

# TOWN OF INDIAN SHORES WINTER 2010 NEWSLETTER



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

St. Patrick's Day Street Festival, Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> 11am to 4 pm  
Pinellas Spring Cleanup, Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 8 am.  
Municipal Center construction begins, Friday, April 2, 2010.

## FROM THE MAYOR'S CHAIR: by Mayor Jim Lawrence



**THE 2010 U.S. CENSUS:** The 2010 Census will be a snapshot of our nation's population - capturing our changing and diverse America. The Census will define who we are as a nation, affect political representation and direct the allocation of billions of dollars in government funding. This is particularly important here in Florida. Several of our state revenue sharing programs, particularly our share of the state sales tax, are determined by our official census population.

Additionally, the Federal government distributes more than \$400 billion annually to state and local governments based in part on census data. Census data guides local decision-makers on where to build new roads, hospitals, child care and senior centers, schools and much more. Businesses use Census data to locate supermarkets, stores, new housing and many other facilities and infrastructure.

April 1, 2010 is recognized as Census day. Many of our Indian Shores seasonal residents share their living time between here and locales to the north. If the time spent in each location is approximately equal, you should register for the census at the location you are residing on April 1st.

The 2010 Census questionnaire is one of the shortest ever, consisting of only 10 questions and takes just 10 minutes to complete. While relatively simple to fill out, the Census Bureau operates multiple Questionnaire Assistance Centers and Indian Shores has volunteered to serve in that capacity. You can get help filling out your forms from trained Census personnel here at Town Hall beginning around **March 19<sup>th</sup>** and lasting for approximately one month. The hours of operation will be every **Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 AM to 3 PM.**

For more Census information, visit their web page at:

[www.2010.census.gov](http://www.2010.census.gov)

For information on Census employment opportunities:

[www.2010censusjobs.gov](http://www.2010censusjobs.gov)

**MUNICIPAL CENTER UPDATE:** On January 29, 2010 the Town of Indian Shores held a Ground Breaking Ceremony to commemorate the initiation of construction for our New Town Hall and Municipal Center. The architectural firm, ARC3, has been awarded the contract to design the new facility after a competitive qualification process and intense price negotiations. The new building will be erected behind the current Town Hall, with the footprint extending from the pavilion to near the old Town Hall, which will allow for use of the current building during the planned 14 month construction period. The first step in the process is the demolition of the pavilion kitchen which will occur in the very near future. The selection of a building contractor is currently underway, with 19 companies submitting preliminary bids. A short list of preferred candidates is due to be released on February 26<sup>th</sup> by our Construction Committee and each will be asked for a detailed Request For Proposal for Town Council consideration. The final selection will occur at a Special Town Council Meeting on March 30, 2010. Our Town Web Site located at [www.myindianshores.com](http://www.myindianshores.com) has a "New Municipal Center" link that will be frequently updated with the latest construction information.



**INDIAN SHORES ST. PATRICK'S DAY STREET FEST:** The Town of Indian Shores will be sponsoring a first ever Street Fest on St. Patrick's Day, **Wednesday, March 17, 2010** from 11 am until 4 pm. The event will take place on the newly renovated and beautified 197<sup>th</sup> Avenue East, on the south side of the Bay Mariner Shopping Center. There will be Arts and Crafts vendors displaying their wares and local business booths, as well as Town Informational Booths. Irish and traditional entertainment will be heard throughout the day. The event is co-sponsored by Mickey Quinn's Pub and Gosling Rum, and food and beverages will be on sale by the good people of Mickey Quinn's. We hope you can join us and make it a successful event that we would want to repeat next year.  
ERIN GO BRAUGH.

**HURRICANE SEASON:** The Town has been very busy preparing for the upcoming Hurricane Season. We have identified and secured a better equipped and better fortified alternate Emergency Operations Center at the Seminole Middle School where we can ride out a major storm with better communications and safety. We are constantly improving on our detailed Continuation of Operations Plan (COOP) which will guide us through the early stages of the post storm recovery and help us establish the procedures and requirements to continue as a municipal entity, despite the level of damage to the Town and Town Hall. Just over 800 Town residents have been issued Disaster Re-entry Tags that should ease their post-storm return to the island when authorities clear the area for habitation. If you don't have yours, bring proof of residency and your driver's license to Town Hall and we will issue you one free of charge. Living in an A Zone, you can count on the need to evacuate as the storm approaches. Have a destination pre-arranged, build a hurricane survival kit to carry with you, keep all important papers in one easy to get to place, plan on how to insure the safety of your pets and have your medication prescriptions on the computer file of a chain drug store for easier refilling from whatever safe place you decide to ride out the storm. In May, 2010 we will plan to have our fourth annual Hurricane Awareness Party, complete with goodies, prizes and excellent briefings from a local TV Weatherman, the Pinellas County Emergency Services, the Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District and our own Detective Jason Rutzahn. Stay safe and don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions on Disaster Preparation.

