

September 2010

Shorelines

A PUBLICATION OF THE INDIAN BEACH-SAPPHIRE SHORES ASSOCIATION

IBSSA Annual Picnic Returns to New College's Caples Campus Sunday, November 7 • 3 to 6 p.m.



Great setting, fun entertainment and good company!

Come join your neighbors for a Sunday afternoon of fresh air and good eats.

Bring picnic blankets, chairs, sun screen and a dish to share.

IBSSA will provide the main fare.

This year we will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of New College and its fifty year relationship with the neighborhood. If you are a New College grad or student, professor or staff member (current or retired), do not miss this event. As a matter of fact, let us know who you are so we can recognize you.

This year's picnic as in the past will be potluck. Bring your favorite dish: a casserole, appetizer, entree, cake or dessert.

Label your potluck dish and serving utensils with your name and the name of the dish. IBSSA will be providing the meat/fish/chicken grill and beverages.

Mike Minks will be also be returning with sing-alongs and dances. Games for all ages will be ongoing throughout the afternoon

Volunteers welcome! If interested in helping please contact **Dee Barth** (941-374-3762) or **Jane Nutter** (605-376-6916). If you have a business you'd like to highlight during the picnic by offering a gift certificate, give-aways, or a specific service for the picnic, please let Jane or Dee know. Business partners of IBSSA will be recognized and are always appreciated.

This is an IBSSA sponsored event. Membership is required. Don't let that keep you away. We will collect dues at the event!

Remembering Charles Hegener

by *Kafi Benz*

I first met **Charles Hegener** when Bart Cotton invited me to join the board of directors about twenty years ago and for perhaps fifteen years we worked closely together on issues of concern to the community. I have so many memories of Charlie that I shall have to be selective here.

He was born and raised in Indian Beach-Sapphire Shores. As a rambunctious child he explored the natural environment, not only from the home of his parents to that of his aunt at 5050 Bay Shore Road, but much farther afield, learning about the bay, creeks, marshes and rivers, as well as the land as he went fishing, boating, and building forts. He knew all of the local habitats intimately and treasured them. He observed nature and wildlife with a keen eye for details. His higher education and professional career took him to the northeast, but when he retired young, he returned to Sarasota and started his beloved family.

Deeply and tenaciously committed to his values and concerns, he applied his unique understanding of the community, his admirable intellectual skills, and his quick wit to the board, to committees ranging from beautification, land use regulations, to zoning issues, and at community organizations. Gregarious, gracious, generous, and charming—even when overwhelming one with intensely delivered details and facts, all adored him nonetheless.

Charlie immersed himself in efforts to protect the community from threats involving the overdeveloping of the bayou, increases in long docks that prohibited enjoyment of the shoreline for all, efforts to change the character of the neighborhood through overdevelopment, and proposed changes to land use designation and zoning categories. At one point we had a committee that met twice a week to formulate responses to land use changes in

the comprehensive plan for the city, requests for incompatible development, and the mega-house threat. Development along Tamiami Trail received his constant encouragement. He and I represented the association at the North Trail Business Association and Gateway 2000.

Public spaces for all to enjoy were especially important objectives for him. In 2002, with Charlie's help, we launched



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NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNICATIONS

Website - www.ibssa.ws

Contact Cynthia Biggar (350-2265) with questions

Newsgroup - go to website for instructions on how to join and participate. Contact Gretchen Serrie (355-2560) with questions.

Newsletter - EDITOR - Donna Bauer (355-0427). Contact with feedback on articles or news of potential interest. Please contribute an article or volunteer to be a newsletter writer.

Writers September 2010 Newsletter

Donna Bauer

Kafi Benz

Cynthia Bernstein

David Jennings

Mike Lasche

Eileen Mikos

Debbie Muller

Chris Shamsey

Ann Stillman

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Remembering Charles Hegener

continued from pg 1

an effort to acquire Rus In Ur'be as a park through the Florida Forever Program and successfully brokered a partnership between the municipal government as a sponsor and Friends of Seagate as the 501(c)(3) landholder. That grant application retained its qualification for state funding, amounting to more than one and a half million dollars, until the property was sold for private development prior to the next cycle. He attended the coalition of neighborhoods and spoke at an endless number of city commission meetings as a representative of IBSSA. His speeches always were elegant and concise, unerringly for the benefit of his cherished neighborhood. Few are the members of the community who contribute as he did.

