

TOWN OF INDIAN SHORES

MARCH 2011 - NEWSLETTER



Mark your calendars!

Women's Club Luncheon & Fashion Show: Saturday, March 12, 2011 at 11:30 am
Spring Coastal Cleanup: Saturday, March 19, 2011 at 8 am.
Community Garden "Spade in the Ground", September 30, 2011.

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK: by Mayor Jim Lawrence

Our New Municipal Center: Construction is continuing and we see daily progress, particularly on the building's exterior, as the rear stucco application is complete and the front area is about 50% complete. A structural engineering issue has impeded start on roof construction, which has slowed the interior completion. We believe those issues are behind us and interior progress will accelerate in the near future. A definitive move-in date is somewhat up in the air, however, we know the construction folks will push very hard to meet the construction default date of May 3rd, which starts the construction penalty phase with a daily cost reduction if that deadline is not met.

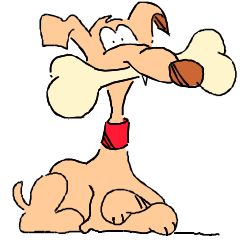


All the ancillary contract negotiations are complete and it was a very involved process getting the details wrapped up, the specifications identified and then the negotiations with individual vendors to find the Town the best deals available. This process has been extremely time consuming and has involved such considerations as telephone systems, internet systems, security systems, furniture purchase, audio-visual requirements, decorating decisions and a myriad of support functions. Additionally, the decision to pay the subcontractors and vendors directly for all the materials used in construction has created a monumental workload for our Financial Director but has saved the Town well over \$100,000 in sales taxes and a lot more to come before construction is complete. I hope you are as proud of your Town staff as I am for their yeoman's effort in making this new facility a reality.

What we can look forward to is 60% more space, vastly improved accommodations for our ever expanding recreations programs, a better and larger Library with expanded services, and an environmentally improved and Category 5 hurricane safe home with expanded parking capability for our residents and visitors to enjoy for many, many years. Truly a structure to be proud of, built during a period which afforded us significant construction savings with reliance on capital improvement funds which are derived from sales tax revenues, not general revenues which are predominately your property tax dollars. We anticipate a big grand opening when the time is right and I will keep you advised when that will occur. If you would like to be added to our periodic email update list, contact me at jlawrence@myindianshores.com

2011 Municipal Elections: My personal congratulations to Town Councilors Carole Irelan and Steve Sutch for their unopposed re-election to our Town Council for three year terms effective March 22, 2011. Our many citizens who have the time and opportunity to observe up close the operations of the Town know the investment in time and effort expected of our elected officials, for rather meager monetary compensation. Few people have the sense of community service necessary to attend the myriad of meetings, study the background material for each meeting and to take on duties and functions that make Indian Shores such a "Great Place To Live". I extend my personal thanks for their willingness to serve and I hope you do the same the next time you encounter these wonderful public servants.

No Pets on the Beach: Our busy season is here, so we are including a reminder for our year round residents and our seasonal folks that dogs are prohibited on the beach and in Indian Shores' parks. The beach access signs remind beach goers of this important message about keeping our beach free of the potential health hazard that pets present on the beach. In an effort to educate our part time visitors and guests who may not always see the beach access sign, we have included a 3-hole punch flyer to keep or include in your guest book for renters at condos. You may request more of these free flyers by calling Town Hall at 595-4020, Ext #0.



Pet Waste Stations: As you all know pet owners are required to pick up after their pets. In an effort to encourage this important habit we have installed 6 pet waste stations throughout Town. Each station includes a decorative post with biodegradable Pet Waste Mitt dispensers, a sign, and a trash receptacle. Pet walks and waste stations are located at the following sites: 191st Ave. and 2nd Street, alongside the Nature Park; on the corner of 192nd Ave and 2nd Street; 193rd Ave. West Beach Access across from Town Hall; the grassy area in front of the Tiki Gardens parking lot at 196th Ave.; 197th Ave. along the fence line by public parking; and the sidewalk area south of La Concha Plaza at 200th Ave.

WHAT'S NEW AND WHAT'S COMING: by Vice Mayor Joan Herndon

Gulf Boulevard Beautification: People are talking about how beautiful our Town is becoming. All town signs are being repainted and new plants have been installed at both the north and south entrances.



Community Garden: We are working on the project! Plans are being formulated to move the cupola from Town Hall to provide a shade area in the middle of the garden. Benches will also be provided. The Town was given a tiller, so bit by bit, we are coming along and plan a "Spade in the Ground" around September 30th.

