

TOWN OF INDIAN SHORES WINTER 2008 - NEWSLETTER



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

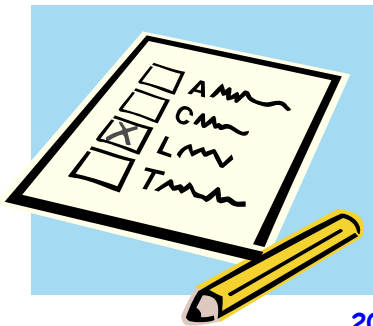
Deadline to Qualify as a Candidate for March Election, is Friday, 12 December 2008 at Noon
Florida Gulf Beaches Halfathon Race, Sunday, 14 December 2008

Christmas Boat Parade, Sunday, 14 December 2008, 6 pm to 9 pm (Rain date: 12/19/08)

Town Hall closed at Noon, 24 December thru 26 December and at Noon, 31 December thru 2 January 2009

Municipal Election, 10 March 2009, for Mayor's position. Polls open 7 am to 7 pm

Deadline to Qualify for the Municipal Election on 10 March 2009.



A Municipal Election will be held on **Tuesday, 10 March 2009** to fill the Mayor's position for a three (3) year term. Voter Registration books, for the registration of voters eligible to vote in the election, will be closed as of **5:00 P.M., Monday, 9 February 2009**. Voters can register at the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections office or mail in a registration form; however, the form must be received by the election office 29 days prior to the election date. To qualify as a Candidate, a person must file with the Town's Supervisor of Elections not earlier than Noon on Friday, 5 December

2008, the first Friday of December prior to the scheduled date of the election, nor later than Noon on Friday, 12 December, 2008, the second Friday of December prior to the scheduled date of the election in which he/she desires to become a candidate, all appropriate forms consisting of the following: (1) Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates. (After submission of this form an election packet will be provided.) (2) Financial Disclosure. (3) Loyalty Oath. A tentative total number of thirty-seven (37) Candidate Petition Cards are required to be submitted for the 2009 election. Each petition form must be signed by only one qualified elector. Candidate Petition Cards are equal to three (3) percent of the Town's registered electors. Each person seeking to qualify for election to a municipal office shall pay a filing fee of **\$25.00** by check written from the Candidate's Campaign account and payable to the Town of Indian Shores General Fund. In addition, all candidates for municipal office must pay an election assessment of 1.5 % of the annual salary of the office sought when qualifying for office, which is \$162.00.

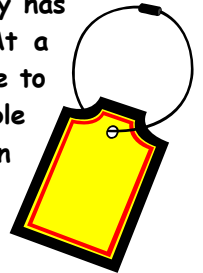
From the Mayor's Chair - by Mayor Jim Lawrence

Hurricane Season: As this hurricane season comes to a close, we are, once again, very grateful that we were spared the wrath of a major storm against our beautiful Barrier Island. However, these fortunate periods of relatively benign hurricane threats and the upcoming non-threatening months should not lead to a sense of complacency, rather they should be time spent preparing for the next season when our fortunes may not be so bright. The Town has been busy preparing for storm activity this year and next 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 implementing a 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, 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. We have also negotiated layered debris removal contracts that should hasten our return to normal operations after a big one hits. Citizens should also refine their personal plans during this quiet period. 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, 2009 we will plan to have our third 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 Chief of Police, E.D. Williams. Stay safe and don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions on Disaster Preparation.

Beach Identification Tags: Lorraine Tatlock, a full time resident at 700 West, approached me with an idea on how to make our beaches a safer place for residents and visitors. Her idea is to make available Beach Identification Tags that one would take with them when they go out to enjoy the beach and on the ID tag could be their name, an emergency contact number and any special medical conditions. Lorraine cited three incidents she was familiar with where some form of identification could have greatly aided an injured or unconscious person while they were enjoying the beach. I, probably like you, visit the beach often and rarely if ever, have my wallet with me when I do so. Should an accident or illness occur, from the ID Tag first responders would know who to notify and their knowledge of your medical condition could save your life. I had hoped to find a commercial sponsor to fund this program, but so far our struggling economy has limited the discretionary funds local businesses have for advertisement and public service. At a recent Town Council Workshop, we decided to try this program with a minimum quantity purchase to see if the idea takes off. The details need to be worked out, but we envision residents being able to pick up the ID tag at Town Hall and we will make available to the property managers in Town ID tags that they could issue with the unit keys and collect at departure for reuse. We will provide more details as we work out the bugs and find the most efficient manner of handling distribution. More to come.