The last time we spoke, several weeks before his death, Charlie wanted to introduce me to his longtime friend who had purchased the house behind mine. Regrettably, that never occurred, and ironically, the day before I learned of his death I had made a mental note to follow-up. Seeing the neighborhood chat subject line snippet, intuitively, I feared that he was the subject of the memorial, as many recently had become concerned for his health. I shall miss seeing Charlie whiz by my house on his racing bicycle and out on the bay in his kayak, however, nothing will replace occasional chats with him. ■

The Past May Not Repeat Itself, But It Sure Does Rhyme

by David Jennings

The Indian Beach Sapphire Shores neighborhood has some of the largest, intact properties within city limits. Jungle Gardens is the biggest at about ten acres. This land was bought in the 1930's by David Lindsay, owner of the Sarasota Herald and two partners. It was always their intention to create a "wonderland of tropical beauty" as a tourist attraction. The location was perfect since early maps show this particular stretch of Bay Shore Road as Tamiami Trail. However, there was nothing tame about the property Lindsay sought to transform.

Aerial photos from the 1920's show the property as a marshy wilderness referred to as "impenetrable" and at least one early Indian Beach resident recalled picking wild bananas and shooting a black bear on this section.

Jungle Gardens opened on December 31st, 1939 making it one of the oldest, continually operating tourist attractions in the state of Florida. It's this writer's opinion every resident of the neighborhood should visit the gardens at least once a year. A little farther "up the Trail" was the entrance to another significantly large parcel.

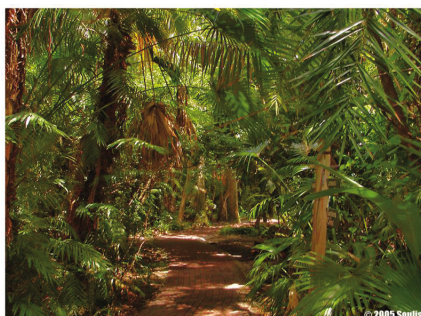
By 1924 the entrance to Rus-in-Ur'be was adorned with decorative columns announcing a planned development owned by H.F. and Martha Reils. Similar columns constructed on Bay Shore Road may have been an indication the plan included the entire property. Reils and his Indian Beach Land Company were platting and selling lots in DeSoto Terrace as early as 1913. He and his wife were residents of Savannah and Atlanta. DeSoto Terrace includes the properties around Iroquois, Chapel and Myrtle where some of the homes date to 1920 and 1925. Reils ►

passed away before implementing his plan and the “big” real estate crash happened in 1926. Ultimately, the land got tangled up in the failure of the Bank of Sarasota but in the mid 1930's Martha was able to unload the property to Paul and Freda Bergmann. Paul had been the general contractor of the Crosley Mansion in 1929.

The Bergmann's also had aspirations of creating a subdivision and are the ones responsible for either building or relocating the houses we see today at 4215 and 4237 Sarasota Avenue. The well house, rumored to be a gorilla cage was built in 1937 to provide water to the four house in Rus-in-Ur'be court which are still there today. City records suggest the houses were constructed or located on property between 1937 and 1940.

World War II rained on the Bergmann's plans and they lost the property to foreclosure in 1942. For the next 50 years, the property changed hands a few times and additional parcels were added but none of the owners seemed to have development interests or capabilities.

It was not until 2002 when plans for a new subdivision were introduced reminding me of the infamous Mark Twain quote... The past may not repeat itself, but it sure does rhyme. ■



References:
The Story of Sarasota by Karl Grismer

Cultural Resource Assessment Survey for the Houses of Indian Beach, prepared and paid for by Ball Construction, Inc.

Indian Beach-Sapphire Shores Association

IBSSA is a non-profit and non-political neighborhood organization dedicated to protecting, improving and promoting your neighborhood. Its objective is to preserve and protect the environment, history, safety, and property interests of those who own property and/or reside in the neighborhood and to promote a sense of community through communication, good will, and cooperation between members, other member organizations and the community at large.