**"NO EXCUSES" RECREATION DEPARTMENT - by Vice Mayor Joan Herndon**

There's no excuse to be out of shape or bored if you live in Indian Shores. We offer a multitude of recreational and fitness classes every day of the week, including Zumba, Yoga, Senior Exercise, ACBL Duplicate Bridge games, Tae Kwon-Do, Ballroom Dance lessons, Tai Chi, and periodically we conduct Bridge lessons for beginner and intermediate levels. All classes are held in the Town Hall Auditorium. Come in to Town Hall and pick up the "What's Happening" flyer that lists all our classes, including the days, times, cost per class and instructor contact information. There is no membership fee and you do not have to pre-register for any class - just show up and pay the instructor. All visitors, residents and non-residents are welcome to participate.

**FERTILIZER AND OUR ENVIRONMENT:** On January 19, 2010, Pinellas County adopted an ordinance that will regulate the use of fertilizers containing nitrogen and phosphorus beginning in 2011. The driving force behind the purpose of this ordinance is to improve water quality in and around Pinellas County. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has identified specific water bodies in Pinellas County as "impaired" as a result of excess nutrients under the Florida Impaired Waters Rule (Chapter 62-303, Florida Administrative Code). As we all know, too much of a good thing can be bad. And, while we may think of fertilizer as plant "food" - a "good" thing, we may actually be over-feeding our landscapes. This overfeeding results in stormwater runoff and leaching of excess nutrients into the subterranean aquifer and water supplies in our area. The increased nutrients foster undesirable plant and algae growth which results in poor water quality and potential fish kills. Our reclaimed water also contains nitrogen; by watering our landscapes with reclaimed water we are applying nitrogen to the landscape without even putting any fertilizer down. The County Ordinance prohibits application of fertilizers containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus during the restricted season from June 1 - September 30 and also requires a soil analysis be completed prior to any fertilizer containing phosphorus being used. The ordinance also specifies the rate of how much nitrogen can be applied to turf and/or landscape. As part of our NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit, the Town of Indian Shores will be looking at ways that we can limit and control fertilizer and other contaminants before they enter our stormwater management system. We are committed to cleaning up our impaired waterways and restoring our environment.

**MUNICIPAL CENTER GROUND BREAKING - by Councilor Carole Irelan**



It is an exciting time to be serving the people of Indian Shores. The road is completed and looks great! There are new bus shelters and coming soon - new benches, garbage cans and landscaping on the south corridor into town. If that isn't enough, we have broken ground for a new Municipal Center. The ground breaking held on Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> was a success. There was a great turn out of local citizens, other town and state officials and past mayors in attendance. Mayor Lawrence gave a brief review of our local history. State Representative Jim Frishe and Shirley Miaoulis of Congressman Young's office congratulated the Town on moving forward with the new building. Donning our hard hats and grabbing our "gold" shovels we broke ground for a new building and a new future for Indian Shores. I am proud to be a part of all that is going on in this town and be able to share it with all of you. My hat goes off to all who have helped to make it happen.

Pictured above are your Town Council members, donning hard hats and golden shovels for the ceremonial breaking of ground to signify the onset of construction. From left to right are Vice Mayor Joan Herndon, Councilor Bill Smith, Mayor Jim Lawrence, Councilor Carole Irelan, Councilor Steve Sutch and Police Chief/Town Administrator E.D. Williams.

**COASTAL CLEAN-UP - by Councilor Steve Sutch**

This year the Pinellas Spring Clean-up, part of the Great American Clean-up will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2010. The event will be held between 8 am and 11 am. Volunteers will meet at the Indian Shores Town Hall where supplies (gloves, bags, etc.) will be issued. Our plans are to get area students to participate again. These students earn credits towards college scholarships for doing community sponsored work. We plan to have t-shirts, coffee, doughnuts, orange juice and water available to all volunteers. This semi-annual event is sponsored by KEEP PINELLAS BEAUTIFUL, INC. Hope to see you all there on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

## [HANDS ACROSS THE SAND - Citizens form a Fence to Oppose Offshore Drilling - by Councilor Bill Smith](#)

On Saturday afternoon, February 13, at a reported 83 locations all around the State of Florida, some 10,000 citizens joined hands to form human fences to demonstrate their opposition to the proposed expansion of offshore oil drilling into the State waters around the Florida coastline.

I saw some of you there, too.

A short refresher: near the end of last year's Florida legislative session, the Florida House of Representatives passed a bill that would have permitted offshore drilling in Florida's coastal waters. Florida waters extend only 10 miles from our Gulf of Mexico shore, so the bill would have permitted drilling no more than 10 miles from the beach—and as close as 3 miles. The Florida Senate refused to take up the bill, and the issue died—for the time being.



Since that time citizens and elected officials have been working to counter the claims of the lobbyists that have been wooing our legislators into passing such legislation in this year's session. Our Barrier Islands Governmental Council passed an anti-drilling resolution, as did Indian Shores and the other ten BIG-C member cities and towns.



