

the Cayman Spirit



Cayman Islands Government Information Services

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Good Samaritans

Lend a Hand

Good Samaritans continue to live up to their name, this time in the form of "Samaritan's Purse," a North Carolina relief organization that is helping regional territories, including the Cayman Islands, recover from the devastation of Hurricane Ivan. The organization, headed by Mr. Franklyn Graham, is assisting in Haiti, Grenada and Jamaica, as well.

Samaritan's Purse has funded a shipment of building supplies which will be on the way to the Cayman Islands within two weeks, says Pastor Al Ebanks, chairman of the Ministers Association, which is handling the distribution. Pastor Al said that in conjunction with the shipment, the Ministers Association would be coordinating teams of volunteers to assist in the reconstruction and repair work.

The shipment is expected to include tarpaper, shingles, plywood, and dry wall.

"Various churches have received overseas donations, but this shipment is for the people of the Cayman Islands," said Pastor Al. He said that the Samaritan's Purse had already sent in personnel to provide advice and support for the Ministers Association in managing the process.

"They are very interested in what is happening here and in assisting us," said Pastor Al.

On this end of the project, the Ministers Association will be working closely with the Department of Children and Family Services and with other funding agencies to identify the most needy people in the community.

Pastor Al envisages that centres will be established in each district and distribution organized by the pastors of the churches in the area.

He hopes, where possible, that those re-

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Visitors Get the Green Light

by Ruth Smith

Crews of ten certified signal technicians from Control Specialist Company (CSC), of Florida, arrived Wednesday (10 November), to commence work by weekend on restoring Grand Cayman's traffic signals. Initial target dateline is the 20 November lifting of travel restrictions and all repair work and optimizations should be completed by the end of December.

"The priority will be the two four-way intersections at Shedden Road/North Sound Road/Thomas Russell Avenue and Smith Road/Bobby Thompson Way/Huldah Avenue," said Director of the National Roads Authority (NRA), Mr. Colford Scott, adding, that the three-way intersections would be tackled next.

Mr. Edward Howard, Deputy Managing

Director of the NRA, said that a lot of planning had gone into CSC's ability to commence work this weekend: "Within the first week after Ivan, we had a team from CSC here assessing the damage. Since then, they have been custom building traffic-light boxes to suit the needs of Cayman's intersections," explained Mr. Howard. "We have a 16-year working relationship with CSC so we can expect quality workmanship from them and this optimizing of our equipment should keep the lights trouble free for at least 20 more years."

The Harbour Drive signals at Fort Street and Shedden Road are not part of this contract and will be decommissioned by the NRA. Harbour Drive will be made more pedestrian friendly with extra signage and pedestrian signals being put in place at a later date.

Unclaimed Containers Create Bottleneck

by Lennon Christian

One of the big issues in moving shipments from the port is a backlog of containers that haven't been cleared or those that have been but have not been returned and authorities are considering strategies that may end up hitting delinquent importers in the pocketbook. Resolving these and other challenges was the focus of much attention at Thursday's CIRO meeting.

The container problem is two-pronged – they take up space and get in the way of unloading of new cargo, and they also must be returned to the shipper in the US or elsewhere to repeat the process.

Officials note that there is a local, regional and international shortage of containers, which is compounded locally by their being used for post-hurricane storage or by shippers taking too long to clear and return them. Government recently doubled its grace period for waiving of penalty for storage at the port from five to ten days, but now it is looking at increasing the penalty to something with a little more clout. Storage rates are based on the tonnage and storage time. For instance, a 20-foot contained will incur a \$45 daily charge, and a 40-foot contained will be billed \$90 each day it is uncollected.

In the meantime, Port Authorities warned

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A Message from CaymanSpirit

Representatives from the Cayman Islands Ministers Association attend meetings of the Cayman Islands Recovery Operation (CIRO) and pastors have had their phone numbers published in the CaymanSpirit – making themselves accessible to anyone who wants to talk.

Religious leaders are also getting directly involved in the relief effort on a national level.

They are surely showing strength in crisis, as they shoulder extra work, extending care to everyone in the community — not just to their parishioners.

They are setting an example for us all – possibly giving us as a community pause to contemplate how well we are each doing in terms of reaching out to others. Have we started easing off on helping our neighbors? Do we think that we're so firmly on the road to recovery that people no longer need assistance? Are we now so involved in work, in making money, that we are moving away from the early post-Ivan atmosphere of sharing and caring?

Working together and helping our neighbours made Cayman's communities flourish. Now as we rebuild and restore, as we pledge to make things even better, let's use the values we built with the first time.

Good Samaritans Lend a Hand

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ceiving the goods will organize assistance or do the work themselves.

"It is envisaged that this assistance will be available to the neediest members of the community such as those who are widows, elderly, disabled, single parents, uninsured, etc.," Pastor Al said. "We well recognize that the needs in our community are well beyond the ability of any single individual or group to meet but like the miracle of Jesus when he multiplied the five loaves and two fish and fed five thousand, we believe the church has both the responsibility and desire to show the love and grace of Jesus through sharing the resources available to us with those members of the community who are in great need. We believe that God will also be gracious to grant us a miracle of multiplication of resources as well."

