

INDIAN SHORES
FORMER MAYORS
REFLECTING THEIR DESIRES
AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS WHILE IN OFFICE

1949 – 1951 EDWARD TAYLOR:

FIRST mayor of new township – preached for incorporation before holding office.

1951 -1960 JAMES ROESLER:

Established young I.R.B.S.S. “development years”. First Mayor from South Shore to serve as President of Suncoast League of Municipalities (1958-1959), was made an honorary life member by founder of league.

1960 – 1964 WALTER M. WILLIAMS:

Elected Mayor same year when Planters’ Club, now Indian Shores Women’s Club was born in 1960. Second Mayor from South Shore to serve as President of Suncoast League of Municipalities (1961-1962)

1964 – 1966 ALBERT WARE:

Elected Mayor same year Police Department was born. While on Council spoke strongly of South Shore having its own force, plus protecting the Redingtons (beach communities) also.

1966 – 1968 SUE EGAN:

First female Mayor, spoke on future planning of the preservation of the beach, road widening, and the look of the Town years ahead. Under her 2 years, 5 to 6 females (at one time 6) served on Councils.

1968 – 1972 ROBERT WILCOX:

“The Mayor who saved our Beach”. Obtained the Town’s first emergency beach restoration after a major hurricane hit during his term. In 1969 he received an Achievement Award from the Town Council for his efforts in securing the first emergency beach restoration project. New seawalls were put in replacing wood with concrete block. Asked other beach communities to join South Shore and establish the first beach re-nourishment projects for the future using state and federal funds.

1972 – 1974 LAMBERTUS SEYNDERS:

While serving as Mayor I.R.B.S.S. changed name to Indian Shores in 1973, following six (6) years of discussion.

1974 – 1975 JAMES ROESLER:

Former Mayor Roesler elected a second time as Mayor in March of 1974, but died in office May of 1975.

1975 (May – October) HOWARD MANN:

Vice Mayor Mann at that time stepped up as Mayor after the death of Mr. Roesler, but he himself passed away in October of that year.

During their time Roesler and Mann fought very hard to correct beach erosion problems in the mid – 70's.

1975 – 1980 PAUL HARDWICK:

Mr. Hardwick stepped up as Mann did for Roesler after the demise of Mayor Mann in the fall of 1975. He finished Mann's term and served 2 years of his own for the Town (no election).

Under Mayor Hardwick, Town Hall construction was on the move, enlarged after being added on in 1964) kitchen inside, a new Police Department Annex. The old Library moved to a larger area in the municipal building where it is situated today. The first tennis court was constructed under his term with a dedication plaque on the fence.

1980 – 1982 ROLLIN SAVAGE:

During Mayor Savage's term, after early years of discussion, a bridge was built from the mainland (Seminole) over the Intercoastal to Indian Shores in the winter of 1982. Also approved by Council in 1980 a 5 – story limit set on construction height of buildings, induced because of the condo boom of the late 70's.

1982 – 1984 DON MYERS:

Served as Mayor after winning election by one (1) vote over Rollin Savage. Under Mayor Myers term, Town Hall renovation was being done. A paint job and new space added on. A larger conference room was one of the add ons – donated and dedicated by and for Mayor Meyers and his Council, where Town Committees still meet today.

1984 -1986 DAN GIANNINI:

The youngest Mayor ever elected in Indian Shores at the age of 28. Under Mayor Giannini's two (2) year term, Council seats went down from 9 to 5.

1986 – 1988 ED MURPHREE:

Our 2nd "Petticoat Council" where as Mayor Murphree of the five Council members was the only male. During these two years breakwaters or berms were discussed for beach erosion solutions, up and down the beach communities, after a major hurricane in 1985 did damage.

1988 – 1990 JANET HOPPE:

More breakwater talk. Also, Mayor Hoppe was the Town's 2nd female Mayor. During her two (2) year term, Estelle Harper Park (back of Town Hall) was dedicated to Mrs. Harper, a long-standing (1960-1977) Women's Club member in 1972, with the park finally be utilized.

A pavilion was constructed in 1988, with the first roof donated from a structure from an aging miniature golf course north of Town Hall. The Town organized a picnic for the citizens, which has become an annual event held on Memorial Day.

1990 – 2000 BOB MC EWEN:

Mayor McEwen was the longest serving Mayor, as he completed five (5), two year terms. He was the second Mayor to “save our beach”. Mayor McEwen with his hard work and dedication obtained State funding for beach nourishment. He and his Council fought to re-built an entirely new beach which had been badly eroded from a hurricane in 1985, and many lesser-strength storms that came through the area in the late 1980’s.

As Mayor Wilcox had done in an emergency situation in 1969 Mayor McEwen had to step up to save the Town’s beach since there was little or no re-nourishment since 1972, while funding had slowed down or completely stopped. The “new” beach was a reality in 1992 with re-nourishment in 1998.

Mayor McEwen received an award from the State for being the one elected official in Florida who did the most for beach preservation.

Also, as Mayor, Bob McEwen and his Council helped to keep the local Police Department intact, by improving the morale of the officers and solving grievances which had arisen prior to him taking office.

2000 – 2006 DON TABER:

First three (3) year term Mayor. Mayor Taber has been very instrument in moving the Gulf Boulevard Roadway Improvements project and undergrounding utilities project forward.

Mayor Taber, and his Council have worked hard and diligently in trying to obtain funding from the County for the roadway project for it to proceed on schedule, and have the County reimburse the State for the project.

2007 – 2018 JAMES J. LAWRENCE

Under his watch, the Gulf Boulevard Beautification project was completed, which involved the undergrounding of utilities and road improvements and he oversaw the design and construction of the new 7,000 square foot Municipal Center, Park Pavilion and Playground.

Mayor Lawrence initiated the Hurricane Preparedness/Awareness Community gatherings, re-entry tag program for access to the island after a disaster, opposed off-shore drilling, participated in Hands Across the Sand demonstration, and continued to fight for beach renourishment.

Under Mayor Lawrence's watch, Galleries on the Go was instituted in the new building, where public art works from local artists are on display in the Municipal Center; container gardening was initiated in a newly constructed community garden; the Town's 60th Anniversary celebrations and events were conducted throughout the year; and a new substation for Station #26 of the Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue District was constructed behind Town Hall; and St. Patrick's Day Festivals were also started, involving many citizen volunteers, for a fun day of food, music, crafts and fellowship.