

8 Communications

The island has established several methods of effective communication for both emergency conditions and general information sharing. In particular, the BIVC website is a work in progress that is assuming an ever-increasing role in information gathering and sharing. Islanders should become familiar with the website and look to it first whenever they have a question about island committees, schedules, or policies.

BIVC Website

The goal of the BIVC website at www.bivc.net is to be a repository for information and a method for communicating official business to islanders. It provides islanders with easy access to policies, procedures, minutes of past meetings, schedules, calendars of upcoming events, and so on. It also provides links to other websites of interest, such as the CABI and the Town of Freeport sites.

Any document that has been published and widely distributed in the past now can probably be found on the website. In addition, you can check the website for the most up-to-date version of a document.

The site is monitored and governed by the BIVC. If you have any suggestions for improvement or content, contact the webmaster, as noted on the site's home page.

Other Internet Sites

Two individually-sponsored sites are the Bustins Island Community facebook page, and the Bustins Island Community website found at www.bustinsislandcommunity.com.

Broadcast E-mail

Information deemed immediately important by the BIVC can be sent to islanders via broadcast e-mail. This typically includes news that needs to be distributed in a timely manner, such as the recent death of an islander, or an event that needs to be advertised and cannot wait for the twice-yearly published newsletter. (Items that can be found on the website, such as meeting minutes, are no longer distributed by broadcast e-mail.)

To be added to the Bustins e-mail list, send an e-mail to the BIVC webmaster (bivc.webmaster@gmail.com) and put only the words "e-mail list" in the subject. You can write any message you want in the body of the e-mail. You do not have to own property on Bustins to be a member of the list.

To have an urgent item sent via broadcast e-mail, you must obtain permission from the Board of Overseers and the text of your broadcast e-mail must also be approved by the Board.

Cell Phones

The number of cell phones being carried by islanders has grown exponentially over the years, such that they are now the major method of communication used on the island. Phone service varies considerably from one side of the island to the other, with service on the west side generally better than on the east side.

Be sure to find the nearest spot for reliable and good service to ensure that you can use your phone in an emergency. If you are reporting an emergency and your cell phone has a location setting (GPS coordinates), please turn your cell phone on and leave it on to aide in the response.

Marine Radios/CBs

Once an essential form of communication on the island, marine radios and CBs are in much less use now due to the inception of cell phones.

Those who use marine radios at their cottage or on board their boat must be aware of FCC rules and regulations regarding channel use. The Coast Guard, emergency service providers, and many fishermen and lobstermen still use marine radios as an essential part of their day-to-day activity, and idle chatter on an essential frequency disrupts their service.

Note that none of the Bustins Island emergency procedures involves or requires the use of a marine radio or CB.