Aedes Aegypti Increase No Cause for Alarm

by Susan Watler

The mosquito that can transmit dengue fever, *Aedes aegypti*, has increased in numbers since Hurricane Ivan. However, health authorities assure that there is no cause for alarm given that there are no cases of dengue in the Cayman Islands.

"The mosquito cannot therefore bite someone and pick up the virus, so the diseases cannot be transmitted, said Dr. Kiran Kumar, Director of Public Health Services.

Dr. Kumar also reported that currently the World Health Organisation is reporting no outbreaks of dengue fever in the western hemisphere.

Dr. Kumar clarified that *Aedes aegypti* can transmit only dengue and yellow fever and only if they are present in a particular place. In addition to there being no cases of dengue and yellow fever in the Cayman Islands, there are no cases of other mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria or West Nile Virus.

Meanwhile MRCU says that *Aedes aegypti* usually exists on Grand Cayman in what the departments scientist call "barely detectable" numbers. The debris left in Ivan's wake, however, has, with human help, created perfect breeding grounds for this potentially dangerous pest.

MRCU's director, Dr. William Petrie, says *Aedes aegypti* feeds at dusk. Well-adapted

to city life, its prime egg-laying spots are drink bottles (both glass and plastic) and cans. Also the mosquito is particularly attracted to Styrofoam containers and tires. "It likes to lay its eggs in damp containers that will catch rain water, like the little dish under a plant pot," says Dr. Petrie.

MRCU has been inspecting areas in George Town and West Bay, collecting samples, treating with larvacide granules and talking to residents about mosquito habits. The unit has also been "backpack" and truck fogging to exterminate adults. Their efforts have already had an effect, since the unit has noticed decreasing numbers, particularly in neighborhoods that have been both treated by MRCU and had the debris cleaned up.

What should people do? Take the usual precautions against mosquito bites. Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts if you're going to be outside during prime pest biting times, at sunrise and sunset. Use insect repellent. Cover your bed with mosquito netting.

Many of us still have open eaves. Make fixing them a priority to cut down on the number of mosquitoes in your home. Keep exterior water containers covered. Most of us still have debris in our yards, but we should not let litter accumulate. Pick up cans, bottles and dinner containers.

The public can access information on the internet on the World Health Organization, Pan-American Health Organisation, and Center for Disease Control websites: www.who.int, www.paho.org, and www.cdc.org.



How To Terminate or Suspend Vehicles

by Ruth Smith

Below is a quick reference guide on how to terminate or suspend a vehicle damaged during Hurricane Ivan:

Steps for Terminating Vehicles

Total Loss Vehicles

Owners must:

- Have vehicle inspected by insurance company and/or loss adjuster
- If it is assessed as a total loss, the insurance company will terminate your policy. [The insurance company has the option of retaining the vehicle or returning it to the customer as part of a settlement. Regardless, the licence plates, licence coupon, and logbook must be surrendered to the Department of Vehicle Licensing and Transport (DVLTL).]
- Complete and sign the Application for Suspension/Termination of Vehicle Licence form, available from the DVLTL. This form must be submitted to your insurer in order to receive your claim cheque.

Insurance Company responsibility

- The insurance company will submit the Application for Suspension/Termination of

Vehicle Licence to the DVLTL for processing (Either the owner or the insurance company may contact MC Restoration Ltd. to remove derelict vehicles, at no cost to the individual.)

If repair estimates approved by insurance companies will take a long time to complete, individuals may consider suspending their insurance policy and vehicle licence.

Steps for Suspending Vehicle Insurance

Owners must:

- Have vehicle inspected by insurance company and/or loss adjuster and/or provide an estimate for repairs to your insurance company
- Contact insurance company to suspend insurance policy
- Complete and sign the Application for Suspension/Termination of Vehicle Licence form, which must be submitted to your insurer before you can receive your claim cheque

Insurance company responsibility:

The insurance company must submit the Application for Suspension/Termination of Vehicle Licence to the DVLTL for processing.

Disaster Assistance Centres Open

by Angelique Crowther

Finding information in the days after Ivan can sometimes be difficult. Hoping to create a “clearing house of information” the first Disaster Assistance Centres (DACs) opened on Wednesday 10 November in George Town and Bodden Town. These centres are operated by government under the Cayman Islands Recovery Operation and are located in all five districts across the island.

Dr. Deborah Surat, special projects coordinator for the Department of Children and Family Services manages the centres, she emphasizes they are designed as a one stop distribution point for public information and are manned by trained staff. “The purpose of the DACs is to help determine what needs are in the community and how government can best respond to these needs,” said Dr. Surat.

Earlier this week, thirty-six staff and several volunteers attended training clinics in preparation for the centre’s opening. Staff will be familiar with public health and safety issues, counselling services available and can assist with health and dietary needs. They are also able to assist individuals fill out forms for vehicle and home insurance and financial assistance.

