



Quarterly Newsletter

Dear friends and neighbors:

Because so many of you are off the island this time of year, and because it is hard to fully update everyone on all that is going on at SACNW during our monthly meetings, the EC has decided to supplement our meetings with a quarterly newsletter to provide you with additional information.

On behalf of the EC, I would like to thank you in advance for taking the time to read these newsletters and for being part of SACNW.

Al Domescik
EC President

A Short History of South Ambergris Caye Neighborhood Watch (SACNW)

The neighborhood watch was established in 2005 because of a series of violent crimes in the area, including an armed robbery at a residence and frequent gang and drug dealer activity. Police protection and support from the town council at that time for the south end of the island was scarce, so several residents took it upon themselves to coordinate efforts and fund patrol activity for all those residing on the south end of Ambergris Caye.

These individuals patrolled with the men and were on call 24/7 to assist in ridding the neighborhood of unwanted activity. These same individuals, many who are still residents, were instrumental in creating "the safest neighborhood on the island" and what we now know as the South Ambergris Caye Neighborhood Watch (SACNW), incorporated in 2008.

SACNW Corporation

You may know that SACNW has been struggling to restore the corporation to "good standing." This issue is due, in large part, to having a director listed in the corporation's filings who is no longer part of the organization. It is our understanding that the last Executive Committee attempted to locate this person so they could have him sign the paperwork to remove him as a "director" - a necessary step to restoring the organization's standing and improving the operation of SACNW. The prior EC also contemplated establishing a new SACNW corporation to resolve this issue. At the time of the 2023 EC election, this issue remained unresolved.

Like the prior EC, the current EC has been grappling with the best way to handle this matter. We are excited to announce Kate Corrigan has been able to secure the required signature from the former director and is well on the way to bringing SACNW into good standing.

Accordingly, the EC has hired the law firm of Estevan Perera & Company LLP to complete and file the necessary paperwork. Estevan Perera has offered to assist with this effort, to handle the required annual filings going forward pro bono. In other words, SACNW will only be charged the filing fees, not for the firm's time. At this time, the fees will be approximately \$2,500.

SACNW Directors

The directors of a corporation are ultimately responsible for the decisions of the organization. The executive committee, which should be a sub-group of the board of directors, is generally responsible for handling the daily operations of the corporation.

SACNW has been operating differently. The directors may have initially managed the organization, but in recent years, all decision-making responsibility has shifted to the EC. The directors, apart from Josh, who continues to work behind-the-scenes for the organization, are no longer involved in the organization.

The current EC believes this disconnect between directors and EC members is contrary to the interests of SACNW. The organization needs to be able to operate without having to track down persons no longer actively involved in the SACNW when corporate filings or other transactions are required, and without having to hire attorneys to find workarounds to the issues presented by this situation. This means possibly requiring at least some EC members going forward to also serve as directors - and requiring directors to serve in the EC. It also means having to promptly submit the required government filings each time there is a change in directors.

The EC recognizes that it will be challenging to find people willing to volunteer as both directors and EC members, but for the ongoing success of SACNW, we hope that at least some of you will be willing to do so.

SACNW Budget

As a result of the hard work of prior volunteer ECs, and the generous donations many of you have given, SACNW has successfully operated since 2008.

The current EC recognizes the responsibility for keeping SACNW moving forward in a positive direction currently rests with it. To this end, the EC has set several goals for itself. The first of these goals is the creation of a bona fide budget for the organization.

The EC firmly believes knowing how much money is needed on a month-in-month-out basis to operate SACNW, as well as where the money is going is a critical part of ensuring the ongoing success of the organization. Likewise, planning for unavoidable major expenses such as golf cart replacements and severance pay, and likely cash-flow fluctuations, is critical to the ongoing viability of the organization. To this end, the EC recently established SACNW's first budget.

The preliminary proposed budget shows the required revenue stream at approximately \$160,000 BZ per year. Much of this revenue is used for the patrol's salary and social security, as well as golf cart repair/fuel. Please remember, EC members are not compensated or reimbursed for their time. Below is the 2024 budget.