Recreation Department: We continue to expand and improve our recreational programs at Town Hall. Flyers are available with listing of all classes offered, cost of each session and instructor contact information. There is no need to pre-register for any class. Just show up and have fun!

Wood Boardwalk and Brick Paver Trail: This trail will extend from 192nd to 193rd Ave. East in the Town Square area. It will provide a beautiful nature walk and be another amenity for our enjoyment. Parking will be available at the Nature Park. We hope that construction will be completed by the end of the year.

SPRING CLEAN-UP: by Councilors Steve Sutch and Carole Irelan

The semi-annual Coastal Clean-Up is scheduled for March 19, 2011. That is the 3rd Saturday in March. The hours are from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. Plastic bags and gloves will be provided. Additionally, we will have coffee, doughnuts, orange juice and water available. Hopefully, we will have a large turnout for this important project. Mark your calendar to reserve this date to do your volunteer work.



We are also working with the Parks Commissioner's personnel to find a way to improve the appearances and usefulness of the Tiki parking lot. The Parks Commissioners Department has been undergoing a total reorganization which has delayed progress on this project. We will keep you posted on the Town's web site of any progress being made.

Wishing you all a healthy and safe 2011!

PROTECTING OUR STORM DRAINAGE SYSTEM IN INDIAN SHORES: by Bob Brotherton, Engineering Consultant



The Town of Indian Shores is responsible for regulating any stormwater runoff that enters the Gulf or the Intracoastal Waterway directly from private property, and managing any Stormwater runoff from Municipal owned properties and road rights-of-way that discharge into the Gulf or Intracoastal Waterway. The Town manages its municipal Stormwater system by means of an assortment of storm drain inlets, swales, and several special stormwater treatment devices.

Any runoff to coastal waters from Gulf Boulevard is the responsibility of the Florida Department of Transportation. As a part of the Gulf Boulevard improvements completed in 2009, the Florida Department of Transportation installed a pervious asphalt stormwater drainage system. The pavement covers pedestrian and bike paths alongside the road, is designed to drain stormwater and allow it to percolate through the underlying stone and soil before entering surface waters.

Unfortunately, any soil, silt, sand, or litter than are allowed to rest on these surfaces will hasten the day when the pavement is clogged and is no longer able to percolate. This will result in increased likelihood of ponding of water on Gulf Boulevard and adjacent property in our Town.

In addition, liquid pollutants such as paint thinner, gasoline, dissolved nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizer and solvents will pass right through the pervious pavement and pollute adjacent waters.

You can help by keeping pollutants from being discharged or dumped onto the roadway, or onto adjacent parking areas and land.

- Properly dispose of trash and litter.
- Recycle any liquid pollutants on special days and locations provided by Pinellas County.
- Report any illegal dumping or discharging you see anywhere in our Town to the Town Hall staff.
- If you see eroded soil or sand from a construction site being discharged onto adjacent lands or tracked onto the roads in our Town, report it immediately to the Town Building Official located at Town Hall.
- Insure that any mowing of grass by yourself or your landscape company does not result in blowing grass into any street, drive, or parking lot or over any seawall into the water during the mowing process. All such materials that may accidentally be blown into the street, drive or parking lot must immediately be blown back onto grassed areas. Failure to properly control grass and other litter resulting from mowing of grass or other landscape work is considered an "Illicit Discharge" by Town Ordinance and may result in fines. Grass and litter not only plug up the drainage system, but as the material decays, nitrogen is released back into the drainage system that ends up in the Intracoastal Waterway, resulting in significant pollution.

PRECARIOUS TIMES FOR BEACH RENOURISHMENT: by Councilor Bill Smith, Member of the Board of Directors of the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association (FSBPA)

These are precarious times for our beaches. What's the problem? BUDGETS—especially the Federal budget and the State of Florida budget.

A little background:

1. Beach renourishment projects are jointly financed by three levels of government. In a typical project, Uncle Sam provides 60% of the funds, the State of Florida 20% and the local government—in this case Pinellas County—the other 20%.

