

March 2010

Shorelines

A PUBLICATION OF THE INDIAN BEACH-SAPPHIRE SHORES ASSOCIATION

The Little Yellow Kudo That Could!

by Vald Svekis

It's one thing to drive a golf cart in the neighborhood but totally different once the cart transforms into a licensed road vehicle. Neighbors Jono and Julie Miller have recently acquired a Cruise Car, Kudo model, solar/battery car manufactured right here in north Sarasota.

Since the car is at the forefront of the upcoming wave of electric vehicles, I was dying to find out the real world experience of driving it. It should be pointed out that this class of vehicle is restricted to streets with a maximum speed limit of 35 mph. Even on those there is no chance of getting speeding tickets. The Kudo speed maxes out at 25 mph.

One of my first questions to Jono was about road rage. If the speed limit is 35 mph, many Sarasotans somehow see that as being 45. But Jono had not encountered horn blaring, fist shaking, or even cruder gestures of impatience. People on sidewalks gawk, give thumbs up, and say one worders like "Cool!" and "Cute." So far he has not been challenged to drag races by bicyclists.

The car is available in many colors. The Millers chose the brilliant yellow for reasons of safety, and it is a very noticeable color.

A full battery charge is good for 40 to 60 miles of driving. If our brilliant sun can work on the roof top solar panels for a whole day, enough energy will have been stored for up to 5 miles of driving without plugging in the battery.

The basic model costs about \$8,500. Government rebates reduce that price by \$1,300. Check out the Cruise Car web site: www.cruiseincar.com. Their phone is 929-1630.



The First First Family of Hospitality

by David Jennings

Sharon Carr is royalty. I know Carr's Corner Café at 3025 North Tamiami Trail doesn't look like a palace, but Sharon is royalty nonetheless. The palace was torn down in 1998 and you may remember it as the John Ringling Hotel.



Sharon and Tom Carr

It was about 1937 that Jim Haley, professional representative of John Ringling North recruited Charles H. Carr, Sr. out of Palm Beach to manage his Sarasota property. Charles Carr was a logical choice because he was the best. He already had about two decades of experience running the toniest resort hotels in Rhode Island and Palm Beach. Summers were spent at the Dunes in Narragansett and winters were at the Breakers, the Poinciana and the Whitehall in Palm Beach. A clientele that included Vanderbilts and Kennedys meant Charles Carr, Sr. was operating at the upper echelon of the hospitality industry.

He moved his young family into the John Ringling Hotel in 1938. This included his wife and five kids, all of whom took part in the day to day operation of the hotel. Third son, Tom Carr remembers washing dishes, parking cars and cleaning rooms along with being a bell captain and property engineer.

Charles H. Carr, Sr. managed the hotel, their winter home, until his death in 1953, which was not long after Cecil B. DeMille turned the place on its ear in '51 with the cast and crew of *The Greatest Show on Earth*.

Jack, Charles' second son, took over as general manager in '53, filling his father's shoes quite ably. Jack obtained a degree in Hotel Management from Cornell University as did older brother Charles, Jr. Jack managed the hotel until it was sold in the late 1950's. He later went on to run the Sarasota Hotel on the corner of Palm and Main and ultimately ended up in Pennsylvania with a hand in Le Papillon in State College and Chartiers Country Club in Pittsburgh. His son Tim Carr now runs the popular Capstone Grill in Pittsburgh.

Charles Jr., after a stint managing the Penn Hills Country Club in Bradford, PA (among other properties) came home to take a turn running the hotel. Other accomplishments on his resume include The Sarasota Yacht Club and helping Herb Fields open The Colony, the Buccaneer and Far Horizons all on Longboat Key. At one time he was also manager of the well known Smack Drive In,

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IBSSA Board Members

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cbiggarsales@gmail.com

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jonosarasota@gmail.com

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dmorriss@verizon.net

Christina Shamsey
351-1884
reshamsey@verizon.net

Greg Shea 355-8966
gmshea@hotmail.com

Adam Tebrugge 955-0651
AdamT2@aol.com

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Give us feedback on articles or news of potential interest by calling the editor.