Several months ago, restaurateur Dave Rauschkolb from the Panhandle community of Seaside conceived the idea of organizing a human barrier on the beach to symbolize citizens' united opposition to offshore drilling. Former State Senator Jack Latvala from our area--running again for State Senator--joined in the initial organization—and soon there were organized efforts all around the State. Take a look at this sampling of the breadth and depth of some of the demonstrations along our own barrier islands and around the State—and note that these motivated citizens turned out in spite of the frigid temperatures and biting winds:

- From Clearwater to Fort DeSoto, some 2,500 participants, including: St. Pete Beach—1000 participants; Gulfport—320; Treasure Island—300; Redington Shores—100; Indian Rocks Beach—325; Clearwater Beach—250;
- South of Tampa Bay: Siesta Key Beach—260; Anna Maria Island—100; Manatee Beach (in spite of no sponsor & risking arrest for no permit)—200
- South Florida: Key West—300; Miami South Beach—200; Fort Myers Beach—150
- In the Panhandle: Pensacola Beach—250; Grayton Beach—200; Seaside—400; Tallahassee (even though there's no beach)—100

Elected officials were everywhere. Our Congressman Bill Young was at IRB, with our Mayor Lawrence, IRB Mayor R.B. Johnson, Belleair Shore John Robertson and IRB Commissioners Terry Hamilton-Wollin and Dan Torres. Councilor Sutch and I were at Redington Shores with Redington Shores Mayor Bert Adams. Other elected officials at other Pinellas locations include our State Senator Dennis Jones, our State Representative Jim Frishe, State Senator Charlie Justice, Pinellas County Commissioner Ken Welch, St. Petersburg Commissioner Karl Nurse, and U.S. Senator Bill Nelson's local representative Shakra Anderson (Senator Nelson was on the Treasure Coast beach).



All these Hands Across the Sands events certainly demonstrated to our state legislators the extent of citizen and public official opposition to offshore drilling along Florida's beaches—beaches that are the symbol of our State and the key to its tourism, growth and economy.



## [FDOT LANDSCAPE PROJECT ON GULF BOULEVARD - by Chief E.D. Williams, Town Administrator](#)

The Town of Indian Shores continues its beautification efforts through landscaping of the Boulevard. Buccaneer Landscape Management has been awarded the contract for the FDOT Landscape Improvement project that will span from the southern border of the town to 192nd Avenue.

This project is scheduled to kick off in February and will include primarily Sabal Palms along the roadway and the islands being redone with new plant materials. This project should be completed within 60 days of the kickoff date.

## [INDIAN SHORES LIBRARY - by Dottie Strahlendorf, Library Chairperson](#)

The Library winter season has been very active thus far, with many new members and internet users. We always have the newest top best sellers to the delight of our many members.

We are planning another "Read and Feed" for sometime in March. This event has become very popular. Everyone is welcome for good discussion and a great lunch at a nominal cost. Date and time to be announced.

The Library will close at 11:30 am on Saturday, March 13, 2010 so volunteers can attend the Indian Shores Women's Club Fashion Show.

The staff will be holding a Book Sale and Membership Drive at the [St. Patrick's Day Street Fest on 197<sup>th</sup> Avenue East on March 17<sup>th</sup>, from 11 am to 4 pm](#). If you have hardcover or paperbacks you would like to contribute to the book sale, please drop them off at the Library or Town Hall.

## THE INDIAN SHORES WOMEN'S CLUB - by Mary Sutch, President

The Indian Shores Women's Club luncheon and Fashion Show will be held on **Saturday, March 13, 2010 at 11:30 am** at the Salt Rock Grill. Fashions are by Look's Boutique located in Redington Shores. Tickets are \$25 per person and may be obtained by calling Mary Sutch at 595-4149 or Doris Zander at 595-4404. The Women's Club meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month in which meetings are scheduled. Annual dues are \$10.

## INDIAN SHORES PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION - by Art Newsome, President

I would like to introduce to you the Indian Shores Property Owners Association (ISPOA). ISPOA is a not-for-profit corporation founded in 1974 for the purpose of:

- 1) Promoting conditions favorable to the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents.
- 2) Providing a forum for property owners to express their ideas and concerns regarding their community.
- 3) Working with town officials to influence controlled growth and economic development in order to preserve desirable beach living.

The Association is governed by an Executive Board comprised of four Officers and eight Directors elected annually by the membership. Regular meetings open to all residents are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM at Town Hall. The 2010 annual membership dues of \$15 for the period of Jan. thru Dec. are now due. Payment may be made at Town Hall or by contacting Fred Strahlendorf at 593-9608 or Art Newsome at 517-9571. Make checks payable to I.S.P.O.A.

Activities being planned for 2010 include but are not limited to:

- \* Participation in the beautification of Gulf Blvd.
- \* Purchase of one or more benches for our bus stops
- \* Monthly Happy Hours at our local business establishments
- \* Fall party (such as luau)
- \* Post-July 4th beach clean-up
- \* Increasing membership and membership participation



LET`S HAVE A GREAT 2010!! Check us out at [myindianshores.com](http://myindianshores.com)—click on Community Links—and get involved. Stop by our ISPOA Information Booth at the March 17<sup>th</sup> St. Patrick's Day Street Fest on 197<sup>th</sup> Avenue East between 11 am and 4 pm.

## FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION

The entire Town of Indian Shores lies within a Special Hazard Flood Area. There is a small area of the Town that is encompassed by Gulf Blvd, Second Street, Park Blvd. and the north property line of the Town Hall that is known as the "Town Square Area" which is also called the "Repetitive Loss Area". This Repetitive Loss area consists of 31 structures which are especially prone to flooding due to the lowest point having an elevation of only three to four and one-half feet above mean sea level (msl). This location is near Gulf View Cabin Villas, which lies east of Gulf Boulevard, between 192nd and 193rd Avenues.

The Town of Indian Shores is concerned about the potential flooding that could occur, not only in this area, but in the entire Town. Therefore, the Town recently completed, the installation of a stormwater system. This system is located throughout the entire Town to help floodwater carrying capacity.

However, here are some things you can do to help protect yourself and your property from future flooding:

1. Check with the Building Department (727-517-3940) on the extent of past flooding in your area. Department staff can tell you about the causes of repetitive flooding, what the Town is doing about it, and what would be an appropriate flood protection level. Town staff can visit your property to discuss flood protection alternatives.
2. To prepare for a flood, you should:
  - Know how to shut off the electricity and gas to your house when a flood comes.
  - Make a list of emergency numbers and identify a safe place to go to.
  - Make a household inventory.
  - Put insurance policies, valuable papers, medicine, etc. in a safe place.
  - Collect and put cleaning supplies, camera, waterproof boots, etc. in a handy place.
  - Develop a disaster response plan - See the Red Cross' website: [www.redcross.org/services/disaster/](http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/) for a copy of the brochure "Your Family Disaster Plan"
  - Get a copy of *Repairing Your Flooded Home*. We have copies in our Building Department or it can be found on the Red Cross' website, too.

3. Consider some permanent flood protection measures.

- Mark your fuse or breaker box to show the circuits to the floodable areas. Turning off the power to the garage can reduce property damage and save lives.
- Avoid building in a floodplain unless you elevate and reinforce your home.
- Elevate the A/C system, water heater, and electric panel if susceptible to flooding.
- Install "check valves" in sewer traps to prevent flood water from backing up into the drains of your home.
- Construct barriers (levees, beams, floodwalls) to stop floodwater from entering the building.
- Floodproof areas below the base flood elevation (BFE).
- More information can be found in *Homeowner's Guide to Retrofitting: Six Ways to Protect Your House from Flooding*. Copies are in the Building Department, the Indian Shores Library, and at [www.fema.gov/hazards/floods/lib312.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/hazards/floods/lib312.shtm)
- Note that some flood protection measures may need a building permit and others may not be safe for your type of building, so be sure to talk to the Building Department.

4. Get a flood insurance policy.

- Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. However, because Indian Shores participates in the national Flood Insurance Program, you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. This insurance is backed by the Federal government and is available to everyone, even properties that have been flooded. Because Indian Shores participates in the Community Rating System, you will receive a reduction in the insurance premium.
- Because your area is not mapped as a Special Flood Hazard Area, you may qualify for a lower-cost Preferred Risk Policy.
- Some people have purchased flood insurance because it was required by the bank when they got a mortgage or home improvement loan. Usually these policies just cover the building's structure and not the contents. During the kind of flooding that happens in your area, there is usually more damage to the furniture and contents than there is to the structure. Be sure you have contents coverage.
- Don't wait for the next flood to buy insurance protection. In most cases, there is a 30-day waiting period before National Flood Insurance Program coverage takes effect.
- Contact your insurance agent for more information on rates and coverage.

5. Funding Sources for Repetitive Loss Properties

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is continually faced with the task of paying claims while trying to keep the price of flood insurance at an affordable level. It has a particular problem with repetitive loss properties, which are estimated to cost \$200 million per year in flood insurance claim payments. Repetitive loss properties represent only one percent of all flood insurance policies, yet historically they account for nearly one-third of the claim payments (over \$4.5 billion to date).

Mitigation of the flood risk to these repetitive loss properties will reduce the overall costs to the NFIP as well as to individual homeowners. Accordingly, over the years, Congress has created a variety of funding sources to help repetitive loss property owners reduce their exposure to flood damage. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) now has five grant programs and one insurance benefit. More information on these programs can be found on the noted websites.

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) - a grant made available after a Presidential disaster declaration ([www.fema.gov/government/grant/hmgp/index.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/hmgp/index.shtm)).
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) - a grant that your community can apply for each year ([www.fema.gov/government/grant/fma/index.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/fma/index.shtm)).
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) - a nationally competitive grant that your community can apply for each year ([www.fema.gov/government/grant/pdm/index.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/pdm/index.shtm)).
- Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC) - a grant that FEMA administers for certain repetitive loss properties where there is no local government sponsor ([www.fema.gov/government/grant/frc/index.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/frc/index.shtm)).
- Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) - a grant that is reserved for "Severe" repetitive loss properties, i.e., those with their flood insurance policies administered by FEMA's Special Direct Facility rather than a private insurance company ([www.fema.gov/government/grant/srl/index.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/srl/index.shtm)).
- Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) - an extra flood insurance claim payment that can be provided if an insured building was flooded and then declared substantially damaged by the local permit office. ([www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3010](http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3010)).