Why You Should Become a Member of IBSSA

It creates a sense of community and means of communication among residents.

It keeps you informed of news and upcoming events for our neighborhood.

It provides the news from the city relevant to our neighborhood.

It gives you the Neighborhood Crime Stats reports.

It gives you a constructive voice in addressing neighborhood issues.

It brings each neighborhood resident an awareness of decisions that impact the neighborhood. ▶

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

IBSSA Board of Directors

If you would be interested in serving on the IBSSA Board of Directors and helping your neighborhood, the nominating committee is accepting applications. The deadline for applications is September 30 and anyone wanting to apply must be nominated from the floor at the annual membership meeting on December 7. The slate of nominees will be presented and elections will be held at the annual membership meeting on December 7. Terms are up to two years. Only IBSSA members may apply. Our Board is an all volunteer effort (there are no paid staff members). We welcome volunteers to help in our efforts to promote our neighborhood in a variety of ways. For any questions please contact Chris Shamsey, 351-1884. ■

Picnic in the Park

by Mike Lasche

Dear friends of a park on the Rus-in-Ur'be property,

First, I would like to thank everyone who came out for the Picnic in the Park on May 22. I was very pleasantly surprised by what a fun event it was, a circumstance I ascribe to the quality of people who attended. This neighborhood really knows how to picnic.

Special thanks go out to Matthew Reynolds, the event creator, promoter, and man who made it happen. Words fail me when I attempt to describe how hard Matthew worked to make this event a success. Thanks are also due to our local bands, Cabal, Big Night Out, the Trio, and Erica Reynolds & Friends, who provided cutting edge Latin, Jazz, and folk music. A special thanks is due to the host of volunteers, including many of you, who did the heavy lifting to make this event happen.

The picnic was a huge success. With these numbers still rising, we have received 52 pledges of financial support for the future park, totaling \$6,415. The Board of County Commissioners and the City Commission have been notified of this. And, we plan to present the pledges to County staff soon.

Congratulations to Mike, whom the Secretary of FDOT has just appointed the citizen representative of the Florida bicycling community on the newly formed State of Florida Bicycle and Pedestrian Partnership Council.

DOGGIE BAGS CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED

Your contribution would be welcomed for Doggie Bag expenses.

Contributions can be made through PayPal at our website PayPal www.ibssa.ws or by mailing a check payable to IBSSA, POB 49673 Sarasota, FL 34230.



Northside neighborhoods to meet with Police, State Attorney and Judge to discuss ways to address crime and make our city and neighborhoods safer. More on page 6.

Public Spaces Summer 2010 Update

by Cynthia Bernstein

Several of our Public Spaces have seen some changes over the past several months:

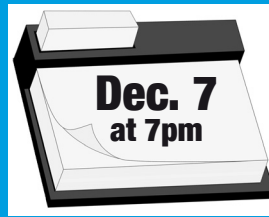
At Sapphire Shores Park the extended sidewalk is staked out and work should begin as weather permits. The overgrown shrubs that hid the "Aborigine" sculpture have been removed and this piece of art is once again visible. The bed surrounding the sculpture will be replanted with dwarf ornamental grasses. Also, the City will continue to re-seed the park when the cooler weather returns.

In memory of Charles Hegener, the 40th Street ROW to the Bay will be known as the Charles Hegener Nature Trail and a plaque commemorating Charles will be erected on the site. At this time, the trail is in need of leaf mulch, particularly at the western end. Please spread them around if you can, and if not, drop the leaves off inside the rail fence. Also, if you frequent this pathway, please consider joining our group and being the overseer for this public area.

The City has completed its work on the Alameda ROW to the Bayou. A fence and gate have been erected, plants have been trimmed and shell has been added to the beds and path. It is a quiet, restful area and a good place to view the manatees that frequent Whitaker Bayou.

Unfortunately, Ann Stillman, the long time caretaker of Marlin Conservation Square, has moved out of state. But before she departed, Ann had her replacement in place! Clarke Miller has agreed to join our committee as steward of the area. Please stop by and see what a wonderful job these neighbors do to maintain the native plantings, many of which are now identified and tagged.