EDITOR: Donna Bauer 355-0427
Environment & Gardening

WRITERS: David Jennings 650-7354 - History
Debbie Muller 355-5743 - Crime/Neighborhood Watch
Chris Shamsey 351-1884 - Membership
Vald Svekis 359-0683 - Features

WEB SITE - www.ibssa.ws

Contact Cynthia Biggar 350-2265 with questions

NEWS GROUP - go to website for instructions on how to join and participate.

Board Meetings

Association board meetings are held the first Thursday of the month. Call Gretchen Serrie or Frank Zimmerman for locations of meetings.



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The First First Family *continued*

fondly remembered for roller skating carhops.

Third son Tom (Sharon's father) had quite a taste of the hospitality industry by the time the Korean War began. After being in the navy, he returned to Sarasota determined to explore other career opportunities. He became an electrician and married Juanita Moxley at St. Martha's Catholic Church in 1952. The reception was (of course!) at the John Ringling Hotel.

But the pull of the business was too great and Tom soon began an illustrious career in food service, including management of The Viking Room at Azure Tides on Lido Key (also now a Ritz Carlton property) and the Sarasota Motor Hotel, once known as The Terraces, owned by Charles Ringling.

Tom worked for Arthur Allyn, owner of the Chicago White Sox (and Jungle Gardens!), and has enough stories about celebrities and ball players to fill a book. However, a consummate professional is too discreet to share dirty laundry. The on-site Mrs. O'Leary's Tavern was so popular that when the hotel closed, Tom moved the liquor license to a property in Gulf Gate and continued to operate the tavern until the mid '70's.

Sharon Carr's introduction to the business was at the early age of 12. She was chief pancake girl for the hugely successful Sunday brunches at the Viking Room, flipping enough silver dollar pancakes to fill an auditorium. As she was cutting her teeth in the business, her father was creating the first large scale catering operation in Sarasota. At a time when ingenuity was a necessity, Tom and his crew transported food prepared in the Viking Room kitchen to large parties at the Ringling Museum, oftentimes serving over 500 guests.

Sharon Carr's maternal grandparents had owned the North Trail property since the 1930's, but did not build a cafe there until 1958. It has been a number of establishments over the years, but none as popular as Carr's Corner Café, which Sharon has been running since 2002.

I hesitate to try and pigeon hole any quality operation, but let the world know this is no greasy spoon. Sharon is a proponent of a holistic approach to food preparation. Not unlike Alice Waters' "fresh food" movement born in Berkeley, CA, Sharon believes in using only the freshest and most local ingredients. Diners will find an array of organic and vegetarian options, but not at the expense of my eight year old daughter's favorite, The Bay Haven Burger, or my English Wrap with roast beef and horseradish sauce.

Sharon is carrying the torch in to a new century for a royal family whose most significant common denominator is the utmost in quality food service and hospitality management.

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Weather the Storms

by David Morriss

We're all keenly aware that hurricane season is coming up soon. "Hardening" is a widely used term for efforts

taken to increase a building's ability to resist the destructive effect of hurricane force winds.

A few years ago, we undertook a renovation of our 1955 ranch to both bring it into zoning compliance (previous owner goofed: long story) and upgrade the structural performance of the house itself. We hardened the house and softened our wallet but, given what we found, are glad we did.

Hurricanes cause damage in four basic ways:

Storm surge and tidal flooding—This is the most devastating and notable effect from a hurricane. Storm surge is the rising wall of water that comes ashore with a landfalling hurricane and is responsible for 90 percent of all hurricane related deaths.

High Winds—This is the most important effect of a hurricane since it determines how powerful the storm is, and how much storm surge and damage it can cause. Winds in a hurricane can reach up to 200 mph.

Tornadoes—This is probably the least thought of effect of a hurricane, but they do occur. Tornadoes occur in a hurricane as a result of the tremendous energy and instability created when a hurricane makes landfall. Most tornadoes that occur in hurricanes are only minimal in strength.