Most of the FEMA grants provide 75% of the cost of a project. The owner is expected to fund the other 25%, although in some cases the state or local government may contribute to the non-FEMA share. ICC pays 100% (up to \$30,000) of the cost of bringing the damaged building up to the local ordinance's flood protection standards.

Each program has a different Congressional authorization and slightly different rules. These are summarized in the table on the next page. States and communities set their own priorities for the use of the grant funds, but they are strongly encouraged to address their repetitive flood problems. In no case, can a FEMA grant be used on a project without the completely voluntary agreement of the owner.

Types of Project Funded	HMGP	FMA	PDM	RFC	SRL	ICC
Acquisition of the entire property by a gov't agency	x	x	x	x	x	
Relocation of the building to a flood free site	x	x	x	x	x	x
Demolition of the structure	x	x	x	x	x	x
Elevation of the structure above flood levels	x	x	x	x	x	x
Replacing the old building with a new elevated one	x				x	x
Local drainage and small flood control projects	x				x	
Dry floodproofing (nonresidential buildings only)		x	x		x	x
Percent paid by FEMA program	75%	75%	75%	100%	75%	100%
Application notes	1,2	1	1		1	3

Application notes:

1. Requires a grant application from your local government
2. Only available after a Presidential disaster declaration
3. Requires the building to have a flood insurance policy and to have been flooded to such an extent that the local government declares it to be substantially damaged.

What you can do:

- Check the websites and read up on the details of the funding programs that are appropriate for your situation. For example, if your state has not been declared a Federal disaster area for some time, look at the grants that have annual application procedures, not HMGP.
- Talk to your local planning, building, or emergency management official to see if your community is interested in applying for a grant for properties like yours.
- Talk to your permit office to make sure they are aware of ICC. In some cases a local ordinance might be worded to trigger ICC for a repetitive loss property that was not substantially damaged.
- Keep your flood insurance policy in force. Several grants and ICC only fund properties that currently have a flood insurance policy.



This site was once repetitively flooded homes before FEMA funds helped acquire them.

This repetitive loss house was elevated with help from a FEMA grant.

**PLAN, PREPARE AND PROTECT!**

If you live in Indian Shores your property is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). The Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 made the purchase of flood insurance mandatory for federally backed mortgages on buildings located in SFHAs. It also affects all forms of Federal or Federally related financial assistance for buildings located in SFHAs. The SFHA is the base (100-year) floodplain mapped on a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). It is shown as one or more zones that begin with the letter "A" or "V."

Many areas within the Town flood with only a high tide and west wind. There is a 26% chance of being flooded over the life of a 30 year mortgage. The Town of Indian Shores has not sustained severe wind damage from the hurricanes that have passed close to our shores. Flooding has caused

most of the damage sustained in the past during hurricane events. Waters stirred in the Gulf of Mexico and Boca Ciega Bay by hurricane-force winds rise over the seawalls. Additionally, high tides prevent heavy rains normally associated with hurricanes from draining into the bay and gulf. Consequently, rainwater can backup into homes from the streets.

The Town of Indian Shores receives notification through Pinellas County in the event of an emergency. Flood Warnings will be given through the Towns' warning system and local television and radio stations. Tune into these media's for instructions during times of possible flooding.

It is important to stay informed. Listen to the news and weather channels, for example NBC, ABC, CBS, Bay News 9, The Weather Channel and also local radio stations while you have electric power. You should keep a battery operated radio available in case of a power outage, along with plenty of back-up batteries. For more storm preparedness information please visit <http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/stayconnected.htm>.

The entire Town of Indian Shores is located in an Evacuation Level A, which is the first level that will be ordered to evacuate. To register for special needs assistance, do one of the following: Visit [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency) and submit a form online, or call Pinellas County Emergency Management at 727-464-3800. Arrangements will be made through the Emergency Management procedures to aid people who need help evacuating. Because the Tampa Bay Region could require as long as 26 hours to evacuate, be prepared ahead of time. If possible, building contents should be moved to highest levels.

Being aware of what steps to take to minimize your loss prior to a flood is the first step to safety.

1. Tune into radio or television for flood warnings.
2. Heed warnings from officials; evacuate when orders are given, turn off electric and gas.
3. Have an evacuation and shelter route.
4. Have a small bag with essentials prepared.
5. Be cautious at night.
6. Have battery operated flashlight and radios in working condition and extra batteries.

Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover losses due to flooding. Indian Shores participates in the National Flood Insurance Program which makes flood insurance available to everyone in the town. For most, a home and its contents are their greatest investment. We strongly urge you to buy flood insurance to protect yourself from a devastating loss. Keep in mind that there is a thirty day waiting period before coverage goes into effect.

Information about flood policies is available from your insurance agent. Property owners can insure their buildings and contents and renters can insure their possessions. Just because you have not been flooded in the past does not mean you will not be flooded in the future. It's not a question of "if" our area will be hit by a hurricane, but "when." Call your insurance agent now so that you will be fully prepared for future events. Do not wait for a disaster to devastate your family.

Moving outdoor furniture and relocating downstairs furniture to higher floors will minimize loss. Sandbags can be placed to help slow down flood waters reaching your possessions. Retrofitting, grading a yard and correcting drainage problems are ways to minimize loss prior to floods occurring. Retrofitting involves building flood walls, elevating a structure, etc.