Light Pole Banners: Our new Mongoose light poles have the capability of supporting decorative banners. Our first use of this capability will be with a series of three different Holiday Banner decorations that will be ready for installation in early December. The unique and attractive designs were created by our own front-office part time administrative worker Clystene Wilson. The 60 banners will be mounted on every other pole and the light generated by the street lamps should adequately illuminate them for night time enjoyment. The best part of the story is that the banners cost us about 50% of what we were paying a contractor for our former annual holiday pole decorations and these should last at least a few years before needing replacement. We are also in the process of procuring decorative banners commemorating our Town's 60th Anniversary which will be placed at the Park Blvd. gateway, the north Town boundary and in front of Town Hall.

The Ad Hoc Beautification Committee - by Vice Mayor Joan Herndon

The Ad Hoc Beautification Committee has been working on the following two items:

- (1) The need to upgrade our bus stops to a "New Look" for our conversion to a more attractive Gulf Boulevard corridor. The Committee selected a powder white coating for our seven shelters in order to blend with our white power poles. The new shelters will have gabled roofs and we will add a heavy gauge aluminum panel riveted to the front of the bus stop saying "Town of Indian Shores" with some basic blocks of color depicting something like water, the sun, etc. Our thanks go to Wes Westphal for the computer-generated composites of the vision we have for our new bus shelters.

- (2) The Committee is also recommending new mail boxes and has recommended white as the standard for mailboxes throughout the Town. Please consider replacing your existing mail box in order to promote uniformity as we move into the next phase of the Gulf Boulevard Beautification Project. The model that has been selected is the Rubbermaid Classic 1 mailbox and post available at Home Depot for about \$50. For more information, contact Bonnie Dhonau at 727.595.4020, extension 25 or bdhonau@myindianshores.com.

Members of the Ad Hoc Beautification Committee who were appointed by Council are:

Vice Mayor Joan Herndon
Councilor Carole Irelan
Art Newsome
Lindsey Noble
Wes Westphal
Marcie Smith
Ed Fernandez



Holiday Ballroom Dance Party a Big Success!



On Saturday, November 22nd, we held our first Ballroom Dance Party in the Town Hall Auditorium, sponsored by the Indian Shores Recreation Department. More than eighty ballroom dance enthusiasts came out, dressed to impress in their holiday best, ready to dance to the big band music of the 40's and 50's. Professional dance instructor Carol Baker gave a short lesson in Nightclub Slow, and donated the night's door prizes. Guests partook of refreshments supplied by the Town, and danced to the music presented by Mel, the "Dancing DJ" from AudioStarDJs.com. A Rumba and Cha Cha dance exhibition was performed by some talented dancers. More dances are planned for the near future. Mark you calendars for the last Saturdays in January, February and March and watch our community bulletin board and outdoor sign for more information.

Recreation Committee Open to New Ideas The Town is proud of its Recreation Committee and its effort to provide leisure activities for citizens and visitors. If you see a need for an activity which we have not yet provided, please call one of the members of the Committee: Vice Mayor Joan Herndon, 596-0316, or Steve Sutch, 595-4149, or Carole Irelan, 593-1525. See the "What's Happening" article in this newsletter for a list of the current activities provided by the Town.

Our Fire District: The Good, The Bad and the Ugly - by Councilor Bill Smith

Our Fire District, the Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District (PSFRD) is back in the news again. And there's good, bad and ugly news to report.

First the Good:

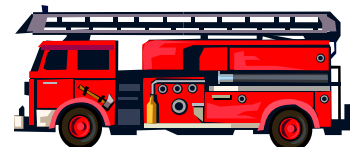
A year ago PSFRD negotiated with Pinellas County a very favorable contract to provide EMS services to the citizens in its district, which consists of Indian Shores, Indian Rocks Beach, Belleair Shore, Belleair Beach and the Oakhurst area on the mainland near the City of Seminole. The additional \$400,000+ in annual income meant that the days of fire fees subsidizing EMS operations were over.

In January 2008, the District passed a resolution to begin assessing the District's fire fee on properties that are exempt from property taxes. The District asserted that because its fire fees are "Non-Ad Valorem assessments", the District had the authority to collect their fees on tax exempt properties. The first fees would first appear on the November 2008 bills from the Pinellas County tax collector

In March 2008, after several "no" votes, voters in the fire district finally approved PSFRD's long-sought \$75 fire fee increase.

