

Community Viewpoint

PAGE A6 • SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2010 • TCP-AIM.COM



m

The Jupiter Courier

A Scripps Howard Newspaper

Brightman Brock, Managing Editor Kit
Bradshaw, Editorial Page Editor

"Give light and the people will find their own way"

Keeping beaches clean everyone's responsibility

Jupiter Beach is a rare treasure that we can all enjoy for the minimal cost of taking responsibility for the trash that we bring to it.

The pristine beach, the rolling waves, the surfers and the dogs all make it a happy place to enjoy.

However, throwing bottles, bags, napkins and cups on the beach or into the bushes results in thousands of pounds of trash and a threat to the wildlife that contribute to the area's natural beauty.

Every person can take personal responsibility for their own trash and, if they choose, may participate in the monthly beach cleanups, organized by Friends of Jupiter Beach.

On the first Saturday of every month, except when the weather is too severe, several hundred people descend on Ocean Cay Park, in the pavilion named

CAROL VAN NOY
COMMUNITY PLATFORM

after the FJB founder, Anita Lankier.

For 11/2 hours, (8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.) they become the FJB army of volunteers, whose mission is to remove the trash that thoughtless people have dumped on the beach.

Some volunteers are students, earning community service credits; some are young families instilling a sense of civic pride and responsibility in their young children; and some are seniors using their retirement to do what they might not have had time to do as working adults.

At no cost to the taxpayer, FJB, a registered nonprofit group, has organized this community effort for the past 15 years.

Since 2006, when FJB first started weighing the

trash removed from the beach, FJB volunteers have removed an astounding 21,000 pounds of trash from the beach!

In December 2009 alone, FJB removed 600 pounds of trash, including 400 pounds of recyclable cans and bottles.

The volunteer effort to remove this trash is clearly a message to the thoughtless beach users who put it there.

"By making the effort to clean the beach every month, we hope to encourage beach users to think before throwing trash on this pristine beach and, instead, use the trash cans along the beach," a volunteer said.

With the help of community minded sponsors, such as Ocean Magic Surf Shop, Miller's Fine Decorative Hardware, Loggerhead Fitness, Castaways Marina and Solid Waste

Authority, FJB provides a free breakfast after each cleanup.

In addition, FJB has encouraged dog owner responsibility by installing the dog-bag boxes at each of the entrances to the beach and keeping them filled with dog-bags.

Everyone who enjoys Jupiter Beach is invited to participate in the FJB beach cleanups.

The next cleanups are Feb. 6 and March 6.

On a doubtful weather day, call the FJB message line at (561) 748-8140 by 7:15 a.m. to see if the event has been cancelled.

For more information, check the FJB Web site at www.friendsofjupiterbeach.com.

Carol Van Noy is a volunteer with Friends of Jupiter Beach.