All development (new construction, repair/replacement work, additions, fences, etc.) requires a permit. If you see any non-permitted work or need additional information please contact Indian Shores Building Department (727) 517-3940.

New buildings in the SFHA must be protected from flood damage. Our building code requires that new residential buildings must be elevated 3' above the base flood elevation. The ordinance also requires that all substantial improvements to a building must be treated as a new building. A substantial improvement is when the value of an addition, alteration, repair, or reconstruction project exceeds 50% of the value of the existing building. In the case of an addition, only the addition must be protected. In the case of an improvement to the original building, the entire building must be protected. Additionally, substantially damaged buildings must also be brought up to the same standards e.g., a residence damaged so that the cost of repairs equals or exceeds 50% of the building's value before it was damaged must be elevated 3' above the base flood elevation.

FEMA provides flood mitigation assistance funds to assist states and communities implement measures to reduce or eliminate the long term risk of flood damage under the NFIP. Information is available at [www.FEMA.gov](http://www.FEMA.gov) or at Indian Shores Building Department.

The Town has a system of drainage channels and ditches for stormwater management purposes. They are inspected twice a year by our public service department. These ditches are of vital importance since the water flowing through them drains our streets. State Law prohibits dumping in these waterways. Violations should be reported to Indian Shores Building Department at 727-517-3940.

Should you be interested in obtaining flood zone information or further information on any of the above subjects, please contact the Indian Shores Building Department at 727-517-3940. In addition, the Town Library located at 19305 Gulf Blvd provides flood protection information and maintains copies of the Indian Shores Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM).

Also, available at the Building Department and on the Town website at "<http://www.myindianshores.com> are copies of FEMA elevation certificates on all buildings constructed in the SFHA since 1986. In addition to the elevation certificates, we also provide a mapping service for a specific property within Indian Shores. This form is available on our website under "Flood Information" and then "Services provided" or call the Building Department at 727-517-3940.

Important Phone Numbers: Pinellas County Citizen Information 727-464-4333, Pinellas County Emergency Mgmt 727-543-3150, Pinellas Hurricane Hotline 727-462-0500, FEMA 1-800-621-3362, Progress Energy - Power Outage 1-800-228-8485, Pinellas County Highway 727-464-8900, Pinellas County Utilities 727-464-4000, Weather Center 813-645-2323, Price Gouging 1-866-966-7226, Pinellas County Animal Services 727-582-2600, Pre/post disaster resources 211, Red Cross North 727-446-2358, Red Cross South 727-898-3111.

*CRS 3/2010 Newsletter*

### MANDATORY PURCHASE OF FLOOD INSURANCE

NFIP: This community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The NFIP makes federally backed flood insurance available for all buildings, whether they are in a floodplain or not. Flood insurance covers direct losses caused by surface flooding, including a river flowing over its banks, a lake or ocean storm, and local drainage problems.

The NFIP insures buildings, including mobile homes, with two types of coverage: structural and contents. Structural coverage is for the walls, floors, insulation, furnace, and other items permanently attached to the structure. Contents coverage may be purchased separately provided the contents are in an insurable building.

Mandatory Purchase Requirement: The mandatory purchase requirement applies to all forms of federal or federally related financial assistance for buildings located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). This requirement affects loans and grants for the purchase, construction, repair, or improvement of any publicly or privately owned building in the SFHA, including machinery, equipment, fixtures, and furnishings contained in such buildings.

Financial assistance programs affected include loans and grants from agencies such as the Department of Veterans Affairs, Farmers Home Administration, Federal Housing Administration, Small Business Administration, and Federal Emergency Management Agency. The requirement also applies to secured mortgage loans from financial institutions, such as commercial lenders, savings and loan associations, savings banks, and credit unions that are regulated, supervised or insured by Federal agencies such as the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Office of Thrift Supervision. It also applies to all mortgage loans purchased by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac in the secondary mortgage market.

How it Works: Before a person can receive a loan or other financial assistance from one of the affected agencies or lenders, there must be a check to see if the building is in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). The SFHA is the base (100-year) floodplain mapped on a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). It is shown as one or more zones that begin with the letter "A" or "V."

Copies of the FIRM are available for review in most local government building or planning departments. Many lenders and insurance agents also have copies. It is the agency's or the lender's responsibility to check the FIRM to determine if the building is in an SFHA, although many communities provide assistance.

If the building is in a SFHA, the agency or lender is required by law to require the recipient to purchase a flood insurance policy on the building. The requirement is for structural coverage equal to the amount of the loan (or other financial assistance) or the maximum amount available, whichever is less. The maximum amount available for a single-family house is \$250,000.

The mandatory purchase requirement does not affect loans or financial assistance for items that are not covered by a flood insurance policy, such as vehicles, business expenses, landscaping, and vacant lots. It does not affect loans for buildings that are not in the SFHA, even though a portion of the lot may be floodprone. While not mandated by law, a lender may require a flood insurance policy as a condition of a loan for a property in any zone on a Flood Insurance Rate Map.