If you would like to join our committee, help out on a work project or if you have questions about IBSS Public Spaces, please contact me at 355-8773 or cynbe@verizon.net.



Mark your calendars for our semi-annual meeting. It will be held at the Bay Shore Mennonite Church.

The Marlin Conservation Square: Some History and Information

by Ann Stillman, May 2007

In 2000 the IBSSA Beautification Committee received a grant from SWFWMD (Southwest Florida Water Management District) to develop "a groundwater recharge demonstration" at the corner of Marlin and Eastchester (from "Shorelines, Spring 2000). This site was an abandoned city right of way—a road bed that was an extension of Marlin St, which was never completed. The lot was completely overgrown with Brazilian pepper trees, air potato vines, and grape vines.

This demonstration project was intended to be "a living guide to native plantings, compost, and natural systems preservation so that neighbors can design landscapes that consume less water and provide flood protection through increasing infiltration of rainwater" (from "Shorelines," Spring 2000). It features a channel that carries rainwater from the street side gutter on Eastchester into a retention "pond" on the site where you can now see three lovely cypress trees that are 15-20 feet tall.

The City of Sarasota removed the exotic invasive plants, a foot and a half of limestone road base, and provided mulch and compost. Jesse White was the project manager for IBSSA. He contoured the land for water retention, selected appropriate native plants for the site, and supervised the planting. Many neighbors helped with the planting, watering, and subsequent maintenance.

A variety of native trees, shrubs, vines and ground covers were planted. Oaks, slash pines, persimmon, and southern red cedar were added to the existing cabbage palms. For understory: wax myrtle, Simpson's stopper, Florida privet, and beauty berry. For ground cover: coral honeysuckle, mimosa, coontie, beach sunflower, milkweed. All of these can still be seen at the Conservation Square; you can walk through the area on a mulched path.

Perhaps this project can also serve to remind us of the importance of planting natives—not only because they do not require



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watering after they are established. We need to remember that a whole local eco-system developed around these naturally occurring plants: the insects that pollinate and eat the plants (and have their favorites); the birds who find shelter, food and nesting materials; the turtles, snakes and frogs, and the many organisms that we do not even notice or recognize.

A wonderful way to feel closer to the land and support our local environment, is to learn more about our native plants. Find some books and articles about native plants; go to a meeting of the Florida Native Plant Society or the butterfly club. Two books that I enjoy using are: 1) Workman, Dick. *Growing Native: Native Plants for Landscape Use in Coastal South Florida*. 1980 (a pioneering early book with full page photo and text for each plant). 2) Haehle, Robert and Brookwell, Joan. *Native Florida Plants*. 1999 (includes large number of plants with photos; low maintenance landscaping and gardening).

Come and visit our own Conservation Square; help the neighbors take care of it. We always need TLC maintenance, leaf mulch for paths, signage for the plants, ideas and...? If you want to help or would like to have someone show you around the site, talk to the neighbors—or contact Clark Miller 355-8918. ■



Donations of CD's, DVD's and Video Tapes Needed

by Eileen Mikos, Beautification Committee

As part of the Beautification Committee's fundraiser for the Sarasota Avenue Greenway project, we are collecting CD's, DVD's and Video Tapes to be offered at the Neighborhood Association Annual Picnic this year.

A table will be set up at the picnic offering these items for a \$1 donation which will benefit the Greenway.

If you would like to donate any of these items to the Committee, please contact Cynthia Bernstein at cbernstein1@verizon.net, 355-8773, or Eileen Mikos at eisew@aol.com 351-1568, to arrange for drop off or pickup. Any and all donations will be greatly appreciated.

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Neighborhood Watch Facts

by Debbie Muller, May 2009

Did you know IBSSA has the oldest Neighborhood Watch Program in the city? A program involving the joint efforts of the police and the community, Neighborhood Watch is designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's powers of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors.

Eyes, Ears & Knows: Crime statistics are eye-opening reminders that there are those anxiously waiting for the opportunity to commit crime. If we hope to keep our wonderful neighborhood safe, we must not become easy targets. Be aware of what's happening around you, pay attention to suspicious persons or unusual activity and, most importantly, call the police if you have any doubts about a situation. As you go about your daily routine, remember that we truly are the eyes, ears, and knows of our neighborhood. Concern, awareness and communication amongst residents partnered with responsive law enforcement will lead to a safer neighborhood. With the recent violent home invasion/robberies occurring in Sarasota and Bradenton, we must be extra vigilant.