Heavy rain and flooding—This is the effect of a hurricane that is completely taken for granted. After hurricanes make landfall, and their winds abate, the tremendous amounts of rainfall become a major factor, and can cause significant flooding.

Clearly, there's not a lot anyone can do to mitigate storm surge. FEMA has a number of useful standards for addressing coastal surge, but those aren't part of this discussion because they mostly apply to new construction.

I was raised in Kansas and know how intense tornadoes can be and how much devastation they can leave in their wake. They are very powerful, but also much more isolated than hurricane force winds. There aren't many ways to "harden" an existing home (or even a new one) against a direct hit from such force. We can do things to better resist hurricane force winds and wind borne water.

We did as much as we could to deal with the three basic effects of hurricane force wind: The wind blows against the side of the house and puts force against the wall itself as well as trying to push the house off the foundations. Along with this force is wind borne debris that is hurling along at nearly the speed of the wind. Imagine a five pound chunk of concrete (typical barrel tile weight) slamming into something at 150 miles per hour and you get a clear idea what "work" our exterior walls need to do.

The wind blowing over the roof (and deflected up from the hitting the wall) creates a suction force, called "uplift" that is pulling up on the roof. One of the two main reasons it is so important to protect openings in the wall (doors, windows) is to

keep the full force of the wind from getting inside the building and adding an underneath "push" to the already powerful "pull" on the roof. That's a lot of force, even for a hurricane.

When we opened up our exterior walls, we found that the house was far from able to withstand even the mildest hurricane: they were cypress siding directly nailed to the wall stud... the structural equivalent of a card table with a broken brace. I could have punched through with my bare hands... and was tempted to for a variety of reasons. I shudder to think what a hurricane could have done.

So, as an unwelcome but necessary added expense, we had to remove the old siding and basically had the house totally skinless. A layer of insulation, a vapor barrier (aluminized to reflect heat), a layer of plywood heavily nailed to both resist wind borne debris and support the house against sideways wind and finally cement board siding spaced to resemble the old siding spacing completed the wall. Underneath all these layers is a selection of steel straps, clips and brackets engineered for specific installations with specific structural capacities that tied the walls to the foundation, ensured a continuous structural connection to the top of the wall and tied the roof structure to the wall. There are a couple hundred pounds of galvanized steel buried in the walls now.

Combining this work with all the exposed windows being replaced with impact resistant hurricane windows greatly increased the "hardness" of the house. Hurricane impact windows aren't intended to stay intact; they do crack when something hits them but stay in place thanks to layers of plastic between the glass panes, holding the wind and rain out.

For the parts we added, new to the original, the unbroken structural chain had to extend from the new foundations to the peak of the roof. There are methods for calculating just how much a hurricane force wind will pull up on the roof and there needs to be an equivalent counterweight (usually the weight of the house and the foundation together) to keep the structure on the ground. Our carport roof is pretty big and the counterweight at one corner is 12,000 pounds. That's a lot of concrete but an extra ton or two of concrete is a lot cheaper than a new house.

We did benefit financially (a little) from this work; our insurance company initially dropped our rate 20% per year. I have recently read that most companies don't do this anymore. There are (or perhaps were) a number of programs the State of Florida offer(ed) to help offset some of the costs for this work and it is essential to make sure you follow both the procedures and timing these programs require. I can tell you with no hesitation that the insurance savings will not even come close to offsetting the costs of this extra work, but for us, the increased peace of mind is priceless.

"Hardening" a house can get expensive and a thoughtful analysis should be done to determine the scope of work that maximizes benefit for the least cost. In our case, we were adding a carport and workshop as well as some other renovations (any new construction you do requires full code compliance and many renovation scenarios on existing structures also call for full structural compliance) and the structural upgrades to the existing house made sense.

Depending on what you're planning, increasing the capacity of your home to withstand a hurricane might be more efficiently done in conjunction with other new work you intend to do on the house.