Centres will be open Monday to Friday from 12 noon to 6 pm except on holidays. Note that the DACs will be closed on Remembrance Day, 15 November and for the day of Praise and Thanksgiving on Wednesday 17 November.

George Town’s DAC is located in the Compass Building on Shedden Road, near the Bank of Butterfield. Space for Bodden Town’s DAC was donated by MLAs Gilbert McLean and Roy Bodden in their MLA office in Bright Days Plaza. On Friday 12 November three more DACs will open in North Side at the United Church, in East End at the District Health Clinic and in West Bay at the Town Hall.

Centres will be open Monday to Friday from 12 noon to 6 pm except on holidays. Note that the DACs will be closed on Remembrance Day, 15 November and for the day of Praise and Thanksgiving on Wednesday 17 November.

Landlord/Tenant Issues

by Karen Cumming

There’s no doubt that Hurricane Ivan stirred up plenty of trouble.

But that trouble wasn’t confined to homeowners alone: In the seven weeks since the storm ripped through the Cayman Islands, landlords and tenants have had their share of headaches.

Some tenants feel they shouldn’t be paying rent for accommodation damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Ivan. Others believe opportunistic landlords have taken advantage by overcharging for apartments still available. Still other tenants in good standing are outraged by landlords who are evicting them to “help out homeless relatives”—in addition to concerns about landlords using relatives as *excuses* to evict them—only to find out that the apartments are back on the market to other expats, at grossly inflated rentals.

Meanwhile, some landlords are concerned about tenants who are out of work due to Ivan—tenants who claim they’re unable to pay any rent at all. And then there are those with little or no damage who feel they should receive the same rental breaks as their less fortunate neighbours.

If you have a complaint you would like to lodge, you have two options: first, go to the Chamber of Commerce (2nd floor, MacDonald Square) where you can fill out an official complaint form. The Better Business Council will investigate that complaint, and will work together with you and your tenant/landlord to resolve the problem. Your second option is to file a complaint online. Go to www.caymanchamber.ky and click on “Better Business Council”. You’ll find the “file a complaint” link at the bottom of the page.

Ivan: A Volunteer's Experience

Photo and Story by Ruth Smith

For those who have long believed that volunteering is an essential part of who they are, a test of their dedication surely came along with category five Hurricane Ivan.

Clitey Christian, a nurse and Red Cross volunteer for over 20 years, was summoned to the Breakers Community Centre Shelter the evening of 11 September. Accompanied by eleven-year-old daughter Sheila, herself a two-year Red Cross volunteer, Clitey joined shelter warden Tony Powell while the weather was still calm. Soon the shelter was filled and they knew they would have to eke out their limited provisions.

Faced with Ivan's wrath, she moved among the 40+ shelterees, dispensing medicines and comfort, sharing prayers and doing whatever she could to help them. As the storm peaked, the people remained calm: "Faced with Ivan's wrath, we knew there was little we could do besides pray," says Clitey. "The place was boarded up but we could hear objects outside, beating on the building and there was a moment of panic as water started coming underneath the door, but with teamwork, we used what was on hand to block it. I just knew that God wouldn't let us down."

Young Sheila also kept busy during the storm. "It was my job to watch over children at the shelter," she explains. "I helped them colour and pray, and we also watched *Shrek* on a portable DVD. My mom had told me I shouldn't be scared and working with the kids helped to keep my mind off what was happening."

But more was to come: at the height of the storm, more people struggled through buffeting wind and relentless rain to the community centre. Although it was full, none were denied entry to its relative warmth and security. Two police officers put their own lives at risk, venturing out to save a severely injured resident who badly needed Clitey's nursing skills.



"As soon as they brought him in, he passed out in my arms. It seemed like he was bleeding from everywhere. His blood pressure was so high I was afraid he would have a stroke," says Clitey. "I stitched him up as best I could but wished I had more on hand to help him."

Volunteers, who offer themselves to those in need, often do so knowing it may mean leaving their own families and possessions at great risk. For Clitey, this reality brought its own terror during the hurricane when she overheard a call on the police radio: a young mother with her four children—ages eleven, six, three, and one year—were running for their lives, with just the clothes on their back.

"I knew right then that it was my other

daughter, Taekia. The police officers with us at Breakers bravely went back out to find out what they could. Ironically, when they found her, she had been more scared that something had happened to *me!*"

Taekia had been rescued with the children and taken to the Bodden Town Civic Centre. Hours later *that* shelter was destroyed too, forcing the evacuees to flee to another location while the storm still raged.

"When we finally got to see each other, we were both overjoyed," Clitey recalls. "Despite losing everything we had we were grateful that at least we all had our lives—and each other. God is good and since we know this, in situations like Ivan, we just have to go out there and do whatever we can to help."



Dealing with Post-Ivan Stress

Helping Your Children through Trauma

According to experts, children who experience an initial traumatic event before they are 11-years-old are three times more likely to develop psychological symptoms than those who experience their first trauma as a teenager or later.

But children are able to better cope with traumatic events if parents, friends, family, teachers and other adults support and help them with their experiences. Help should start as soon as possible after the event.