Now the Bad:

Finding its EMS Ad Valorem revenue declining, the County revealed a plan to discontinue PSFRD's services to the Seminole area, contracting instead with the Seminole Fire District--and thereby eliminating \$400,000+ from its annual payments to PSFRD. Good-bye to the additional revenue awarded by the new EMS contract.



And just a few weeks ago it was revealed that the fire fees on tax-exempt property were not what the fire district commissioners intended. Bills from the Pinellas tax collector revealed, the "devil in the details:" fire fees on condominium common elements that varied from city-to-city and from condo-to-condo, bills with obsolete mailing addresses that weren't getting to the intended recipient, and fee surprises that undermined the goodwill the District had established in the last few years. The situation prompted PSFRD commission chairman John Todia to introduce a resolution to rescind the newly imposed fire fees. Good-bye to the additional revenue from fire fees on Ad Valorem exempt properties.

[And now the Ugly:](#)

The County Commission is working to change PSFRD's district boundaries, eliminating the mainland portion of the district—a move that would result in a loss of half of the District's fire fee revenue. Such a change would devastate PSFRD, resulting either in massive staff reductions and fee increases—or the dissolution of the PSFRD altogether.

[What a mess!](#)

So now PSFRD is pursuing its own proposal for boundary changes. Their idea is to expand their boundaries on the barrier islands to offset the loss of the Seminole area.

We in Indian Shores, along with the District's other cities--Indian Rocks Beach, Belleair Beach and Belleair Shore—have dogs in this hunt. We are at risk for less fire and rescue service, and/or higher cost.

PSFRD is reaching out to the barrier island cities in its District—and we need to listen and understand what's at stake for the citizens of Indian Shores and our neighboring cities.

[Sign Ordinance - by Council Member Steve Sutch](#)

The second and final reading of the revised Town's ordinances regarding signage was approved on November 12, 2008, and became effective immediately. You can read these newly implemented ordinances by visiting the Town's website. We plan to provide these ordinances to all the large realtors so that they are aware of the types of signs permissible and the duration a sign may be displayed. Additionally, the ordinance spells out the types of signs, (style and size) that may be used to advertise construction worksites and pertinent information regarding that site. Now that Gulf Blvd. is partially finished it will be easier for the Building Official to monitor signs for compliance.

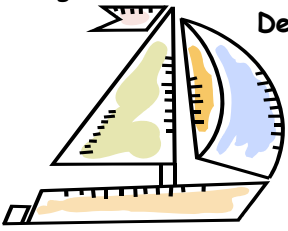
[Fall Coastal Cleanup - by Councilor Carole Irelan](#)

The fall coastal cleanup held on Saturday, October 18th was a success. There was a great turn out with 70 volunteers and most of them were from three area schools. We were able to get the entire length of the beach and Gulf Blvd. from town hall to Tiki Park cleaned. The volunteers collected about 550 lbs. of trash in about 2 hours. Jim Lawrence & I had a good time and know they children did too. They enjoyed the donuts, orange juice, t-shirts and especially the beads donated by Alice Lawrence. I wish to thank everyone for their hard work & Sunshine Bakery for the donuts they donated.



Christmas Boat Parade and Holiday Party

It's that time of the year again and the boat parade is right around the corner. It will be held on Sunday December 14th. The "rain" date is the following Friday, December 19th. It begins at 6 pm at the Tom Stuart Causeway in Madeira Beach and will



head north through the Intracoastal Waterways in the Redingtons and Indian Shores. Over \$4,000 in cash prizes will be awarded, with the parade culminating at the Pub Restaurant in Indian Shores around 9 pm. Festivities will begin at 7:30 pm at the town hall pavilion. Refreshments again will be provided by Salt Rock Grill. We thank them so much for their help with this holiday celebration. Don't forget to bring your lawn chairs and blankets for comfortable viewing. What a wonderful way to start the season, I hope to see you there!

Anyone wishing to participate in the Boat Parade may get an application at the Indian Shores or Redington Shores Town Halls. Email us at indshore@myindianshores.com or call 397-5538 for more information. Rain date for the parade is December 19th.

Women's Club Schedule - by Mary Sutch, President, (727) 595-4149



The Women's Club meets the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM at Town Hall Auditorium.

Upcoming events are: White Elephant Garage Sale - Fund raiser Feb. 14th @ 9:00 AM; Fashion Show and Luncheon - March 14th at Salt Rock Grill @ 11:30 AM. Fashions by Inspirational Elegance.