BEE CAREFUL

By Donna Bauer

Africanized Honey Bees, also known as Killer Bees or Africanized Bees, are hybrids of a type of African honey bee (AHB) and types of European Bees. African honey bees were brought into Brazil in the 1950's in order to introduce genetic material into the resident European bees to make better honey producers. Unfortunately, some of the introduced bees were released. Their descendants quickly established a large wild population, which had not previously existed in South America. Over the next four decades, the wild Africanized honey bee (AHB) population expanded into most of tropical and subtropical parts of the Americas. Since their initial discovery in Florida in 2002, AHB colonies have been positively identified in over 20 Florida counties, with the majority of stinging incidents in South Florida.



In contrast to the European honey bee population in the U.S., which has been selected by beekeepers for manageable traits (gentleness, reduced swarming and high honey hoarding), the Africanized honey bee has specific traits which are important to both the beekeeper and the general public:

It defends its nest far more intensely than does the European honey bee, (hence the name, Killer Bees).

It responds quickly to disturbances by people and animals 50 feet or more from the nest.

The AHB can sense vibrations from power equipment 100 feet or more from the nest.

The AHB will chase an enemy up to a mile or more.

Because the AHB can only be distinguished from European honey bees by measurements under a microscope, and/or by analysis of their DNA, All honey bee nests or swarms not under the care of a beekeeper should be treated as Africanized bees. The University of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Commission provides tips on dealing with bee nests or swarms.

JUNGLE GARDENS...NO SALE

According to a Sarasota Herald-Tribune article, the Jungle Gardens property is not for sale. For two years the family that runs Jungle Gardens and the county have been negotiating the possible sale of the property or a conservation easement to keep it from being developed. Money for the purchase would have come from the county's Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition Program and the state's Florida Communities Trust. The county had secured \$6.7 million in state funding to help fund the purchase. Those funds have been returned to the state for use on other projects according to Albert Joerger, president of the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast, which handles land conservation negotiations for the county.

IF ALLERGIC: Always have a bee sting kit available.

BEE PROOFING: Eliminate potential AHB nesting sites. Check for cracks and holes in your house that might lead to wall voids or other cavities a colony could occupy. Screen or caulk these holes, or fill the cavity with insulation, and bees will not move in. Clean up debris (tires, pots) that might provide nesting sites on your property.

BE ALERT: Look for bees in work areas before using power equipment such as weed cutters, lawn mowers or chain saws. Look before disturbing vegetation. Many bees coming and going from a single spot may indicate a nest.

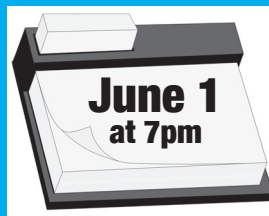
DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CONTROL AHB'S on your own. They are extremely dangerous and require specialized training and protective equipment and products to be safely and effectively treated.

GET HELP: If you discover a honey bee colony. Don't try to remove them alone. Contact trained and equipped personnel (Sarasota County Animal Control will direct you to the appropriate authorities: 941-729-2103).

IF STUNG, RUN! Seek shelter in vehicles or buildings and stay there even if some bees come in with you (there are more outside).

Do not jump in water (bees will still be in the area when you come up). Once safe, remove stings from your skin by lightly brushing the stinger away to reduce the amount of venom they inject.

SOURCES: University of Florida IFAS Extension: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/MG113> Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Commission: www.doacs.state.fl.us/press/2007/04052007.html



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



Join or visit IBSSA newsgroup to learn about events and news in your community: ibssa-news@yahoogroup.com.

IBSSA Real Estate Market Update

by David Jennings

The Indian Beach-Sapphire Shores neighborhood is made up of about 1,000 homes. On the first week of March, 2010 the Sarasota Multiple Listing Service showed 48 advertised for sale. This is quite low compared to inventory levels of the past five years. These 48 active listings range in price from \$74,900 to \$12,875,000. Four of them are bank owned (REO's) and three are "short sales," which means they are advertised for less than the total amount of the mortgage(s) and therefore subject to a lender's approval. This means 15% of our actively listed property is considered "distressed". The Multiple Listing Service also shows 21 "pending" or "under contract" properties ranging from \$95,000 to \$1,750,000. 15 of these are short sales and subject to a lender's approval. This means 71% of pending properties are distressed.