This is why the Ministry of Education has placed emphasis on sensitizing teachers as our children return to school after the passage of Ivan. Here's what adults should look for to determine if a child has been affected and some suggestions on helping them through the trauma.

Signs that children may be affected include:

- Becoming upset over the loss of a favourite toy or other things that adults may consider insignificant but which are important to the child.
- Changing from quiet, obedient and caring to loud, noisy and aggressive, or from outgoing to shy.
- Developing nighttime fears. Children may be afraid to sleep alone, without a light, or have nightmares, etc.
- Being afraid that the event will recur.
- Becoming easily upset; crying or whining.
- Reverting to younger behaviours such as bed-wetting and thumb sucking.
- Wanting to keep parents in sight and refusing to go to school or childcare.
- Having symptoms of illness, such as headaches, vomiting or fever.
- Worrying about where they and their family will live.

What can parents, teachers or other caring adults do?

- Talk with children about how they are feeling and listen without judgment. Let them know its okay to have their own feelings, even if they are different from the feelings of others.
- Let children take their time to figure things and feelings out. Don't rush them or pretend that they don't think or feel as they do.
- Help them learn to use words that express their feelings, such as happy, sad, angry, mad and scared. Just be sure that the words fit their feelings—not yours.
- Assure fearful children that you will be there to take care of them. Reassure them many times.
- Stay together as a family as much as possible.
- Return as soon as possible to former routines or develop new ones. Maintain a regular schedule for the children.
- Reassure children that the disaster was not in any way their fault.
- Let children have some control, such as choosing what outfit to wear or what meal to have for dinner.

If you have a child who is having troubles coping after Hurricane Ivan contact Dr. Antonia Hawkins, at the Cayman Islands Hospital, on 244-2650/244-2668. Also available is education psychologist at 945-6308.

Helping Your Child after Ivan

Help is at hand for parents who are concerned about the impact Hurricane Ivan may have had on their children's wellbeing. Visiting Child Psychologist, Dr Jerome Brodlie, will be hosting a meeting for parents of school-age children next Tuesday (16 November) at the Mary Miller Memorial Hall, from 6.00–7.30pm.

During the session, Dr Brodlie will offer information and advice on how children behave in post-traumatic situations, together with guidance on helping them. There will also be an opportunity for parents to ask questions.

An eminent child psychologist, Dr Jerome Brodlie, Professor Emeritus at Yale and Connecticut State University, has also served as a CBS Network correspondent on childhood issues.

During his visit to the island, Dr Brodlie will also meet with all school counsellors, in addition to teachers from private schools and pre-schools.

How Are You Feeling After Ivan?

Dr. Marc Lockhart, consultant psychiatrist at the Cayman Islands Hospital, has prepared some questions for residents to ask themselves about how they are feeling in the days after Hurricane Ivan.

- Feeling sad, blue or hopeless?
- Lost interest in things you used to enjoy?
- Body aches and pains with no known physical cause?
- Experienced or witnessed a traumatic event?
- Having nightmares, flashbacks?
- Feeling emotional numbness?

If you have a positive response to three or more of these questions then you should talk with a professional. Counselors at the Cayman Islands Hospital, Department of Substance Abuse Services, and Employee Assistance Program (EAP) are available to help. For adults, contact Mental Health Outpatient Services on 244-2650, Dr. Clement Von Kirchenheim on 244-2726, Kathryn Dinspel-Powell, on 325-5245/325-5244, or the Employee Assistance Programme (EAP), on 949-9559, to make an appointment.

Tips for Coping

Talk about it and encourage others to share their perspectives. Sharing your feelings with friends, teachers, classmates and family will help you work through what happened. Talking with others will relieve stress and help you realize that other people have similar feelings. **Take care of yourself.** Get plenty of rest and exercise. Do things that you find relaxing and soothing. Remember to eat nutritious foods. Limit your exposure to media reports and images of the tragedy. Avoid risk-taking

activities and, if you drink, drink in moderation. As soon as you feel comfortable, go back to usual routines.

Stay connected to friends and family. Make plans to visit family or other people who can offer reassurance. If you can't be with them in person, increase your contact through phone calls and e-mails.

Do something positive that will help you gain a greater sense of control (for example, give blood, take a first aid class, or donate food or clothing). Get involved with school or community activities planned in response to the disaster, such as a benefit.

Do things you enjoy. If you have put things aside that you normally enjoy, get involved in those activities now. Go for a walk, plant flowers or play dominos with friends.

Write about significant experiences in your life and how they have affected you. Journaling gives you the opportunity to express your feelings in your own words and at your own pace. It is also an opportunity for you to share pieces of your life with future generations.

Ask for help if you feel overwhelmed by lingering thoughts about the disaster – it's not a sign of weakness. Talk with a trusted friend, family member or faith leader. Take advantage of the resources in your community, workplace or school.

Recognising Stress in Adults:

It's important to know when stress is impacting your life and to understand that in the aftermath of Ivan, feeling stressed is a strong possibility.