Indian Shores Library - by Dotty Strahlendorf, Chairperson

The Library will be hosting a **Read & Feed**, a get-together featuring a book for discussion and food inspired by the book. The **Read & Feed** is open to all library members, with a small fee to cover costs. The committee will be meeting soon to select the featured book and menu, with the event tentatively set for February. Come by the library for more information. If you'd like to help out with the planning and execution, please contact Alice Lawrence at 595.2173 or email her at pipers@tampabay.rr.com.



In addition, we will be having a book sale at the Women's Club White Elephant Sale, scheduled for February 14, 2009. Anyone wishing to donate books to the library may do so prior to that date.

Indian Shores Property Owners Association - by Art Newsome, President



On behalf of the Indian Shores Property Owners Association, I would like to say "hi" to all of our year around residents and extend a warm "welcome back to the sunny skies and sandy beaches" to our returning snowbirds. I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage each and every one of you to become an ISPOA member and attend our monthly meetings to express your ideas and concerns regarding your community. We meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5:00 P.M. at Town Hall. The next meeting is December 17th--hope to see you there!



WHAT'S HAPPENING

at the Indian Shores Town Hall



Internet Access:

Available at the [Town Hall](#), (not in the library). You will need to purchase a \$5 annual library membership card to use the computers. Reserve your $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. time period [Monday thru Friday](#) between 8:30 am and 3 pm., by signing up in the Town Hall lobby.

Bridge Lessons:

Starting January 5, 2009 and continuing every [Monday](#) until March 30, 2009, join Instructor Barbara Smith for Bridge lessons in the Auditorium. Beginners meet from [11:00 am to 1:00 pm](#). Intermediate players meet from [1:00 pm to 3:30 pm](#). The lessons are free and no partner is necessary. For more information, call Barbara at 392-2704.

Library Hours:

Open [Mondays & Thursdays](#), 1 - 4 pm, and [Saturdays](#) 10 am - 1 pm, 595-4020 x 23. Entrance is on the north side of the Town Hall Building under the [green canopy](#). Membership is only \$5 per year.

Yoga Class:

Meets on [Tuesdays & Thursdays](#) at 9 am in the Auditorium. Call Tom Meagher at 365.4901. Cost is \$6 per class.

Senior Exercise:

Meets [Tuesdays & Fridays](#) @ 11 am in the Auditorium. Call instructors Cindy Brauer at 430.2756 or Sheryl King at 481.4950 for more information. Cost is \$5 per class.

Council Meeting:

Meets [2nd Tuesday](#) of each month @ 7 pm in the Auditorium.

ACBL Duplicate Bridge: Meets [Wednesdays](#), 12:30 - 3:30 pm, in the Auditorium, directed by Nora Harvey, 733.7138. \$5 per game, includes snacks. Come alone or bring a partner. We guarantee you will have a partner.

Ballroom Dance Lessons: Meets [Wednesdays](#), 7:30 - 8:30 pm in the Auditorium. Learn one of many ballroom dances - Swing, Cha Cha, Waltz, Foxtrot, Hustle, etc! Stay and practice until 9 pm. Lessons conducted by Carol Baker, 374.3881. Cost is \$8 per person per class. Partners preferred but not necessary.

Tai Chi Class:

Meets [Thursdays @ 10:30 am](#) in the Auditorium. Call Deb Marzani @ 397.2826 for more information. Cost is \$2 per class donation to the Taoist Tai Chi Society.

Saving on Flood Insurance



Information About the NFIP's Grandfathering Rule

Flood risks can change over time, altering floodplain boundaries. Changes in the status of dams or levees, surface erosion, land use and development can all change the size and shape of a floodplain.

FEMA is currently updating and modernizing the nation's flood maps. The new maps will reflect recent changes to floodplains and flood risks, and will drive changes in flood insurance requirements for some property owners.

FLOOD MAPS AND FLOOD INSURANCE

Flood maps, also known as Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), show the high-risk areas where there is at least a one-percent-annual-chance of flooding. In these areas, also known as Special Flood Hazard Areas, flood insurance is required for mortgages from a federally regulated lender. The maps also show the low- or moderate-risk areas where flood insurance is optional but recommended.