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by Debbie Muller

For information regarding Neighborhood Watch contact Debbie Muller at 355-5743. Your participation is much needed and greatly appreciated.

Thank You Neighbors!

Proof that Neighborhood Watch really makes a difference was very evident when, on a Friday afternoon in July, a resident of our neighborhood noticed an unfamiliar, suspicious acting person on his neighbor's property and decided to call the police. Due to the awareness of this concerned resident, the armed suspect was discovered in the home and, after a lengthy pursuit throughout the neighborhood, he was apprehended and arrested. This and numerous other instances of residents reporting individuals engaged in suspicious activity is most definitely the major reason criminal activity is being deterred in our neighborhood.

Crime Report:

Unfortunately, summertime proved to be an active time for thieves in our area. Several bicycles were stolen, as well as a canoe, lawn mower and kayaks. Approximately five auto burglaries occurred between May 1st and September 4th and incidents of mailbox vandalism and graffiti were reported. A suspect was also arrested for a strong arm robbery in our area. Most disturbing however was an in-progress burglary where a resident awoke to find an intruder in their home. Thankfully, the suspect fled the scene, without incident, upon being noticed.

Reminders:

Secure your property! Make sure to secure your property as best you can. Locking doors to your home and vehicles is crucial due to the fact that most criminals are opportunists and prefer easy targets.

It's back to school time! Be especially watchful for children on their way to and from school. Call the police immediately if you notice unfamiliar persons or vehicles in the area for no apparent reason, or if you see anyone loitering around schools or bus stops. (Note: In July, a young girl, walking to a friend's house, was followed by a man driving a car in the vicinity of 22nd Street and Alameda Avenue).



Don't Speed! 15 MPH in school zones
25 MPH throughout the neighborhood



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Alert:

Vacant properties, unoccupied houses and public access areas have become hot spots for prostitution and drug activity as well as ideal locations for illegal campsites. If you know of any such place where these types of criminal activity might be occurring, please notify the police and inform your neighbors.

Notice:

Northside neighborhoods to meet with Police, State Attorney and Judge to discuss ways to address crime and make our city and neighborhoods safer. The entrance to our lovely city has long been plagued by illicit activity and an escalation in violent crime. Our families and friends are often embarrassed, ashamed or even fearful by what we witness on US 41 as we attempt to get home. North Tamiami Trail should be a welcoming entryway to our city and neighborhood and should make a positive impression on all those who come to Sarasota. We must send a message to criminals that their actions will not go unnoticed, that unlawful activity will be reported, and we will work with the police to rid them from our streets.

A meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2010 at 7:00 pm at the Crossroads Methodist Church at 4726 N. Tamiami Trail. Please check with your neighborhood watch coordinator or the IBSSA Newsgroup for confirmation of date and time.

Citizen Volunteer Program:

We now have five neighbors who are citizen volunteers with the Sarasota Police Department. If you have eight hours a month to patrol our streets or to do a variety of other duties, call Officer Ford Snodgrass at 954-7056 to learn more about the SPD Citizen Volunteers.

Remember: See It! Hear It! Report It!

Report all crime and suspicious activity IMMEDIATELY!

Call the Sarasota Police Department:

For emergencies call 911

For non emergencies call 316-1199 or 316-1201

Inform your Block Captain or Coordinator

Alert your neighbors

**AND MOST IMPORTANT:
BE AWARE! TAKE CARE! BE SAFE!**



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Membership Application and Dues Renewal Form



Indian Beach-Sapphire Shores Association

Membership type: New Renewal

I can volunteer:

- Beautification
- History
- Membership
- Neighborhood Watch
- Newsletter
- Picnic/Special Events
- Web-site

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

PLEASE PRINT new or changed

Checks payable to: IBSSA
Mail: P.O. Box 49673, Sarasota, FL 34230

2010 Dues Payment:	\$20.00
Voluntary Contribution	\$ _____
Total Enclosed	\$ _____

If you have a question about your dues status, please contact **Frank Zimmerman**, Treasurer, 351-2925 or fzim@comcast.net

