wesserling  
(239) 543-8900

### Florist

Tracy's Flower Shop  
Patty Price  
(239) 997-1033  
[www.tracysflowershop.com](http://www.tracysflowershop.com)

### Real Estate Agent

The Bryce Connection  
Steve Bryce  
(239) 997-1033  
[www.thebryceconnection.com](http://www.thebryceconnection.com)

If you would like to recommend someone for the next edition of the Village Voice, please email [bsv.voice@gmail.com](mailto:bsv.voice@gmail.com). Also email if you'd like to talk to the person who recommended someone above. Providers are recommended based on their excellent service, integrity and willingness to service our neighborhood.

## United States Census 2010

The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States, and is required by the Constitution to take place every 10 years. The 2010 Census will define who we are as a nation, affect political representation and direct the allocation of billions of dollars in government funding. It counts all U.S. residents, including people of all races and ethnic groups, both citizens and non-citizens.

In February or March a questionnaire will be mailed via U.S. mail or hand delivered to all homes in BSV, including rentals. The individual in whose name the home is owned or rented should complete the questionnaire on behalf of every person living in the residence, including relatives and non-relatives. A postage-paid envelope is provided to return the completed questionnaire. In May or July a census taker will visit households that did not return their questionnaire by mail. Then on December 31, 2010 the Census Bureau delivers population counts to the President, and in March 2011 the Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states.



**The questionnaire is just 10 short questions.** It is quick, easy, and your answers are protected by law from anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

For additional information, please visit [www.2010census.gov](http://www.2010census.gov). ■

## After The Frost: Are Your Plants Alive or Dead?

After the big January frost, are you wondering if your outside plants are alive or dead? How do you tell?

Joe Cangialosi from Tropics Landscaping (see sidebar) says that, contrary to first impressions, if the leaves on your plant fall off, it's still alive. If the leaves stay on, there's a very good chance your plant is dead. Weird, but true!

Still not sure? Give Joe a call at (239) 244-6851 and he'll come to your house and take a look at your landscaping with you - free of charge. If they're still alive, he can give you some recommendations to help their recovery (water them!). If they've met a sad demise, he can help remove them.

Tropics Landscaping offers full lawn and landscaping services. They already come to the Village to service several happy customers - give them a call for a free plant check-up! ■

## Second Annual Christmas Decoration Contest

The Community Development Committee held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Christmas Decoration Contest and the winners are:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	25285 Delgado Drive	\$50 Wal Mart Gift Certificate
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	16114 Minorca Drive	\$30 Wal Mart Gift Certificate
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	25316 Lychee Court	\$20 Wal Mart Gift Certificate

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone who decorated their homes and made the Village very festive for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! ■



## Wildlife in the Village: Florida Sandhill Cranes

**Who:** Have you noticed Burnt Store Village's resident Sandhill Crane population? We've identified two stable year-round couples, which one family has cheerfully named Lilith & Frasier Crane (with their son Frederick) and Bob & Joyce. Little Frederick is almost fully grown and when spotted, is often seen visiting with the unattached female migratory visitors. Sandhill Cranes mate for life and are known to be very dedicated to their partners.

**What:** Sandhill Cranes have one of the longest fossil histories of any extant bird, with the oldest fossil being 2.5 million years old. Sandhill Cranes range in size from an average of 7.4 lbs to 11 lbs and have a wingspan of up to 7 feet.

**When:** Most Sandhill Cranes are migratory and can be found in the Florida area from November to February.

**Where:** Migratory Sandhill Cranes are usually found in central and northern Canada, Alaska, part of the midwestern and southeastern United States, Siberia and Cuba. A very narrow band of southwest Florida, including our neighborhood, is home to the only population of resident Sandhill Cranes in the world. Hence our Lilith & Frasier and Bob & Joyce.

**How:** While not considered an endangered species, some subspecies of Sandhill Cranes are quite rare, including the Florida Sandhill Crane, with some 5,000 cranes remaining. Florida Sandhill Cranes are protected, and if killed, carry a very high monetary penalty. With continued conservation efforts and habitat preservation, the outlook for Florida Sandhill Cranes is good.

**Cute Tidbits:** Sandhill Cranes love to dance. Bob, Joyce, Lilith and Frasier can often be seen dancing and crooning to one another, educating little Frederick on the ways of the Crane.

**Legal Tidbits:** It's illegal to feed a Sandhill Crane in Florida. The concern is that they will become more aggressive towards humans. In several instances, children have been attacked by cranes. But not by *our* neighborhood cranes! ■



A young Sandhill Crane is known as a colt. Fed by both parents, colts are soon able to feed themselves. They're taught to fly over many weeks by running and dancing with their parents. Sandhill Cranes often stay with their parents through their first year. They will be breed between 2-7 years of age, living up to 25 years in the wild.



Myakka River State Park, just 50 miles south of Tampa, is a wonderful site to observe Sandhill Cranes, although you might see them all throughout central Florida from November to February. Southwest Florida is the only place in the world where Sandhill Cranes can be found year-round.

## Handyman Services Offered by Burnt Store Village Resident



Frank Statscewich of Coruna Court grew up learning about plumbing, heating and refrigeration from his dad. Frank offers a full line of handyman services including electrical, ceramic tile, plumbing, heating, refrigeration, painting, power washing and landscaping. His entire career has been devoted to providing prompt quality service to his customers in these areas.

In addition to enjoying his work as a handyman, Frank loves boats. He once built a 23-footer with a center console. He purchased the bare hull then built the T-top and installed the motor and all electronics and wiring himself. He continues to maintain and work on boats today.

Frank and Becky moved to the Village about a year ago. Frank currently volunteers on the Village Grounds Committee. He has been assisting Dave Servis on the Brazilian pepper tree removal program.

Please feel free to contact him for additional information regarding his handyman and boat maintenance services at:

**One Handy Man / Thumbs Up Landscaping**

Telephone: (941) 662-9205 E-Mail: frankstats@gmail.com ■