When risk designations change, flood insurance rates will change as well. However, property owners may be able to take advantage of certain cost saving options available through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Owners of properties that move from a high-risk zone to a low- or moderate-risk zone may be eligible for reduced insurance rates by converting to a Preferred Risk Policy (PRP). A PRP covers both a structure and its contents, and offers substantial savings. A PRP can be obtained for as little as \$112 a year.

There are also ways for owners of some structures moving into high-risk zones to save. Existing policyholders may be able to use the rate charged for the lower-risk zone through a process known as grandfathering.

GRANDFATHERING OFFERS SAVINGS

The NFIP's grandfathering provision offers savings for structures that were built before a flood map was issued for the community, or that were built in compliance with the flood map in effect at the time of construction. The simplest way to grandfather is to purchase a flood insurance policy before the new map takes effect and maintain coverage without a lapse.

If a structure was built in compliance with the requirements in place at the time of construction, the zone and Base Flood Elevation (BFE)* that was in effect can be used for rating purposes, if either is affected due to a map change. Sometimes using the new zone can provide a better rate than using the older one, so property owner should always ask their agent to look at both options.

LEVEES AND FLOOD INSURANCE

FEMA urges *all* people living behind levees to purchase and maintain flood insurance coverage, whether it is required or not. The fact is, levees can and do decay over time if not properly maintained. They can also fail, or be overtopped by flood events larger than those which they were built to protect against.

FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers are working to identify risks associated with the nation's levees. If a levee is found to be deficient or unsafe, structures located behind it will be mapped into high-risk areas and flood insurance will be required for most mortgage holders. Property owners can contact their insurance agents for more information.

*BFE is the level flood waters have a 1% chance of reaching any given year

HOW GRANDFATHERING WORKS

If a policy is obtained before a new map becomes effective, policyholders can retain the rate associated with the previous map's flood zone and BFE, as long as continuous coverage has been maintained. For structures built after a FIRM was issued, insurance costs will be based on the zone designation and BFE for the map in effect at the time the structure was built (unless the new map offers a lower rate). However, policyholders must submit supporting documentation to their insurer that shows the structure was built to conform to standards on the earlier map. Continuous coverage is not required in this case. If a structure was built before the community's first FIRM was issued and the policy was not purchased prior to the effective date of a new map, policyholders can still save, but policy costs will be defined by pre-FIRM rates associated with their zone designation on the new map.

MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE

Property owners should be fully aware of their flood risk and the current status of flood maps in their community. They can contact their local floodplain management officials to learn the status of local flood maps, or can obtain a copy of the current map at www.msc.fema.gov. Home and business owners who do not have flood insurance should contact their insurance agent to find out more about obtaining flood insurance or visit the FloodSmart web site www.FloodSmart.gov.

The chart below provides details on specific map situations, and how the grandfathering rule can apply.

IF THE NEW MAP SHOWS YOUR STRUCTURE IN...	...THESE FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS APPLY...	...AND THESE COST SAVING OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE.
Zones A, AE, A1-30, AH, AO, V, VE, V1-30 These zones designate high-risk zones known as Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs).	Flood insurance is mandatory for structures with mortgages from a federally regulated lender, and is strongly recommended for all structures.	If the effective map shows the structure as outside the SFHA, it may be eligible to be grandfathered in at the current zone's rate.**
Zones B,C, X, shaded X These zones designate a low- to moderate-risk area.	Flood insurance is not required, but is recommended.	If the current map shows the structure in a SFHA, low-cost Preferred Risk Policies (PRP) may be available when the new map becomes effective. Standard insurance rates here are also lower than in SFHAs.
Zone AR An area where a levee or similar structure is determined to no longer provide sufficient flood protection, but is in the process of being restored.	Flood insurance is mandatory for structures with mortgages from a federally regulated lender, and is strongly recommended for all structures.	The levee is being restored to provide sufficient flood protection, and a rate similar to an X-zone rate may be available. If the current map shows the structure as outside the SFHA, it may be eligible to be grandfathered in at the current zone's rate.**
Zone A99 An area where a Federal flood protective structure is under construction to provide the necessary flood protection standard.	Flood insurance is mandatory for structures with mortgages from a federally regulated lender, and is strongly recommended for all structures.	The levee is being restored to provide sufficient flood protection, and a rate similar to an X-zone rate is available. If the current map shows the structure as outside the SFHA, it may be eligible to be grandfathered in at the current zone's rate.**

** The structure may be eligible for a PRP policy; however, it must be converted to a standard X zone-rated policy when the PRP renews for the first time after the new map takes effect