Adults may be suffering from stress if you experience any combination of several of the following factors:

- Difficulty sleeping
- Nightmares
- Easily frustrated, or irritability
- Loss of appetite
- Headaches, stomach problems, colds or flu-like symptoms
- Mood swings
- Crying easily
- Persistent sadness and feelings of hopelessness

- Chronic fatigue
- Increased use of alcohol and/or other substances as a coping mechanism
- Disorganized thought patterns or an inability to concentrate

Talk to a Pastor

The following pastors are available to the public for help or advice:

Al Ebanks – 917 5007
Nicholas Sykes – 916 7373
Winston Rose – 916 0776
Torrance Bobb - 916 5639
Joe Crawford – 916 7513
Alson Ebanks – 926 1489
Anthony Gager – 916 8909
David Jorge – 926 0461
John Jefferson Sr – 925 4319
Godfrey Meghoo – 916 7162
Bob Thompson – 927 9814
Clovis Wilks – 927 1163
Gloria Wilks – 917 4061
Rudolph Willis – 916 3392
Steve Blair – 925 4783
Sean Major-Campbell – 949 5583

Contact Social Workers

Help is also available through the district offices of the Department of Family and Children Services:

George Town (Mirco Centre) – 925 5345/925 5346

West Bay (Old Sunrise Centre) – 925 5348

Bodden Town includes East End, North Side and Bodden Town Districts (Bright Days Plaza) – 925 5347

Contact your Nearest DAC

For advice and general information, DAC (District Assistance Centres) offices are located in every district:

George Town, NDC offices, Compass Building, on Shedden Road
Bodden Town, MLAs Gilbert McLean and Roy Bodden offices, in Bright Days Plaza
North Side, the United Church
East End, District Health Clinic
West Bay, Town Hall.

Counsellor Training Resumes

The Institute for Theological and Leadership Development (ITLD-Cayman) has resumed evening classes at Cayman Prep and High School, Walkers Road.

Class schedule is as follows: B.A. Guidance and Counseling — **Monday:** Foundational Psychology, **Tuesday:** Biblical and Theological Perspectives in Counseling, **Wednesday:** Fundamentals of Guidance and Counselling.

Classes for Certificate in Community Care and Counselling — **Monday:** Counselling the Abused, **Tuesday:** Spiritual Insights for Counseling, **Wednesday:** Overview of Family, Culture, Values etc., for effective counselling.

Late admission to the above classes is open until 11 November.

Counseling Seminar: A Post Ivan Perspective Crisis counseling and management, trauma and anger management

ITLD-Cayman will offer an M.A. in Pastoral Psychology and Counseling Module on "Counseling Skills" to members of the public interested in a refresher course to update their counseling skills. This intensive seminar will be taught with a holistic perspective that integrates scientific and spiritual views.

November 18 Thursday, 5 pm to 10 pm

November 19 Friday, 5 pm to 10 pm

November 20 Saturday, 9 am to 9 pm

November 21 Sunday, 3 pm to 9 pm

November 22 Monday, 5 pm to 9 pm

The seminar will be held at Elmslie Memorial United Church in the boardroom.

If interested contact Rev. Dr. P J Lawrence at 925 6448.

National Trust Restores Tourism & Historical Sites

By Lynsay Brown

With the return of cruise ships to Grand Cayman, the focus on clearing up key tourism routes remains crucial to the recovery process. The National Trust is doing its part by concentrating on restoring their major tourism and historical sites, aiming to quickly have them up and running.

To this end, teams of volunteers worked on clearing the northern end of the Mastic Trail the weekend of 7 November. Damage to the southern end of the trail was substantial but a one-mile loop walk should be open by the end of the month.

Full restoration of the trail, including the southern end, should be complete by the middle of January 2005. However, due to extensive upper limb tree damage, it may be longer before there is much needed shade along the walk.

General Manager of the National Trust, Frank Roulstone advises everyone to exercise caution during the clean up process, explaining: "In the haste to remove hurricane debris, many trees are being removed that could be

salvaged. If a tree is leaning, it can be straightened and will re-root itself."

Three more environmental reserves will have reopened, free to the public, by the end of January; the Brac Parrot Reserve and Booby Pond Nature Reserve on Little Cayman are already open, while the Governor Michael Gore Bird Sanctuary which received extensive damage to vegetation, paths and viewing platforms, plans to re-open 15 January.

Plants and trees at the Botanic Park also suffered extensive wind damage but the trust's Blue Iguana Recovery Project, a captive breeding facility for more than 200 Cayman Blue Iguana's, is ready to open when the park is restored.

Of the 11 historical sites maintained by the National Trust, eight expect to be open by the end of December. The Bodden Town Guardhouse, Dr. Roy's Ironshore and Fort George in George Town all fared well during the storm, only requiring a cleanup. The Watler Cemetery on the south coast received little damage and will be re-opened by the end of November. The East End Lighthouse Park will

open when the entrance road is restored and the Savannah Schoolhouse is open by appointment, for small groups. The Heritage Beach, bordering Frank Sound on the south side, has large amounts of debris and suffered loss of signage and huts but plans to re-open 15 December.

Other sites including Jackson's Wall, Miss Izzy's Schoolhouse in West Bay and The Mission House in East End were all severely damaged by the storm and will be closed until further notice.