In the last six months 20 properties have sold between \$80,000 and \$3,150,000. Two of these were bank owned and five were short sales for a total of 35% distressed properties.

This rate of over three property sales per month is twice the rate of transactions when compared to the previous year, so we are seeing an uptick in sales. However, this needs to be weighed against the high percentage of "distressed" properties, which tends to keep values low.

These trends are mirrored in Sarasota at large, which is seeing a significant increase in sales up to 50% of which are distressed, creating a flat line median value.



We Want You!

By Chris Shamsey, Membership Chair

A big thank you to all those who have joined IBSSA for 2010. To those who are new to our neighborhood...just a bit about the Indian Beach-Sapphire Shores Association. IBSSA is a non-profit, non-political organization whose object is to protect the environment, neighborhood safety, and property interests of those who own or reside in the area bounded on the west by Sarasota Bay, the east by US Highway 41, the north by the Sarasota/Manatee County line, and the south by Whitaker Bayou. A further goal is to promote good will and sense of community among our neighbors.

In the months ahead you may get a knock on the door from one of your neighbors, or a flier left at your door, or a phone call encouraging you to join your neighborhood association. You may see some signs as well. We would like many more of you to join IBSSA. WE WANT YOU! There is power in numbers. Our collective voices as a neighborhood association make a difference in influencing local government decisions on issues affecting our neighborhood. We are also aware that there are economic stresses being felt by many in our neighborhood and understand if membership fees are a hardship. We will be sensitive to your situation, but still appreciate any input or help that you can give to the neighborhood.

You can join today by cutting out the membership form on page 7 of this newsletter or you can join or renew your membership using Pay Pal by going to our web site: ibssa.ws.

We are certainly blessed to live in such a beautiful neighborhood and each one of us has capabilities and talents that can be used to promote and preserve the beauty that surrounds us.

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Be especially watchful for students on their way to and from school.

Call the police right away if you notice unfamiliar persons or vehicles in the area for no apparent reason or if anyone is loitering around schools or bus stops.

DON'T SPEED! 15 mph in school zones

25 mph throughout neighborhood

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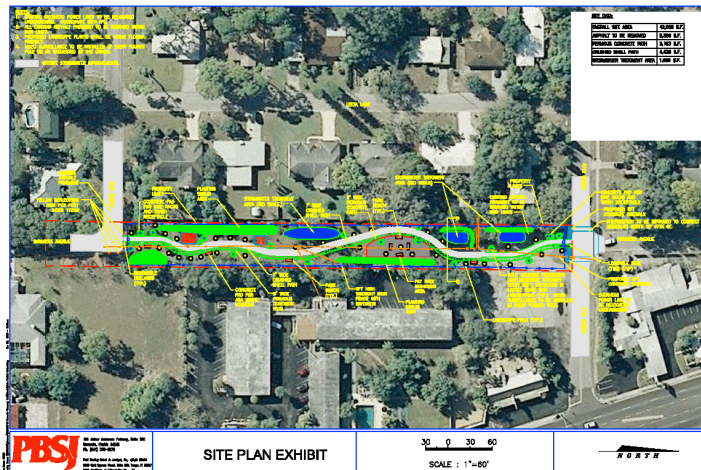
941.366.3282

FAX 941.954.1484

john@lyonsbeaudryharrison.com

Greenway Avenue Park May Soon Get a Makeover

by John E. Ireland, P.E., Project Manager



The City of Sarasota has proposed to renovate the existing 0.84-acre park in the Greenway Avenue right-of-way between 45th and 47th Streets by adding a mixed-use trail and amenities, including a water fountain, tot lot area, and bike paths along 45th and 47th Streets. The city hopes that these improvements, in addition to labels on trail maps, additional signage, and the addition of a local bus stop, will help the Greenway become another popular access point to the City of Sarasota Bayfront Trail.

To help protect the environment, the conceptual design for the proposed trail incorporates low impact development (LID) concepts, such as the use of vegetated swales, rain gardens, and pervious surfaces for stormwater management. Offsite stormwater improvements have also been proposed to improve the overall water quality of the entire basin and help secure outside funding sources.