### INDIAN SHORES DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

The Town of Indian Shores is a barrier island of the Coast of Pinellas County that has been particularly concerned with drainage problems. The entire Town lies within the 100 year flood zone. Causes contributing to flooding include stormwater runoff created by an inadequate storm sewer system and low ground elevations result in salt water flooding from high tides backing up through the storm sewer system, especially in the Gulf View Cabin Villas area of Town.

Responding to drainage problems is only one facet of the Town's efforts. It has a proactive public information program and enforces strict construction regulations. It has a public information program strategy that also qualifies for Community Rating System (CRS) credit.

The Town has implemented the following activities to help alleviate potential flooding:

- A. By adopting by ordinance the Town's "Flood Protection" Ordinance the Town came into line with the town's Comprehensive Plan's Coastal and Conservation Element.
- B. The Town of Indian Shores has participated with Pinellas County in a beach nourishment program which essentially extended the Gulf beaches from approximately 25'-0" at the Coastal Construction Line to +/- 200'-0" thus, creating a tidal surge buffer.
- C. The Town's zoning Ordinance was amended to reduce densities in conformance to the Town's Future Land Uses.
- D. The Town regularly publishes information concerning FEMA requirements, etc., in its quarterly newsletter, which is mailed to all property owners and citizens of the community.
- E. All property owners within the repetitive loss area have been notified that the Indian Shores library has a series of publications which provide information on various approaches to reduce flood damage.

[DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE \(SOP\)](#)

1. Objective:

This SOP specifies responsibilities and procedures for inspecting and cleaning the streams, ditches, storm sewers, and storage basins in the Town of Indian Shores

2. Responsibilities:

A. The Public Service Supervisor is responsible for the administration of this SOP. He shall inspect the streams, ditches, storm sewers, and storage basins and ensure that they are cleaned in accordance with this SOP.

B. The Building Official is responsible for enforcing Sec. 86-122, Violations and Penalties, of the Town's municipal code and related regulations on dumping or depositing material in the drainage system. The Building Official is also responsible for serving violation notices to private property owners.

C. All work on county and state property shall be coordinated with the appropriate county offices.

D. Private property owners are responsible for maintaining the streams, ditches, storm sewer inlets, and retention basins on their properties.

3. Jurisdiction:

This SOP covers public and private surface drainage facilities

4. Identification of Problems:

A. The Supervisor of Public Service or his designee shall inspect all the watercourses, sewers and basins twice a year. One inspection will be run before the spring rainy season. The other will be conducted during the middle of the summer storm season. An Engineer Consultant for the Town of Indian Shores will conduct the required annual inspections for SWFWMD permits.

B. Inspections shall consist of walking the length of the Town of Indian Shores a visual check through all culverts. Inspections of detention basins shall include a check of each inlet and outlet.

C. The Supervisor of Public Service or his designee shall complete the Drainage Inspection Report after each inspection. A copy of the report shall be kept in the Stormwater file.

D. The Supervisor of Public Service or his designee shall inspect all complaints submitted by property owner, or other offices. Such complaints and the subsequent action taken by the Town shall be recorded on a Complaint/Inquiry Form. The Supervisor of Public Service shall ensure that an inspection is conducted and the findings provided to the person submitting the complaint within one week.

E. If a problem is found, a Complaint/Inquiry Form shall be completed and forwarded to the appropriate person. The Complaint/Inquiry Forms shall be recorded and maintained in accordance with the Town's Complaint Procedures. If the problem is on private property, a letter shall also be sent to the owner.

5. Maintenance:

- a. There are four types of maintenance problems:

- 1) Trash: human-made objects, such as garbage, shopping carts, tires, lumber, furniture, and appliances. Animal carcasses are also included as trash.
- 2) Minor problem: vegetation growth, tree limbs, and other "naturally" occurring debris. Sedimentation in a retention basin is also included.
- 3) Obstruction: fallen tree, culvert damage, large appliance, etc., that, by itself, obstructs the flow of the ditch, inlet or outlet.
- 4) Structural project: bridge or culvert replacement, bank stabilization, dredging, or other major project.

*b. Maintenance duties:*

- 1) On public property: The Supervisor of Public Service shall ensure that trash and minor problems are removed at the next convenient time. Obstructions shall be removed within two working days of being reported.
- 2) Indian Shores Nature Park is kept in a condition approximating its natural state. Trash and obstructions shall be removed, but natural growth shall not be cut.
- 3) On County or State property: Trash, minor problems, and obstructions shall be reported to the appropriate office by the Supervisor of Public Works. If the County or State does not remove the problem within seven days, it shall be treated as a problem on private property.
- 4) Structural projects require budget approval by the Town Council and, sometimes, a separate permit from the Department of Environmental Protection Office or SWWMD is necessary, a drainage maintenance easement shall be obtained from all affected property owners. Structural projects shall be advertised for bid and scheduled in the same manner as other contracted Public Service projects.
- 5) Upon completion of a maintenance project, the responsible person shall complete the Complaint/Inquiry Form and provide it to the Building Department Permit Clerk for filing.

