



Coral Bay Community Council 2015 Annual Newsletter

Serving the Beautiful Coral Bay Community

The Coral Bay Community Council (CBCC) has grown into a substantial nonprofit community organization, serving environmental, planning, youth, and other social and public infrastructure objectives. CBCC is

"For People who love Coral Bay."

With about 400 members and many more in the community offering their volunteer help, CBCC is able to undertake a broad range of projects for Coral Bay. CBCC's base of financial support from your dues and donations and fundraisers has grown to over \$55K in a year. CBCC also encourages Planned Giving and Business Memberships. CBCC's Bizarre Bazaar – a successful fundraising event promoting local crafts, fun and food, has become a tradition. This year's Bazaar will be December 12th. Join us!

CBCC's federal grant-funded projects have grown

from \$68K in 2013 to \$200K in 2015 and over \$300K for upcoming 2016.

CBCC welcomes its first paid Executive Director, Lauren Hunter, who will manage these projects.

With the continued leadership of the volunteer president and board members, CBCC continues to expand the range of environmental and community projects that can be accomplished.

Thanks to everyone in Coral Bay for your volunteer activism and financial support.



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Coral Bay Watershed Management Projects

For more than a decade, CBCC has demonstrated its ability to be an effective watershed management agency for the large Coral Bay watershed. CBCC is both a planning and implementation-oriented advocate for environmental protection, that is balanced with economic growth within the community vision. CBCC does this through community forums and projects, partnerships with Virgin Islands government agencies, federal agencies, local businesses and individual volunteers. See www.coralbaycommunitycouncil.org/Watershed-Management-project.htm

Since 2008, CBCC has received more than a dozen grants from federal agencies (EPA, NOAA, USDA), foundations, professional associations, and local agencies, almost all directly related to various components of effective watershed management planning and restoration implementation. CBCC has been regularly recognized by federal agencies for its work and that of its many community volunteers and supporters. CBCC also works with the Virgin Islands government routinely, including the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Public Works, Agriculture, Sports, Parks and Recreation and more.

In 2015, CBCC received grants to work with neighborhoods to initiate stormwater management improvements, such as paving eroding road surfaces, and directing road water runoff into natural gullies as often as possible. Gerda Marsh Rd, Calabash Boom, and Johnny Horn Trail are the first neighborhoods to get their

ideas to the engineering and permitting stage with CBCC help. They are raising dollars from homeowners to accomplish the needed construction work. Several neighborhoods are in the early planning stages. CBCC has applied for additional grant funds, and for these



projects will use financial support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, NOAA, DPNR EPA 319(h) funds, along with the in-kind funds and work from the neighborhood resident groups. Cooperation with Public Works and DPNR is essential to complete these projects.

CBCC was represented this year in several USVI & Caribbean environmental conferences focused on protecting water quality. EPA Region 2 Director, Judith Enck, visited Coral Bay as part of EPA's analysis of the potential environmental impact of marinas to the seagrass and mangrove fringed bay. NOAA and US Army Corps staff also visited Coral Bay to see the results of our Watershed Management actions. We are often asked to share our work in stormwater management and the expertise we have gained.

CBCC completed two grants in 2015 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to fill in more elements of identified watershed planning needs:

Check out the CBCC Website
CoralBayCommunityCouncil.org
Like us on Facebook

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT: A plan outlining options for managing solid waste in an integrated manner in Coral Bay was completed, emphasizing the three R's (reduce, reuse,

Please Make a Tax Deductible Donation

CBCC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and relies on your assistance, both in time and financially.

Please give generously so we can be even more ambitious in our scope of work. Thank you!

More Watershed Management

recycle), and the need for the VI Waste Management Authority, with cooperation from the VI government, to remove the dumpsters from the mangrove shoreline and build a good reuse, recycle, and household waste disposal/transfer center in Coral Bay.

WATER AND WASTEWATER

RESOURCES: The USDA-funded planning project was completed in 2015 which included hosting a territory-wide conference with DPNR in July on these critical issues of

potable (drinking) water provision and effective treatment of sewage.