2. The Federal government funds, at least for the last 20 years, have not come from the federal budget, but rather from the much-maligned mechanism known as "earmarks". Our wonderful representative, Congressman Bill Young whose home is in Indian Shores, has provided the funds via earmarks. But several months ago the Republicans declared they would no longer sponsor earmarks, and then a few weeks ago, in his State of the Union address, President Obama announced that he would veto any bill that included in earmarks. So earmarks are out.
3. The State of Florida government funds come from a percentage of the documentary stamps revenue such as the doc stamps on real estate transactions. That, plus the fact that several years ago our local State Senator Dennis Jones successfully sponsored a bill to "guarantee" that at least \$30 million of doc stamp revenue would be designated for beach renourishment. Trouble is: because of the bursting of the real estate bubble, the beach renourishment share of doc stamp revenue hasn't approached \$30 million the last few years.
4. The Pinellas County funds are budgeted in the County's Capital Improvement budget. The funds are in place because our County Commissioners fully understand the importance of beaches to our local economy.

So where does funding for beach renourishment projects stand?

1. Federal funding: The Obama administration began budgeting funds for renourishment. This year's budget includes about \$45 million for beach renourishment nationwide. The House of Representatives, during the week of February 14 considered numerous amendments to the Obama budget to reduce it by some \$60 billion. One of those amendments was to prohibit the Army Corps of Engineers from using its budgeted funds for "beach replenishment". Thanks in part to testimony by Congressman Bill Young, the amendment failed—and beach replenishment funding is still in place pending consideration of the budget by the Senate in late February. However, while \$25.6 million is designated for four specific Florida projects, Sand Key, where Indian Shores is located, is not one of them, but there is some hope the Army Corps can find some funds for Sand Key.



2. State funding: Documentary stamp funds for beaches are only \$7 million this year. New Governor Rick Scott's proposed budget includes no beach renourishment funds. At our recent Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association director meeting, FSBPA President Debbie Flack reported she is lobbying hard with Senator Dennis Jones and other friends of the beaches in the state legislature to find sufficient funds to sustain the program. If no funds can be obtained, the budgeted federal funds would be forfeited—and not only would there be no beach renourishment activity in Florida this year, but the entire state Beaches & Coastal Systems staff would be wiped out, destroying the State's beaches talent and experience, and endangering the future existence of the Florida beach renourishment program—a very scary prospect.
3. Locally: A partial Sand Key renourishment, funded from the prior fiscal year is planned to begin this summer. However, because there is less than full funding, only part of Sand Key will be renourished—and Indian Shores is not in that part. The renourishment of Indian Shores and the remainder of Sand Key will very likely not occur until at least 2012—and even then will depend on success in obtaining the federal and state funds discussed above.

There is some good news: our beaches in Indian Shores are not in terrible shape—which is why Indian Shores is not included in the partial renourishment beginning this summer. But it's very important that, no matter what the funding problems may be, a state beach renourishment program be sustained—even if it doesn't bring renourishment to Indian Shores in the coming year.

TOWN HALL SALVAGE FURNITURE: The Town plans on holding a public sale of office furniture for the Town's residents once the move from the present Town Hall has been completed. Furniture will consist of desks, task chairs, files and miscellaneous items.

A specific time cannot be determined at this time; however a tentative timetable would be April or May. The information will be posted on the Town's message board and e-mails will be sent to condos/residents. If you are interested, you may call closer to the time and determination of a date may have been scheduled.

INDIAN SHORES LIBRARY: by Alice Lawrence



The staff of the Indian Shores Library is happily preparing for its move, selling or donating books pulled from their shelves or left by town visitors, while continuing to offer a wide variety of the latest literature. In works are plans for several Read & Feeds. Being considered are *The Art of Racing in the Rain* and *Water for Elephants*. The first would coincide with the Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg in late March. The novel tells of a dog who believes that the challenges of car racing are similar to those encountered in life and techniques learned on the track can solve them. The meal to accompany the book discussion would consist of tailgate party fare. We are also looking at a Read and Feed for *Water for Elephants* in mid-April with the opening of the movie version. The novel of circus life in the 1930s is illustrated by several photographs from the collection of the Ringling Brother Circus Museum in Sarasota and so has a tie to home. Midway food would be a natural choice. Everyone is invited to these events. Fees are small, the discussion is lively, and the food is excellent. If you have an idea for a book discussion, let the library staff know; we're always looking for new ideas.

Volunteers are also always needed and very welcome. Please contact Alice Lawrence at 595-2173 if you'd like to join our happy crew. On that note, we say thanks and farewell to our winter-only volunteers and look forward to their return.