OPERATING EXPENSES	
Salaries	\$98,841.00
Vacation Pay (2 weeks)	\$3,540.00
Quarterly Bonus	\$2,003.00
Social Security	\$10,724.00
Severance Pay	\$8,550.00
Patrolmen Expenses (cellphone/meals)	\$8,040.00
Patrol Station Supplies	\$1,030.00
Uniforms/Personal Protection Gear	\$2,900.00
Fuel - Golf Cart	\$6,901.00
Cart/Bike Maintenance	\$6,175.00
On-line Processing/Bank Fees	\$1,661.66
Quickbook Software Fee	\$767.52
WIX Yearly Subscription	\$155.88
Kelly McGuire Fundraiser	\$9,396.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$160,685.06

Additionally, the EC is reviewing the current available funds, along with the budget, to provide a "reserve" in the event of major unexpected expenditures (i.e., golf cart replacement, severance), without jeopardizing the smooth operation of SACNW.

Compensation of Patrol Officers

It is increasingly expensive to live on Ambergris Caye, even for those living modestly, like our patrol officers. While costs have increased in recent years, their compensation has not.

The EC is looking to provide greater financial incentives to our existing patrol officers, so they are not lured away by other employers, as well as to candidates, so we secure new officers who are as loyal and dependable as our current officers. To this end, the EC has increased the monthly cellphone stipend (patrol is required to use their personal cellphones while on duty) from \$35 to \$50 BZ per week, per patrolman. The EC also proposes giving the patrolmen a quarterly \$250BZ bonus when funds allow in recognition of their hard work. This bonus will effectively take their gross pay (before Social Security) from \$428 per week to \$450.

The EC recognizes the bonuses will increase the salary budget by \$5,000 BZ annually. However, without an increase in compensation, the EC is concerned SACNW will not be able to maintain the number and quality of patrol officers it now has. We ask everyone to please consider this additional expense when making their donations to SACNW.

SACNW Bylaws

The current EC located "Bylaws" in the SACNW files. It is unclear to what extent SACNW has previously followed these Bylaws. Regardless, the EC believes establishing Bylaws that meet SACNW's current needs is another important step in ensuring the ongoing success of the organization.

Bylaws are important because they provide the framework for the management and operation of the corporation. For example, Bylaws identify who the corporation's members are and their rights. Bylaws also set forth when and how EC members are elected, the qualifications to serve on the EC, EC terms, the limitations on power of EC members, and how EC members can be removed from office. Without Bylaws, there are no guidelines for ECs to follow. Without Bylaws, there are no controls in place to prevent ECs from acting in a capricious or over-reaching manner. For these reasons, many U.S. states mandate corporations have bylaws and those that don't, strongly recommend it. Likewise, Belize law strongly recommends corporations have bylaws.

As a first step to establishing official Bylaws for SACNW, the EC has reviewed the Bylaws previously written. The EC is now in the process of drafting additions and revisions to this document to create a document it deems appropriate for SACNW in 2024 and going forward. Once this process has been completed, a final draft will be published and SACNW members will be given an opportunity to provide their feedback before the document is finalized and submitted to the members for approval.

The EC hopes to publish the draft Bylaws before the end of July.

Update on Patrol Officers

SACNW has received notice that Patrol Officer Coe will be leaving SACNW on July 8th. He has accepted a security job with Sun Bay, the development previously known as "Salt Life." The EC will be looking to replace Patrol Officer Coe as quickly as feasible. Mr. Coe's severance check will be approximately \$9,000 (two weeks' base salary for every year worked, plus two weeks' vacation). Mr. Coe has been with SACNW since 2013 and has been a loyal employee. He will be missed, and we wish him well in his new employment.

We are actively looking for a qualified replacement for Mr. Coe. If you have any suggestions please reach out to one of the EC members, or send an email to info@sacnw.org and put "Patrolmen Candidate" in the subject line.

Executive Committee

We are sad to announce Diane Shehan has decided to step down from the EC. She was a valuable part of the current EC. Fortunately, Dawn Domescik has agreed to take her place. Dawn has also agreed to lead the fundraising committee.