MARINE DEBRIS REMOVAL: CBCC has received NOAA grant funds to remove derelict vessels in Coral Harbor and clean up marine debris along shorelines, in mangroves and in the boat mooring areas. With permitting, bidding, contracting and volunteer cleanups completed in 2015, removal of derelict vessels is slated for January 2016.



www.coralbaycommunitycouncil.org/Marine-debris

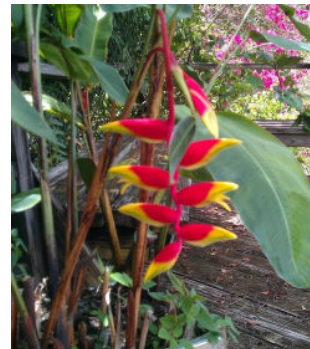
Coral Bay Proposed Marina Developments

COULD IT HAPPEN? In 2014, the 145 slip Summer's End megayacht marina sailed through local permitting, shocking residents and frequent visitors alike. A groundswell of volunteer opposition started. Save Coral Bay, a grassroots movement, was created to raise funds. CBCC agreed to host the Save Coral Bay Fund and more than \$100,000 was raised to provide funds for legal appeals, which have been filed. The Summer's End Group marina proposal is now in the federal Army Corps permitting process, and twice during 2015, CBCC and Save Coral Bay and pro bono attorneys presented extensive documents during the public comment

period pointing out the environmental, economic and other dangers if the marina were built. CBCC members were among more than 20,000 people who wrote letters in opposition. Friends of the VI National Park and the National Park Conservation Association also stepped forward to encourage letter writing. All five federal agencies who commented on this marina have opposed it for a wide range of environmental reasons. The Army Corps process is slow and involves multiple federal agencies, so a decision on this project is not expected for years. Nevertheless, the extensive voices and expert advice in

opposition have already had a significant impact.

A second proposed marina development on the north side of Coral Harbor is just starting to enter the permitting process.



Your support to CBCC is instrumental in continuously protecting our environment from excessively damaging development.

On the Ground: Learning Spaces, Parks, and Infrastructure

GUY H. BENJAMIN SCHOOL SUP-

PORT: CBCC is now working to encourage the government to open it as a community facility with meeting space and an adult learning center in the form of a public computer center initially. More ideas are encouraged.

AGRICULTURE CENTER BUILDING:

Volunteers are repairing and painting the Ag Center building to enhance the space available for public use for meetings, yoga and other exercise and afterschool activities, as well as small events. Repairs are being done on this government-owned building using CBCC funds for the supplies and volunteer labor in cooperation with the American Legion.

CLEANUPS: Thanks to all the volunteers and the Coral Bay Yacht Club members who

always come out for the shoreline and road-side cleanups!



Club of St. John has undertaken

the leadership to raise funds and will soon complete refurbishment of the Coral Bay Bas-

BASKETBALL COURT: The Rotary



ketball Court which will provide a great spot for local recreation by people of all ages. There will be lines and nets for volleyball and other games too.

INFRASTRUCTURE: CBCC has ongoing work with government, agencies and other involved parties to:

- *Relocate the Main Dumpsters out of the mangroves to a new Recycling Center site
- *Encourage pedestrian walkways and nature trails for locals and tourists
- *Preserve and showcase historic sites
- *Add recreational areas
- *Upgrade roads & other public infrastructure

Communications, Office Resources and CBCC Financials

COMMUNICATIONS: CBCC members receive several emails each month about news and upcoming events. Email is the major way we share news, and "call" for volunteers, participation and donations. We also maintain a list of other people in the community whom we can contact and include in public issues and activities. **Like us on Facebook—Coral Bay Community Council**

CBCC continues to encourage real planning processes for Coral Bay and all the Virgin Islands that focus on capacity and infrastructure planning that will serve both people and the natural environment.

OFFICE: Stop by CBCC's new expanded office space across from Skinny Legs and see the resources that our members support.

FINANCIALS: CBCC's annual detailed financial reports are available to all at: <http://www.coralbaycommunitycouncil.org/Board-of-Directors.htm>