Alice Lawrence, Co-President, Suncoast Sandpipers, <http://suncoastsandpipers.org/>

WOMEN'S CLUB NEWS: by Mary Sutch, President

The Indian Shores Women's Club is sponsoring a Luncheon & Fashion Show on **Saturday, March 12th starting at 11:30 AM** at the Salt Rock Grill. The fashions be by Look's Boutique located at 33-182nd Avenue West, Redington Shores, FL 33708. Donations for the Luncheon and Fashion show are \$25.00 per person. For tickets call:

Peggy Shoulders - 596-0565

Doris Zander - 595-4404

Mary Sutch - 595-4149



will

There will be a Chinese Auction for Great Prizes. Proceeds will go to support our Local Charities.

INDIAN SHORES PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION (ISPOA): by Art Newsome, President



Coming soon . . . *New Indian Shores Municipal Center*. The Indian Shores Property Owners Association together with members of Town Hall will be selling engraved bricks which will be placed around the new flag pole. If you would like to be remembered for posterity's sake, now is your chance to purchase a piece of history. Stay tuned and watch for more information on this exciting program!

Also, it is that time of year and membership fees are due, please make your check payable to the Indian Shores Property Owners Association (ISPOA) in the amount of \$15.00. You can drop your check off at Town Hall or mail it to P.O. Box 434, Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785. Thank you!

THE PERMITTING PROCESS:

You may ask yourself, when is a permit required? A permit is required when:

-Any owner, authorized agent, or contractor who desires to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish, or change the occupancy or occupant content of a building or structure, or any outside area being used as part of the building's designated occupancy (single or mixed) or to erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert or replace any electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system, the installation of which is regulated by the technical codes, or to cause any such work to be done, shall first make application to the building official and obtain the required permit for the work.

In order to apply for a permit, the applicant must submit the following information to the building official:

- copy of valid contractor's license.
- copy of certificate of insurance showing general liability and worker compensation coverage or copy of exemption certificate.
- completed permit application, signed by the license contractor.
- copy of signed contract showing valuation of work to be performed.
- if valuation of work exceeds \$2,500.00, (mechanical work is \$8,000.00) a Notice of Commencement must be recorded with the county and a certified copy must be submitted with permit application.
- copy of drawing and/or plans pertinent to work performed if applicable.

If a homeowner wishes to perform the work themselves, they must have homestead at that location. You are also required to sign an "Owner-Builder Affidavit" form which allows the owner to act as their own contractor even though you do not have a license.

10 Tips for making sure your contractor measures up.

1. Hire only licensed and insured contractors.
2. Check with Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board at <http://pubtitlet.co.pinellas.fl.us/clbsearch/index.jsp> to verify that the contractor you have contacted is licensed and insured. 13 October 2010
3. Get three references, review past work.
4. Get at least three bids.
5. Get a written contract and don't sign anything until you completely understand the terms. Make sure that your contractor gets a building permit.
6. Pay 10% down, or \$1,000, whichever is less.
7. Don't let payments get ahead of work. Keep records of payments.
8. Don't make final payment until you're satisfied with the job and that work performed passed a final inspection by the Building Official.
9. Don't pay cash.
10. Keep a job file of all papers relating to your project.

REPETITIVE LOSS AREA: Environmental Setting

The Town of Indian Shores Repetitive Loss Area (Town Square) is encompassed by Gulf Blvd, Second Street, Park Blvd. and the north property line of the Town Hall.

There are 31 structures in the "Repetitive Loss Area" which could be subjected to flooding.





The lowest point of the Repetitive Loss Area is near the Gulf View Cabin Villas east of Gulf Boulevard between 192nd and 193rd Avenues, the Town is only three to four and one-half feet above mean sea level (msl).

The Town of Indian Shores is concerned about the potential flooding that could occur in this area and has an active program to help protect yourself and your property from flooding. The Town has recently completed the installation of a stormwater system throughout the entire Town to help floodwater carrying capacity.

However, here are some things you can do:

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. Before a Flood

To prepare for a flood, you should:

- Avoid building in a floodplain unless you elevate and reinforce your home.
- Elevate the furnace, 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.
- Seal walls in basements with waterproofing compounds to avoid seepage.

[MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAMS](#)

FEMA's Mitigation Grant programs provide funding for eligible mitigation activities that reduce disaster losses and protect life and property from future disaster damages. Currently, FEMA administers the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program, and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program, the Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC) program, and the Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) program. The two new grant programs, RFC and SRL, are designed to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flooding to NFIP-insured structures, and thereby reduce the number of claims paid from the National Flood Insurance Fund (NFIF).