*c. Maintenance on private property:*

- 1) Property owners are responsible for maintaining the streams, ditches, swales, storm sewer inlets, and retention basins on their properties.
- 2) The Town shall publicize the need for maintenance of drainage facilities and encourage residents to correct or report problems before the next storm causes damage.
- 3) The Supervisor of Public Service shall inspect all drainage facilities listed in Section 3 from streets or other public property or via access on dedicated easements in accordance with the inspection schedule in Section 4. The Supervisor shall inspect all other drainage problems on private property only in response to complaints.
- 4) Trash, minor problems, and obstructions shall be reported to the owner by the Chief of Police.
- 5) If the owner does not remove the problem within ten days, the Town shall assume responsibility for the problem. If the problem is large enough to cause flooding of another property, the Supervisor shall enter the property and remove the problem in accordance with Florida Statutes, Chapter 162.
- 6) If the problem does not cause an immediate hazard, the Town Attorney may take action to have the owner remove the problem or pay for the maintenance work performed by the Town. **Activity 540**

**SOME FLOOD PROTECTION TECHNIQUES TO CONSIDER.**

**Preventing Backflow**

**Using Valves, Plugs, Caps, and Seepage Barriers in Flood Protection**

When there is more water outside than inside a floodwall, levee, or building, water continually tries to get inside. Obvious paths of intrusion are sewer drains for the bathtub and toilet and drainage tubes in floodwalls and levees. Floor drains in some areas of buildings also could provide such a path.

Any drain with its inside opening below flood level must be blocked. The drains may not be obvious -- such as air-conditioning condensate drains -- so look carefully.

## Seepage

The solution to seepage problems is to block underground flow with a barrier that increases the distance water must travel through the ground to get past your barrier.

Most Louisiana soils have more than 30 percent clay content, so seepage is not a significant problem for floods shorter than two days; however, if the soil was imported for construction of the building, the rate of seepage should be determined. This is done using the percolation test commonly used to determine whether a septic system will drain properly.

### Tips

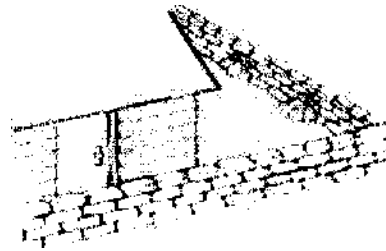
- Prevent sewage back-flow with a valve installed in the main sewer line.
- For back-flow protection without human intervention, use a flap valve. Back it up with a positively sealing ball valve, gate valve or plug. More elaborate valve systems are available.
- Caps or plugs may be used instead of valves on exposed storm drains to prevent back-flow. Flow is blocked in both directions.
- On open-ended drain tubes, keep valve gaskets, cap seats and threads clean so they will function properly. Know where removable caps are kept.
- In an emergency, prevent sewer back-flow by stuffing a plastic bag full of rags into the sewer pipe at the clean-out.
- Never use pumps and barriers to create a water-level difference of more than 3 feet without proper design by a competent professional.

## Sandbag Barriers

### Short Sandbag Walls

For walls four bags high or less, a simple vertical stack can work. Bolster the wall on the dry side every 5 feet with a cluster of bags or by providing other support. You may use the building to support a short vertical stack.

Vertical stacks are used to block doorways also.



Caulking weep holes on brick veneer buildings can slow the passage of water into a building, but water will pass through the brick itself unless it has been sealed or the building has been wrapped. Blocking doors and weep holes is not a reliable flood protection method.

### Sandbag Levees

Where you need protection from water deeper than 2 feet, the stack of sandbags should look more like a levee.

To incorporate 6-mil plastic sheeting into the stack, first lay the sheet along the ground where the outside edge of the sandbag levee will be. It should be 6 mils or heavier, and three times as wide as the intended height of the levee. As you add bags, bring the sheeting up between them in stair-step fashion.

You can add plastic sheeting to the face of a sandbag levee instead of weaving it

between the bags (see diagram). In either case, don't stretch the plastic; it should

be slack wherever it isn't completely supported by the bags.

Add height to the levee by adding bags to the inside and crown. A bonding trench will

help prevent the levee from sliding.



When blocking an opening, the plastic sheeting should overlap the permanent structure at least 2 feet on each end. Continue the sandbagging a couple of feet beyond the opening in front of a permanent wall or levee to get a good seal.

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## TOWN OF INDIAN SHORES

Full Cost Accounting for Solid Waste Management for the period from October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009 as required by Section 403.7049 of the Florida Statutes and Rule 17.708 of the Florida Administrative Code.

	RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS	COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS
Monthly Cost of Solid Waste Collection	\$ 3.96	\$ 82.64
Monthly Cost of Solid Waste Disposal	\$10.40	\$ 59.59
Total Monthly Solid Waste Management Cost Per Account	\$14.36	\$142.23

The cost information is based upon a monthly average per account including all service types provided. Actual costs for a given account may have been different than the overall averages due to the actual type of service provided to that individual account.

NOTICE: There will be no Easter Egg Hunt this year due to the scheduled commencement of construction of the new Municipal Center.



Town of Indian Shores  
19305 Gulf Boulevard  
Indian Shores, FL 33785