Those interested in volunteering for the National Trust can contact Frank Roulstone on 926-2696.

The National Trust Visitors Centre on Grand Cayman is temporarily located in Webster House, 359 South Church Street. Open Mon-Fri 9:30am – 5:30pm.

The National Trust Visitors Centre on Little Cayman is open Mon-Fri 3pm – 5pm. The National Trust Office on Cayman Brac on White Bay Rd, North Coast, is open by appointment.

Postal Plea for Pleasantry

by Ruth Smith

Ivan did not spare the postal department, causing particularly severe damage to the Seven Mile Beach (SMB) Post Office. SMB customers are consequently now required to pick up their mail at the Airport Post Office – and, while sympathising with customers on the inconvenience to them, postal authorities are asking for a little patience while they work at resolving this situation.

"Seven Mile Beach accounted for about 22% of the post box supply on Grand Cayman, so its loss has had a significant effect on postal services and operations," says Postmaster General Sheena Glasgow. "As that facility was in leased premises we are faced with a unique set of rebuilding challenges. The Ministry of Planning, Communications, District Administration and Information Technology is supportive of replacing the Seven Mile Beach Post Office; how-

ever, it will take some time.

"As Postmaster General, I would like to ask SMB customers to please exercise a little patience with the staff and the current mail situation. This is a stressful time for everyone in the Cayman Islands as we have all been affected by Ivan in some way, but a little common courtesy goes a long way."

The Postmaster General assures all customers that, despite the less-than-ideal conditions, each day things are getting better. In the meantime, patrons are asked to be patient and kind to those serving them. "Postal employees are like everyone else who must go to work and try to put aside the worries about their personal situation at home for the day — some days that is more difficult to do than other days," reiterates Ms Glasgow.

Beach Restoration Moves Ahead

MC Restoration, the debris removal company, will undertake restoration of sand thrown up on beaches by Hurricane Ivan, while the Department of the Environment (DoE) will determine relocation sites.

In line with its responsibility, DoE is preparing a plan for its first priority, return of the sand stockpiled on the Seven Mile Public Beach to its southern end. In turn, MC Reconstruction will sift, truck and place the sand. On Seven Mile Beach, DoE is also asking MC Restoration to clean the beach before sand is added.

DoE will next develop similar plans for the Bodden Town/Pease Bay/Breakers area, as well as Colliers/East End.

Funds Help Rebuild Cayman

by Ruth Smith

The housing assistance funds have begun the work necessary to help people in our community rebuild and repair.

Government's Housing Assistance Grants

One programme is the housing assistance grants provided by government and administered by the Cayman Islands Development Bank (CIDB). It has received almost 100 completed applications. Eligible persons can receive a maximum of C\$15,000 towards repairing their homes but many applications are not for the full amount.

"Many applicants understand that now is a time to ask for what you need, not necessarily what you want," says one of the programme's project managers Clyde Linwood, also of the Personnel Training Unit. "By utilizing Children and Family Services and others in the community who can recognize needy families, we have been able to identify persons who might not be able to come forward and express a need for assistance."

With a five-day turnaround time for fully completed applications, the first grant recipients will be receiving their cheques this week.

The Cayman Islands National Recovery Fund

Another programme that is available for those in need is the Cayman Islands National Recovery Fund (NRF), a privately funded programme with funds in excess of C\$3million. They are committed to actively seeking more funds to accommodate the many applications still coming into the office.

"We have received almost 1,100 applications and already about 300 are in the process of being reviewed by our site inspector," says Angela Martins, Executive Director for the NRF. "Our focus is on getting as much help out to people as quickly as possible. We have many initiatives in place to ensure that materials are available, as well as local contractors from all the districts, to support the recovery process."

*Housing Assistance Grant

Deadline: 30 November 2004

Priority: Applicants with a total household income below C\$40,000, the uninsured, elderly and indigent

Maximum funds granted: C\$15,000

Criteria:

-Damage must be a result of Hurricane Ivan

-Funds to be used strictly for permanent structure repairs and primary dwelling restoration

-Funds used for property damage not covered by insurance

-Must be owner occupied, single dwelling unit

-Must be Caymanian or hold Caymanian status

An application is considered complete **only** when an estimate for repair or restoration is provided along with:

-Copy of passport, birth certificate, or other evidence of Caymanian Status

-Land registry information if available

Turnaround Time:

There is a five-day response time for completed applications. Those applications received without the estimate cannot be processed until the necessary information is provided.

Applications can be picked up at Cayman Islands Development Bank, on Dr. Roy's Drive.

Contact numbers: 326-4060/4061/4062/4063/4064

*Cayman Islands National Recovery Fund Deadline: None

Maximum funds granted: C\$10,000

Priority: families with young children, elderly, disabled

Criteria: Any person who has been injured, bereaved, rendered homeless, destitute or otherwise adversely affected by Hurricane Ivan including low income persons may apply.

Applications can be picked up at police stations, gas stations, churches and the office at Trinity Square.