FEMA's mitigation grants are provided to eligible Applicant States/Tribes/Territories that, in turn, provide sub-grants to local governments. The Applicant selects and prioritizes applications developed and submitted to them by local jurisdictions to submit to FEMA for grant funds. Prospective Sub-applicants should consult the official designated point of contact for their Applicant State/Tribe/Territory for further information regarding specific program and application requirements. Contact information for the FEMA [Regional Offices](#) and [State Hazard Mitigation Officers](#) is available on the FEMA website.

For more information on the mitigation grant programs, please click on the links below:

- [Hazard Mitigation Grant Program \(HMGP\)](http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/hmgp/index.shtm): <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/hmgp/index.shtm>
- [Flood Mitigation Assistance Program \(FMA\)](http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/fma/index.shtm): <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/fma/index.shtm>
- [Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program \(PDM\)](http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/pdm/index.shtm): <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/pdm/index.shtm>
- [Repetitive Flood Claims Program \(RFC\)](http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/rfc/index.shtm): <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/rfc/index.shtm>
- [Severe Repetitive Loss Program \(SRL\)](http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/srl/index.shtm): <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/srl/index.shtm>

The entire Town of Indian Shores is located in the Special Flood Hazard Area. Therefore the purchase of flood insurance is mandatory.

[ABOUT THE MANDATORY PURCHASE OF FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIREMENT:](#)

NFIP: This community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which makes federally backed flood insurance available for all eligible 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: building and contents. Building coverage is for the walls, floors insulation, furnace, and other items permanently attached to the structure. Contents coverage may be purchased separately, if the contents are in an insurable building.

Mandatory Purchase Requirement: 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 Special Flood Hazard Areas (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."

The rule applies to secured mortgage loans from such financial institutions 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.



Federal financial assistance programs affected by the laws include loans and grants from agencies such as the Department of veterans Affairs, Farmers Home Administration, Federal Housing Administration, Small Business Administration, and the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

How it Works: Lenders are required to complete a Standard Flood Hazard Determination (SFHD) form whenever they make, increase, extend or renew a mortgage, home equity, home improvement, commercial, or farm credit loan to determine if the building or manufactured (mobile) home is in an SFHA. It is the Federal agency's or the lender's responsibility to check the current Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) to determine if the building is in an SFHA. Copies of the FIRM are available for review in most local government building or planning departments. Lenders may also have copies or they use a flood zone determination company to provide the SFHD form.

If the building is in a SFHA, the Federal agency or lender is required by law to require the recipient to purchase a flood insurance policy on the building. Federal regulations require building coverage equal to the amount of the loan (excluding appraised value of the land) or the maximum amount of insurance available from the NFIP, whichever is less. The maximum amount available for a single-family residence is \$250,000. Government sponsored enterprises, such as Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, have stricter requirements.

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 an SFHA, even though a portion of the lot may be. 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 FIRM.

If a person feels that a SFHD form incorrectly places the property in the SFHA, he or she may request a Letter of Determination Review from FEMA. This must be submitted within 45 days of the determination. More information can be found at http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/fq_gen11.shtm.

Copies of FEMA elevation certificates on all buildings constructed in the floodplain since 1986 are available on the Town's website at <http://www.myindianshores.com>, and at the Indian Shores Building Department, 727-517-3940. Mapping Service forms are also available at <http://gis.pinellascounty.org/firmmaps> and <http://www.myindianshores.com>. *CRS 320 Map Service Information*

NOAA Weather Radio Now Numbers 1000 Transmitters!



NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest [National Weather Service office](#). NWR broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Working with the [Federal Communication Commission's \(FCC\) Emergency Alert System](#), NWR is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it your single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with Federal, State, and Local Emergency Managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards – including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and

public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 Telephone outages).

Known as the "Voice of NOAA's National Weather Service," NWR is provided as a public service by the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#), part of the Department of Commerce. NWR includes [1000 transmitters](#), covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. NWR requires a [special radio receiver](#) or scanner capable of picking up the signal. Broadcasts are found in the VHF public service band at these seven frequencies (MHz):

162.400	162.425	162.450	162.475	162.500	162.525	162.550
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Town of Indian Shores
19305 Gulf Blvd.
Indian Shores, FL 33785



PR SRT STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LEESBURG, FL
Permit No. 4