



# NEWSLETTER

September, 2012

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As I write this article, Hurricane Isaac is giving us a lot of wind and rain. This storm has again shown that our staff plans well and is prepared for what may lie ahead. They have verified that all empty units are fully shuttered and that sands bags and shutters are ready for the first floor if needed.

The major activity for this coming season remains renourishment of the beach. The final cost will be set by the St. Lucie Board of Commissioners at a meeting on 9/4/2012. The initial estimate for the assessment is \$994.50 for each Islandia unit if paid by 10/15/2012. A final invoice will be mailed in the next month to all owners. The start of the project will be after 11/1/2012 but may not start until January, and must be completed by the turtle season which starts 3/1/2013. You should be aware that once the project begins it will entail pumping sand to the 3 county parks and then the sand will be trucked up and down the beach 24/7 for 6 to 8 weeks. It could get a little noisy!

One additional improvement during this off season has been the reconstruction of the kitchen in the Social Room. We were required by the fire department to replace the stove and Ernie recommended that we consider a major overhaul which the board approved. The change provided for an expanded bar, new counter tops, relocation of the dishwasher, ice maker and installation of some new equipment. We're sure you'll agree it is a significant improvement at a relatively low cost.

The new caretaker and shutter programs continue to function well. If the office contacts you in regard to these, or the unit inspection program, please respond to them promptly.

Tom Gilson, for the Board of Directors

## MANAGER'S UPDATE

The Stairwell and center Storage Door project is just about completed. All the old doors and frames have been removed and new doors and frames installed.

All doors have been painted, and the new frames have been stuccoed around, caulked, then primed and painted. All hardware has been installed except for the door closers which we are waiting for.

Work has begun on the Elevator Door project and we are currently in the process of sanding, filling, priming and painting the elevator doors and frames on each floor. We have also started the Kitchen project which entailed removing all the existing kitchen cabinets and counter tops and redesigning the kitchen to improve functionality and bring it up to the current code.

The Perimeter Wall project is complete and all the wall cracks have been ground, filled, primed and painted. Last, but not least, tropical storm Isaac has passed us and we sustained no damage.

From everyone on staff, we hope you are thoroughly enjoying your summer.

Ernie Raaz, Building Manager



## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Our two big events of the summer season included poolside barbeques to celebrate Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. Both parties were well attended by residents of both buildings and a good time was had by all.

Summer is a very quiet time at Islandia and many of our full time residents travel far and wide to escape the heat and humidity of South Florida. Like our seasonal residents, it's always great to get back home and look forward to seeing everyone as fall approaches.

As we look ahead to a busy 2013 social season, we are reminded that next year is Islandia's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and your social committee is already busy planning a "Big Bash" to celebrate and can use your help!



We are planning to put together a multi-media presentation and are looking for old pictures of the good old days. Can you help? We are specifically looking for party pictures, but welcome any old photos of the beach, pool or other activities.

Donna Phelan, on behalf of the Social Committee

## HUTCHINSON ISLAND HISTORY

As we look ahead to celebrating Islandia's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013, an interesting article was recently published in the Pineapple Post on the history of "the island" as it is referred to by locals.

Archeological digs suggest the presence of Indian inhabitants over 3000 years ago, though pioneer settlers date back only to 1803 when James Hutchinson, a Georgia plantation owner, came to the area to establish a farm on the mainland. Unfortunately, he was no match for the Indians and in an effort to escape their raids, he petitioned the Governor in 1807 to claim land north of Jupiter Island forever to be known as Hutchinson Island. Unfortunately, he didn't fare much better and in addition to the Indians, his property was raided by wild animals and pirates. It is reported that Hutchinson drowned on a return trip to Georgia and a battle for the land lasted until 1827 when it was legally given to his heirs.

Hutchinson Island has been home to the Ais Indians, ruthless pirates like Don Pedro Gilbert (the namesake of Gilbert's Bar) and the famed rumrunner Bill McCoy, who owned land on Sailfish Point. Because of the numerous ship wrecks, the House of Refuge, completed in 1876, is one of the last remaining structures on the coast of Florida built to shelter survivors of these wrecks. It is an interesting place to visit and includes artifacts and historical records from the period.

Clearly, James Hutchinson has no idea what his island would become to all of us who call it home. Its unspoiled beaches, abundance of recreational activities and beauty, remind all of us why we call our home, "the Treasure Coast."

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