Contact numbers: 943-3863, 925-5591/5592/5593/5594

*Note: Eligible persons may apply to both the National Recovery Fund (NRF) and the Housing Recovery Grant. However, they may not receive more than C\$15,000 in total. This limit is monitored by both the NRF and CIDB.



Learning Centres Provide Solutions

by Lynsay Brown

Many schools suffered substantial damage during the storm, preventing them from re-opening as promptly as anticipated. As a short-term solution, many schools have been operating as learning centres, helping to provide a sense of structure and continuity for students.

Learning Centres provide an alternative learning experience to regular schooling as mandated in the Education Law 1999 and follow a number of guidelines, including:

· **Curriculum** - to develop skills in a range of subjects, the centres focus on core subjects and a range of enrichment opportunities including IT, art, music and PE.

· **Grouping of students** - where student numbers, teachers and facilities allow, students are taught in their regular classes. Where numbers are low, classes or groups can be combined and teachers that are normally assigned to the classes will work together to team teach, ensuring that students' individual needs are met.

· **Maximum intake** - Principals will de-

cide centre numbers based on the size of the alternate location. Full-time registered students of each school will be given priority.

· **Teachers** - there should be at least one certified teacher to every 20 students. Where necessary, teachers may be redeployed temporarily to other schools.

· **Length of day** is at least five hours, with additional time for lunch.

· **Attendance** is not compulsory but a register will be maintained to include students' dates of birth and parental contacts.

· **School Uniforms** are not a requirement of the centres but regular school uniforms or suitable, sensible clothing is recommended.

· **Homework** is not compulsory for short-term programmes but useful projects may be prescribed for long-term programmes.

· **Transportation and lunches** are arranged through the school principal.

During this transition period, staff is encouraged to be sensitive to the needs of their students, as everyone adjusts to the structure of schooling. It is also recommended that Principals make provisions during initial weeks for students and staff to discuss their experiences. A clear emphasis should be placed on moving forward, as opposed to encouraging students to relive their hurricane experiences.

Join the Beautification Drive

by Karen Cumming

Hurricane Ivan may be over, but its memory lingers on.

Thousands of trees, shrubs and other plants were destroyed when Ivan stormed through. Now, the Beautification Committee is working hard to restore the Grand Cayman to its former glory. In the next few weeks, you'll be seeing a public information campaign unfolding in your local newspaper. The committee will be recommending the plants it believes will make the best choice for replacements. You'll see a total of three different categories, along with five to 10 recommendations for each one...

1. Plants and trees that grow quickly.
2. Plants and trees that are salt tolerant.
3. Plants and trees that are drought resistant.

Local nurseries will be involved, too... working closely together with the committee to ensure a steady supply of each variety of plant.

In the meantime, residents are continuing to pitch in and help with the clean-up effort.

Anyone in need of supplies or possible funding to help them assist in beautification can phone David Kirkaldy, of the Beautification Committee, at 516-0539.

Chamber Workshops

The *Back to Business Forums* of the Chamber of Commerce are aimed at providing small business owners and their employees with useful information to help in the recovery process. Here's the schedule to the end of November:
Landlord & Tenant Issues: Understanding Your Rights from Both Sides, 23 November, at the Family Life Centre, 3:30-5:00pm.

Managing through Crisis: Tools for the New Work Environment, 25 November, at the Chamber of Commerce, 3:30-5:00pm.

Moving beyond 'Panic' Mode: Making Sound Decisions, 30 November, at the Chamber of Commerce, 4:30-6:00pm.

All three forums are free. Call 949-8090 or visit www.caymanchamber.ky to register.

Continued from Page 1

Unclaimed Containers Create Bottleneck

today that the law provides for goods left at the port for more than four weeks to be placed on auction.

Other challenges that continue to face the trucking companies handling transportation include the shortage of heavy equipment and qualified drivers. All parties concerned are working to resolve these issues – the Port Authority, Thompson Shipping and Seaboard Marine.

Increasing the number of ships that ply into George Town Harbour is also taking place, but movements within the port must be addressed as a matter of priority.

A related problem with regard to increasing number of ships is that cruiseships pose a potential conflict as cargo ships cannot be unloaded while tenders are transporting visitors from ship to dock.

And then there are the routine problems, cars are normally shipped without gasoline, which has to be arranged to drive the cars, which may have additional problems, such as dead batteries, etc.

In spite of these issues, port officials note that they are now handling almost four times the usual tonnage of imports. This is being made possible by operating 22 hours each day (up from the more recent 12-hour shifts).

In order to alleviate the processing bottleneck, the port has also extended the collection hours at the port warehouse to 8:00pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for goods and dedicated containers.

To solve the container problem, businesses and persons holding containers are asked to notify trucking company to collect them, as well as the chassis on which they are towed, as soon as possible.

The Authority reminds importing companies and individuals to check and collect their goods as soon as possible to relieve the congestion at the port warehouse.

Do you have essential public information or an inspiring recovery story to tell? Give us a call or send an email.

Telephone 949-8092 GIS@gov.ky

Housing Report Defines Needs and Solutions

by Susan Watler

The report from the Housing Subgroup of the Cayman Islands Recovery Operation (CIRO) says there is a current need for about 600 housing units.

