



**Common Fence Point Improvement Association**  
**Quarterly Newsletter**  
**September, 2006**  
**WWW.CFPIA.ORG**

***Ready or Not - Here it Comes - Hurricane Preparedness!***

On September 18<sup>th</sup>, in lieu of our regular monthly meeting, we had an excellent presentation given by experts who were in the area for a conference at URI. Because Common Fence Point and Island Park are two of the most vulnerable locations in the state, we were contacted by **Sue Kennedy** and **Pam Rubinoff** of Rhode Island Sea Grant and the URI Coastal Resources Center to see if there was any interest in doing a presentation. Of course there was!

The first presenter was **David Vallee**, a hurricane expert for the National Weather Service in Taunton, who provided the latest information on hurricane forecasts. He began his presentation with a slide show of sobering hurricane-related photographs, accompanied by Frank Sinatra singing "Summer Wind". He explained the reason why we are not seeing the large number of strong hurricanes originally predicted for this year. El Nino, which is affecting the Pacific, most notably the west coast of Mexico, is coming across the United States with its cooler winds. These winds are steering hurricanes off to the east, so they are not reaching our shores. David expects El Nino will continue next year. Don't let your guard down, though. He was quick to point out several times in his presentation that a hurricane reaching Rhode Island shore is only a question of WHEN, not IF. He also stressed the importance of knowing when to "get out". His advice is: if there is a named hurricane heading for the Bahamas - GET OUT!!

**William L. Coulbourne**, of Washington, D.C. was the next presenter. Bill has 38 years of experience as an engineer and is experienced in hazard-related design and construction of wind- and hurricane resistant structures. He served as project manager and principal author for updating the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Coastal Construction Manual, and most recently helped government agencies assess and mitigate the catastrophic damage of Hurricane Katrina. Bill presented several ideas for making our homes safer in the event of a hurricane. The most important step in making your home is to secure windows. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8" marine plywood, cut to fit and ready to install. The time to make these boards is before a hurricane threatens. Plywood will be difficult to come by if a hurricane is racing up the East Coast! Bill stressed that tape does not prevent windows from breaking. Next, secure your roof with additional straps or clips. Bill said that the time to consider this step is when you are building or remodeling, but they can be added at any time. The next step is to insure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed. Any diseased or weak trees or tree limbs should be removed. Gutters should be cleared of any debris. Yard furniture, grilles, and anything else not secured to the ground should be stored. This includes boats!!

The last presenter was **James Larrimore**, the FEMA management official for the Town of Portsmouth. One of Jim's first tasks was to coordinate a plan to keep communications working during a hurricane for emergencies. Jim suggested that each family purchase an FRS (Family Radio Service) radio. FRS is a private, two-way, very short-distance voice communications service for facilitating family and group activities. Portsmouth Police and Fire will monitor Channel 1 for emergency calls during a hurricane and this method of communication will be tested on September 30, 2006. See page 2 for more details.

As the session closed, we briefly discussed the possibility of having another next year. Stay tuned!



**David Vallee of the National Weather Service Addresses CFPIA**

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**09/30/2006 - Portsmouth/FEMA FRS Radio Test - Page 2**

**10/29/2006 - Pumpkin Carving at the Hall - Page 4**

**TBA - Star Party! - Page 2**

**10/16/2006 - CFPIA Monthly Meeting**

**10/31/2006 - Halloween Drop In at the Hall - Page 4**

**02/17/2007 -Mardi Gras & Abbey Rhode! - Page 4**

### ***This Summer's Sunset Beach Party***

This year's party was held on August 18<sup>th</sup>, which proved to be a lovely evening for a beach party and sunset. This year, the party was held on the beach on Common Fence Boulevard. **Dennis Maceco** headed up the event again this year, and was responsible for providing a tropical flavor with festive and inflatable palm trees! **Tom Perrotti**, of Common Fence Music, was kind enough to provide us with a mini sound system and Caribbean music. The bugs made a brief appearance, but then left us alone to enjoy the food and drink we had brought to share. A great time was had by all!



**Bill Lund and Cass Barrette** relaxing at the Party



Some of the free entertainment

### ***Membership Dues Mailing***

A mass mailing of membership dues notices was mailed at the end of August. This mailing was sent to all residents of Common Fence Point, except those people who had paid their dues between January and June of this year. In 2007, at mid-year (July), another mailing will be done to ALL residents, and from that point on, the membership dues reminders will be sent out once a year. This change was made to simplify the membership process and also to take advantage of a lower mass mailing cost, now that we are a non-profit organization.

When paying dues, making a contribution to CFPIA, or both, please include your membership form, or a note stating how the check should be applied. Doing so will insure that your dues are recorded as being paid and your hard earned money is applied where you want. The membership form can also be found on our website, [www.cfpia.org](http://www.cfpia.org).

Thank you to everyone who responded to the membership mailing. Please contact Barbara Jones at 682-2799, if you have any questions.

#### **Attention CFPIA Residents – FEMA/Portsmouth FRS Radio Test on September 30<sup>th</sup>**

On September 30, from 11am-1pm, the Town of Portsmouth will be testing this method of communication. If you own an FRS radio and would like to participate in the test, tune to Channel 1, and state your name and address.

### ***Coastal Survey a Great Success!***

The annual cleanup and survey held on September 16<sup>th</sup> was a great success because 30 volunteers pitched in and stripped our beaches of 656 pounds of trash. Our neighbors had help scouring the beaches and cataloguing each item from some kids needing community service points and 3 students from RIC who had just started an environmental club. The Sakonnet River Bridge beach has never been so beautifully barren of trash!