The trail and sidewalks will meet all applicable Americans with Disabilities Act access codes and Florida Department of Transportation pedestrian standards. To help ensure the safety of all park guests, a 6-foot high fence is proposed along all sides of the trail parcel.

The landscape design and trail alignment will allow for open views of the surrounding environment, again supporting the safety of pedestrians. The plant material will be native to the west central Florida area and little to no irrigation will be needed.

Depending on the amenities selected, the estimated cost to construct the trail is between \$306,000 and \$467,000. The City of Sarasota is currently attempting to identify funding sources for the project. Depending on the availability of funding, the project is anywhere from 18 months to 2 years from completion.

For additional information, please contact the city's project manager, Neil Gaines, at 941.365.2200, ext. 6309, or neilgaines@sarasotagov.com.

Editor's Note: Thanks to the IBSSA Beautification Committee, its Chair Cynthia Bernstein and former Chair, Alan Lillie, for their commitment and dedication to this project.

Neighborhood Watch News

by Debbie Muller

Due to the commitment of our residents, Indian Beach-Sapphire Shores truly represents what Neighborhood Watch is all about... the community and the police working together to reduce crime. For years we have strived to enhance neighborhood security, heighten our awareness and power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors. Hopefully these efforts have resulted in a safer neighborhood for families to live in, a pleasant environment for everyone to enjoy and an overall better community for all to appreciate.

Crime Report 2010

As of February 28th there has been a burglary of a vacant house, an attempted break-in of an occupied home, a bicycle theft and a license plate stolen off a vehicle. There was also an assault and attempted robbery of a young man in the vicinity of Indian Beach Park. Prostitution and drug activity, stemming from US 41, continue to affect our neighborhood. There have also been numerous complaints about non-permitted door-to-door solicitors and growing concerns regarding overly aggressive panhandling. (The police need to know when these incidents occur). Statistics indicate a slight decrease of crime in our neighborhood, however, any crime is too much!

Eyes, Ears and Knows

No one knows our neighborhood better than we do: the normal comings and goings, the usually activity. If we make a continuous effort to be aware of what's happening around us as we go about our daily routines, take note of things out of the ordinary, and never hesitate to call the police if something doesn't seem right, we won't become easy targets for criminals. (The shooting in Walgreens served as a sad reminder that, no matter how careful we are, we could find ourselves in a totally unexpected and unimaginable situation which is completely unavoidable).

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.

Upcoming Neighborhood Watch Meeting

Residents will be informed of the date, time and location or you may call your neighborhood coordinator for information.

See it! Hear it! Report it!

Report all crime and suspicious activity...IMMEDIATELY!

- First call the police – for emergencies call 911, for non-emergencies call 316-1199 or 316-1201.
- Call your Block Captain or Coordinator
- Alert your neighbor

While some suspicious situations have innocent explanations, the police would rather investigate a crime-prone situation than be called when it is too late. Your call could stop a criminal act, prevent an injury or save a life.

Membership Application and Dues Renewal Form



Indian Beach-Sapphire Shores Association

Membership type: New Renewal

I can volunteer:

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

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**June 1 – Semi Annual Meeting
 see page 4 for details**

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Neighborhood Watch Coordinators:

- Sapphire I 58th Street - 47th Street:
Debbie Muller 355-5743
- Sapphire II 47th Street - Myrtle Street:
Barbara Cherry 351-7906
Barbara.Cherry@comcast.net
- Sapphire III Myrtle Street - Indian Beach Drive:
Holly Cita 351-8034, hollycita@verizon.net
- Sapphire IV Indian Beach Drive - Whitaker Bayou:
Yvonne Lacey 365-7063
lacey.yvonne@yahoo.com

Helpful Numbers:

- Sarasota Police Dept
- Non-emergency 316-1199 or 316-1201
- S.P.D. Front Desk 954-7025
- Chief Peter Abbott 954-7002
- Lt. Pat Ledwith (N.Dist) 364-7344
- Animal Services 861-9500
- Boat Noise 316-1201
- Citizen Volunteer & Project Lifesaver:
- 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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