To answer identified needs, the subgroup recommends developing temporary housing sites in a village setting for travel trailers. The cost of the trailers is low and they can also be placed on homeowners' property if the home is uninhabitable.

Much should also be done to accelerate restoring homes and apartments. Recommendations include simplifying requirements for repairs, bringing building materials to the islands faster, procuring these materials at more competitive prices, developing with the private sector a low-interest loan programme, and speeding up the processes on all housing grant and loan programmes.

Cabinet is considering the proposals.

Derelict Vehicles Red Tagged

by Joan Scott-Campbell

Over the next few weeks, the Vehicle Licensing Department will be removing and disposing of unclaimed derelict vehicles.

This will apply to vehicles that are on public roads or rights of way, and vehicles that the department considers pose a threat to public health or safety.

Beginning this week, each derelict vehicle will be tagged with a red sticker. This notifies the owner of the department's intention to remove it to a holding area. The owner will then have 14 days to claim the vehicle. If no contact is made with the Vehicle Licensing Department, and if reasonable steps to identify the owner fail, the vehicle will be disposed of.

If you own a non-functioning vehicle and want assistance to remove it, you should first contact your insurance company to have the vehicle terminated. Following that, you may contact the Vehicle Licensing Department at 945-8344. Arrangements will be made to have the vehicle removed free of charge.

Disaster Assistance Centres Open

With the aim of creating a clearing house of information the first Disaster Assistance Centres (DACs) opened last Wednesday (10 November) in George Town and Bodden Town, with three more opening by weekend, each in the districts of North Side, East End and West Bay. Government operates these district centres under the auspices of the Cayman Islands Recovery Operation (CIRO).

George Town's DAC is located in the Compass Building, on Shedden Road, near the Bank of Butterfield. Space for Bodden Town's DAC was donated by MLAs Gilbert McLean and Roy Bodden, in their MLA office in Bright Days Plaza. On Friday, 12 November, DAC centres will open in North Side, at the United Church; in East End, at the District Health Clinic; and, in West Bay, at the Town Hall.

Dr. Deborah Surat, special projects coordinator for the Department of Children and Family Services, is the overall manager and coordinator for the centres. Dr. Surat said that the centres, which are manned by trained staff, are designed as a one-stop distribution point for public information. "The purpose of the DACs is to help determine what needs are in the community and how government can best respond to these needs," said Dr. Surat.

Earlier this week, 36 staff and several volunteers attended training clinics in preparation for the centre's opening. Staff will be familiar with public health and safety issues, available counselling services and can assist with health and dietary needs. They are also able to assist individuals fill out forms for vehicle and home insurance and for financial assistance.

Centres will operate Monday to Friday, from 12 noon to 6 pm, except on holidays. (The DACs will be closed on Remembrance Day, 15 November, and for the day of Praise and Thanksgiving, on Wednesday 17 November.)

Cayman Takes Time out for Thanksgiving

by Lennon Christian

Cayman will take time out next Wednesday (17 November) for a National Day of Praise and Thanksgiving for protection and preservation of life during the recent passage of Hurricane Ivan. The event will be held in Heroes' Square in the centre of George Town.

Adding a splash of colour and significance to the occasion, His Royal Highness the Earl of Wessex, in his second official visit to the Cayman Islands, will be preceded by a parade of flags carried by Boy Scouts. The Earl, who visited last year as part of the Cayman Islands' Quincentennial celebrations of 500 years of recorded history, has continued to take a special interest in the Islands. He is visiting the Cayman Islands and Grenada following the passage of Hurricane Ivan.

The event has been organized by the Leader of Government Business, the Hon. McKeeva Bush, OBE, who will deliver addresses, along with the Earl and the Governor, Mr. Bruce Dinwiddy, CMG.

Special bus service from East End will leave at 7:00am, from the Charles Dixon Park, with roadside pickup along the district's main road. Similarly, bus service will be offered from West Bay, leaving the West Bay Town Hall at 7:30am. The bus will pick up persons along the main road from the town hall to the four-way stop and onwards down the Seven Mile Beach road.

A similar programme will be arranged in conjunction with Minster Juliana O'Connor-Conolly on Cayman Brac on Saturday, 20 November at 7:00 pm.



Down the Marl Road

Picks and Pans

A huge **PAN** for people who are verbally abusive to the Airport Post Office employees. Apparently some of the Seven Mile Beach PO folks find picking their mail up at the APO inconvenient and have decided to vent their rage at APO employees. Hey! Yell at Ivan, punch a wall, talk to a counsellor; but smile at the clerks and say "Please," "Thank-you," and "I'm sorry for how I've been behaving."

Another **PAN** for speeding drivers: Since you wouldn't slow down for the utility workers and vehicles working on the side of the road, CUC feels it must stop traffic to protect its workers. Last night (Wed., 10 Nov.) at 6pm traffic was backed up from Savannah to Grand Harbour.

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Do you have essential public information or an inspirational recovery story to tell? Give us a call or send an email.