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



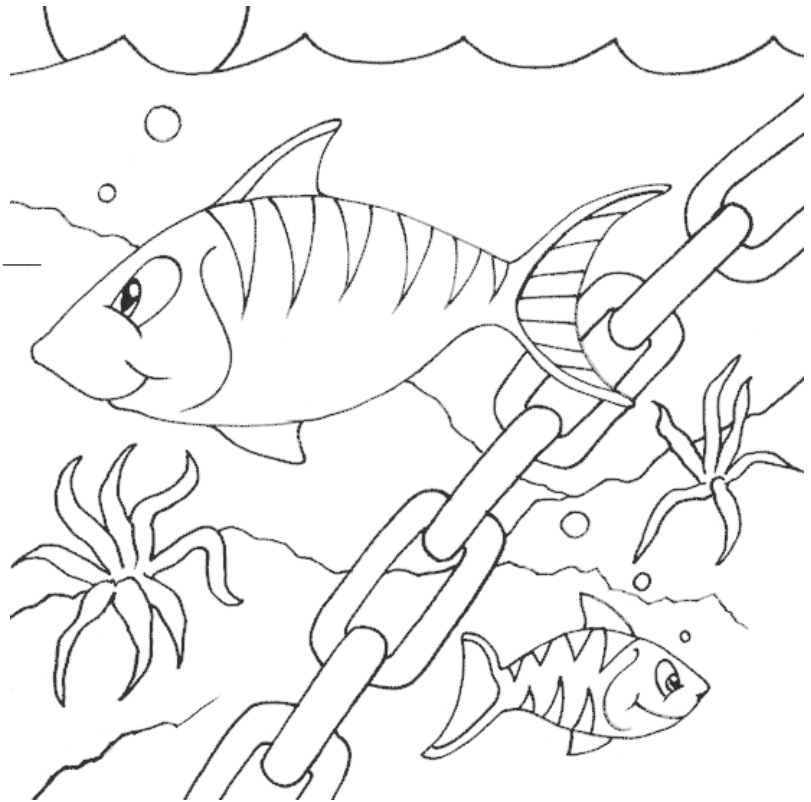
NEIGHBORHOOD SCRAMBLE

by Chris Shamsey

Unscramble the following terms for IBSSA Street names

1. AMDALAE _____
2. YSELNIA _____
3. SEESACERHTS _____
4. TNAOPTRSE _____
5. EPASPRIH _____
6. WBLRYLI _____
7. ESENESNTE _____
8. EALEOT _____
9. OSIRQOIU _____
10. EYMTEL _____
11. AIRXO _____
12. AAGVU _____

Coloring Zone



Answers:

1. Alameda, 2. Ainsley, 3. Eastchester, 4. Patterson, 5. Sapphire, 6. Brywill, 7. Tennessee, 8. Lecta, 9. Iroquois, 10. Myrtle, 11. Ixora, 12. Guava



Indian Beach Sapphire Shores Association

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- NEW** Kid Zone

The newsletter is even better in color.

Check it out on the IBSSA web site: www.ibssa.ws

Neighborhood Watch Coordinators:

Sapphire 1 58th Street - 47th Street

Debbie Muller 355-5743

Sapphire II 47th Street - Myrtle Street

Barbara Cherry 351-7906

Sapphire III Myrtle Street - Indian Beach Drive

Coordinator needed

Sapphire IV Indian Beach Drive - Whitaker Bayou

Yvonne Lacey 365-7063

Helpful Numbers:

Sarasota Police Dept	
Non-emergency	316-1199 or 316-1201
S.P.D. Front Desk	954-7025
Chief Mikel Hollaway	954-7002
Lt. Pat Ledwith (N. Dist)	364-7344
Animal Services	861-9500
Boat Noise	316-1201
Citizen Volunteer & Project Lifesaver	
and Crime Prevention: Officer Ford Snodgrass	954-7056
Gang & Graffiti - Kim Laster	364-7327
Narcotics Hotline	954-7050
Nuisance Abatement: Det. Jeff Steiner	954-7092
Code Compliance	954-4125



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