The current EC would ideally like to see at least one, preferably two, additional people join the EC. We believe having one or two additional people will add breadth to the EC's collective knowledge base and skillset, leading to better decision-making. To this end, we encourage any other residents of the SACNW area who are willing to volunteer their time and energy to SACNW to notify us via email at info@sacnw.org and put "The Executive Committee" in the subject line.

SACNW Elections

At the May SACNW general member meeting at Someplace South the EC discussed with those members present the thought of moving the annual election of Executive Committee board members from September to May. Traditionally the annual election of the Executive Committee has been in September. A September election means that the new board has their first meeting in October.

In recent years our largest fundraising activity has been the beach party at Lighthouse Reef Villas featuring Kelly McGuire. By the time the new board takes over in October we should be well into fundraising activities. It usually takes a month or two for new board members to find their way and get acquainted with their new role. While trying to find their way a new board member is also dumped right into the middle of our largest fundraising project already well into the planning process. This can be a little overwhelming for the new member and not very helpful to the fundraising project.

It was suggested that we move the annual board member elections to the May general member meeting. By moving the election to May we could then have a joint turnover meeting in June between the new board and the outgoing board. This June turnover, as opposed to an October turnover, allows the new board to get their feet wet and learn their roles during slow season when things aren't quite as hectic. It also gives the new board time, as a group, to begin the fundraising conversation. Rather than a new board convening in October and stepping in in the middle of the fundraising campaign, they can convene in June and begin the fundraising campaign then.

Keep in mind that the board member positions are all voluntary and often these volunteers have never served on a board or helped to conduct a large fundraising campaign. We'd like to help set up future boards for successful transitions and successful fundraising campaigns.

While the members present at the May meeting agreed to changing the date of the election the current board would like to give other members an opportunity to weigh in on this matter before an official vote is conducted. To this end, if you would like to express your thoughts on this matter, please email info@sacnw.org and put "SACNW EC Board Election" in the subject line.

2025 Kelly McGuire Concert Fundraiser

The EC is committed to ensuring the 2025 Kelly McGuire Concert fundraiser is another success. The EC is looking for volunteers to help with the planning and preparation for this event. If you have the time and energy to help, the EC would love to have your involvement. If interested in volunteering please contact Dawn Domesick at Dawninbelize@gmail.com. Dawn has offered to oversee the 2025 concert planning and coordinate with volunteers to ensure nothing is missed.

The EC will have a meeting in July or August to start the 2025 concert planning and to allocate responsibilities. Once the date and time for this meeting is set, all volunteers will be notified, and a notice will be posted on the website and our Facebook page.

Many hands make for light work - and make the work a lot more enjoyable.

Volunteer Opportunities

There are many ways you can help SACNW develop into a stronger organization, bring our community together, and ensure living and visiting our part of the island remains safe and enjoyable.

- As discussed at the March member meeting, it would be great to resume holding an annual or twice annual potluck and/or other social events. These events will enable us to meet new neighbors and help re-build our strong sense of community, which was undermined by the COVID lockdown, as well as the subsequent departure of many longtime residents and influx of new residents. Volunteers are needed to make these events happen.
- SACNW needs someone to plan periodic trash pick-up events in our area. A volunteer is needed to plan these events.

If you are willing to take on any of these rolls, or if you have other ideas of how SACNW can help the community, please let the EC know by emailing info@sacnw.org and putting "I want to Volunteer" in the subject line.

Hurricane Season is Here

NOTE: This section was written prior to Hurricane Beryl's development. Hopefully everyone learned a little from Beryl about their current hurricane plan and is making any necessary changes. The following is still good information.

Peter Nolan spoke on behalf of NEMO (National Emergency Management Organization) at the June 12 meeting at Someplace South. He disseminated valuable information on what happens during the different hurricane categories and what role NEMO plays in the evacuation process.

He reminded everyone the NEMO evacuation plan is for human life only. All residents with pets need to have an evacuation plan in place for your four-legged family members. He suggested partnering with your neighbors on air/sea transportation to the mainland and securing shelter as the NEMO shelters will not take pets. More on this topic will be posted on the SACNW [Facebook page](#) or SACNW [website](#). For detailed information, visit [NEMO](#) for additional information.