The bad news is almost all the numbers were up - **except** caps and lids. There were 618 last year and **only** 531 this year. Last year's tampon count was 67; this year was 72. There were 783 food wrappers and 202 food utensils, as well as 36 lighters, 439 straws, and 66 power plant scrubbers. 400 plastic bags were counted, proving the need to bring your own canvas bags when you shop! THANK YOUR NEIGHBORS for cleaning up YOUR beaches. Can we keep them that way? If you need more counts from this year or last, please call **Mil Kinsella** at 401-633-2606. Thanks to **Mil** and **Brenda Whalen Munro** for heading up this clean up event again this year.

### ***Ever Been To a Star Party?***

Would you like to see the rings of Saturn or Jupiter's moons? How about a close-up of the moon's surface, a stellar nebula or another galaxy? Come join a CFP astronomy field event - aka "Star Party" for an evening of sky gazing and discussion about a fascinating hobby, which you can do in your own backyard. CFP resident **Kevin Bongiovanni** has offered to set up his telescope at the ball field and allow us to take a peek at the sky. Watch for a sign announcing the date in the Entrance Garden. For more information you can contact Kevin at [bongji@sigmaxi.net](mailto:bongji@sigmaxi.net).

### **CFP Summer Cookout, July 23, 2006**

Over 150 people attended the annual Point Summer Cookout on Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Unfortunately the picnic had to be postponed from Saturday, July 22 this year, due to the weather. Residents enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs and lots of Ben & Jerry's ice cream. The "Bounce About" was a hit again this year with the younger children. CFP community police liaison Officer **Brett Bucholtz** handed out stuffed animals and bike helmets to the kids. Not to be outdone by the Police, the Portsmouth Fire Department showed up with a ladder truck and demonstrated its capabilities. The kids were able to try on firemen equipment and sit inside the cab. Talking on the radios and turning on the siren were big hits. Thanks to the Portsmouth Police and Fire Departments for participating in our cookout!

Special thanks to **Ben & Jerry's, Stop & Shop, Shaw's, BJ's, DeCastro Farms, and Cumberland Farms** for donating food items for the cookout. Also thanks to all of the people that donated prizes for the raffles. The big winners were **Rose Escobar**, who won an iPod and **Lisa Camara**, who won Toby Keith tickets. Thanks to all of the volunteers that made this event a success! Special thanks **Jackie Shearman** and **Pat McHale** for organizing this event and **Carlton Johnson** and **Tom McHale** for heading up the food preparation.



**CFP kids line up for their chance to "Touch a Truck"**

## ***Chance to win Fabulous Prizes!***

The Common Fence Point Improvement Association is in the process of planning a high-end raffle, with winners to be drawn at the Mardi Gras Party, to be held February 17th, 2007. As you probably know, we are trying to raise **thousands** of dollars to install a sprinkler system in our Community Hall. Bake sales and car washes cannot generate the money we desperately need. We are again turning to the Community for help in making this event a huge financial success. We are looking for both donations and help in selling the tickets.

Our goal is to have each raffle item worth a minimum of \$200. In some cases, an item will be made up of several items, so that its total value equals \$200. All donations, including cash are welcome! Cash donations will be used to purchase high-end items that we all want, such as electronics, gas grilles, or mountain bikes! To date, we have received donations of home heating oil, golf packages, as well as luncheon and dinner certificates.

We plan to begin selling tickets in December, at a cost of \$10 for 3 chances. You select the item or items you want to win. You **do not** have to be present at the Mardi Gras to win. But, you will be missing a great time and the thrill of hearing your name announced. We will call you with the happy news!

If you can make a donation, help sell tickets, or wish to purchase tickets, please call **Pat McHale** at 401-683-2826, **Jackie Shearman** at 683-0916, or **Sue Travers** at 682-1607. Look for more information in the next Newsletter!

### ***Want to keep informed about CFPIA upcoming events?***

Send an email to [mchale2@cox.net](mailto:mchale2@cox.net) with your name, address, and email. You will then be added to the CFPIA email distribution list. This is a great way to receive information about what's happening in your neighborhood! Also, don't forget to check out the CFPIA website at [www.cfpia.org](http://www.cfpia.org)!

CFPIA  
PO Box 134  
Portsmouth, RI 02871  
**Meetings Held 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the Month 7:15 PM**

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***Halloween Pumpkin Carving, October 29<sup>th</sup>***  
***Halloween Night Drop In and Pumpkin Display, October 31<sup>st</sup>***

Kids are welcome to come to the Community Hall on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm to try their hand at pumpkin carving. Please bring your own pumpkin and carving utensils. Parents must accompany younger children. We will light the pumpkins (with glow sticks!) and display them on Halloween night in the Hall from 6-8pm, where you are welcome to stop for cider and cookies and possibly a bathroom break. Everyone is welcome to both events!



***Mardi Gras Party with Abbey Rhode!! Save the Date- February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007!!***

CFP resident **Ray Davis**, and his band, Abbey Rhode, have most graciously agreed to donate their time and music again next year for a Mardi Gras fundraiser for the Community Hall fire code fund. This event was our most successful fundraiser last year, thanks to the band, their loyal followers and CFP residents. This year's party will be advertised as an adult BYOB event. Non-alcoholic drinks and food will be available for purchase. Ticket information will be in the next Newsletter. Plan your costume now!