Additionally, the EC encourages all owners of property within the SACNW area and all residents to promptly take the time to fill out the NEMO Emergency Family Plan form, attached to the meeting minutes and shown below. The information on this form will help you, as well as NEMO and SACNW plan for potential storms. It will also help NEMO and SACNW prioritize rescue and aid efforts, as well as other needed assistance, in the event we are hit by a hurricane.

EMERGENCY FAMILY PLAN

Discuss the likely hazards/dangers that can affect your family and your home. Ask yourself: Is your home ready? Ask: When NEMO declares Phase 1 (Pre-hurricane) - One Red Flag for your Family Plan, are you? Immediately refer to your Radio and Television, especially on Holidays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

BEFORE THE STORM
Pre-hurricane - One Red Flag

Action	Who does it	When
Notify family members when in happening, where to go, when to come home etc.		
Evacuate non-portable beds and water if gather you person per day for at least 2 (2) days.		
Put together your Family Emergency Kit. Shovels, saw, clothing, extra clothes, gloves to use and boots to wear, towels in one medical bag and all. Bandages, hydrogen peroxide, water purification tablets, toilet paper, soap, Clorox, plastic bags, wet/dry vacuum, baby wipes, anti-sick vomit, personal medicine etc.		
Secure important documents - Passport, home/property papers, insurance documents, school certificates in sealed plastic bags. Take pictures of important and valuable items.		
Get your radios, radio, and flashlight with extra batteries - DO NOT USE CASH/EN if possible.		
Fast up vehicle seats.		
Get away or pack valuable household items including furniture.		
Remove loose objects around the yard, the car, lawnmower, fuel containers, etc., lumber etc.		
Trim the trees and trim away the pieces.		
Secure windows and doors (put up shutters).		
Move or secure pets with food and water.		
Plug out electrical items - fan, refrigerator, microwave, TV, stereo etc.		
Turn off all main water valves and electrical main switch box.		

AFTER THE STORM
All Clear - One Green

Flag
Return home if it is safer than where you are. Listen to NEMO - **DO NOT MOVE AROUND IF YOUR AREA WAS AFFECTED.** Be very careful when approaching your home! Check the safety of your home structure and toilet systems. Be aware of potholes and snakes. **DO NOT** use on main water valves or electrical main switch box until DWSN, and HLL give the go ahead. Roll or gently water before drinking.

Important Telephone Numbers:

Dad: _____ Mom: _____ Brother: _____ Sister: _____

Radio: _____ TV: _____

Police: _____ Fire: _____ Ambulance: _____

**IMPORTANT: IF YOU ARE EVACUATING VOLUNTARILY, MOVE EARLY!!!!
IF YOU ARE GOING BY BUS, TELL THE FAMILY!!!!
KNOW YOUR ROUTE & NAME/LOCATION OF YOUR SHELTER.**

Because the risks of COVID-19 are so high, you must take the following actions to protect your family and your home. Ask yourself, "In your home, ready or not?" When NEMO declares Phase 1 (Preliminary - One Risk) put your Family Plan into action. Immediately listen to your Radio and Television, especially on Holders, Franks, Senators, and Senators.

BEFORE THE STORM
Preliminary - One Risk Plan

1. Turn on your radio and television to receive emergency information. Listen to your radio and television for information on how to protect your family and your home. Listen to your radio and television for information on how to protect your family and your home.

2. Turn on your radio and television to receive emergency information. Listen to your radio and television for information on how to protect your family and your home. Listen to your radio and television for information on how to protect your family and your home.

3. Turn on your radio and television to receive emergency information. Listen to your radio and television for information on how to protect your family and your home. Listen to your radio and television for information on how to protect your family and your home.

Important Telephone Numbers

911 (Emergency)
905 (Police)
904 (Fire)
905 (Ambulance)

MINNAPOLICE 905-665-1111 (TOLL FREE) 110-5477
MINNAPOLICE 905-665-1111 (TOLL FREE) 110-5477
MINNAPOLICE 905-665-1111 (TOLL FREE) 110-5477
MINNAPOLICE 905-665-1111 (TOLL FREE) 110-5477



SACNW Executive Committee