



A Mayor from IBSSA

On April 17th the Sarasota City Commission unanimously elected Dick Clapp mayor for the upcoming year. Dick, a former Indian Beach- Sapphire Shores Association president, resides on South Shore Drive. Commissioner Kelly Kirschner remarked that Dick is the first mayor from the Indian-Beach Sapphire Shores neighborhood since his father, Kerry, was mayor in the eighties when the Kirschner family lived on Bay Shore Road.

Congratulations Dick!!

Sights & Sounds of Spring

Birds in the `Hood by John Hoover

It is spring and most of our northern visitors have left. The snowbirds have returned to their homes. I am talking about real birds, not the figurative ones. We share our Indian Beach-Sapphire Shores neighborhood with a wonderful variety of feathered friends. This time of year non-migratory birds are nesting. Most of us have had the privilege of hosting nesting birds in our trees and hedges. Some of us have cardinals in the shrubbery; others have pileated woodpeckers in hollow palms and a lucky few have yellow crowned night herons in their live oaks. We live, quite literally, in a rookery. These backyard encounters should serve as a reminder of our place in nature and of our responsibilities as stewards of the environment. Having wild birds in our lives is one of the blessings that make ours a great neighborhood.

The most powerful force known to biology is the drive to reproduce. The high drama which plays out in our backyards and treetops is unnoticed by most people. A few weeks ago, all one had to do was look up to see a bird with a twig or bit of moss in its beak hurrying to construct a nest that would put his mate in the mood. The courtship rituals, with full plumage displays and feedings of the mate sitting on the eggs, are over. Now the eggs are hatching and the real work begins. The cacophony of

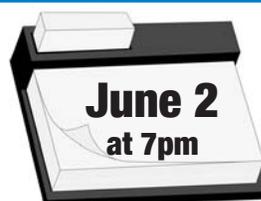
squirrels scolding house cats has been replaced by bird calls. Border disputes over invisible boundaries pit mockingbird against blue jay. Outdoor cats are under constant surveillance and often under attack. An inadequately protected fledgling can become a meal for any predator. Size does not matter when the nest and offspring are threatened. Bird parents will drive off animals and humans many times their size to defend their young. Survival of each species requires protective parents.

We humans can help our avian neighbors without interfering in the natural order of things. Putting out wild bird seed and having water available make a yard more bird friendly. Bird houses or nesting boxes attract everything from wrens and swallows to screech owls and wood ducks, depending on the requirements of the individual species. A Florida Certified Yard makes for excellent bird habitat. Tree trimming and shrub pruning either before or after nesting season is less likely to disrupt active nests. If you use a landscaping service, advise them that you are bird friendly and ask them not to disturb active nests. Non-toxic lawns and yards do not accidentally poison non-target species. A bell collar on the cat can prevent your kitty from being a killer. If you notice an active nest and want to watch it, that is fine, but allow the birds a reasonable comfort zone.

Live baby birds found on the ground can be returned to the nest if parents are present. (Believe me...you will know if they are there). Do not try to give a baby bird food or water. Well meaning people often cause more damage than good by feeding or watering out of the nest baby birds. If no parent birds are present or if the nest or tree is on the ground, just keep the baby warm and dry. Do not try to raise it yourself or keep it as a pet. The best thing to do is to call a certified wildlife rehabilitator or a veterinarian.

Many different kinds and sizes of birds nest in the Indian Beach-Sapphire Shores area. In addition to the usual song birds, there are some surprises. Living here is like having the Discovery Channel in your backyard. Down by Whitaker Bayou and up by the museum, ospreys can be seen bringing fish to feed their broods. Some of the larger pine trees closer to the Trail hold

continued on pg 2 ►



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

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WEB SITE

www.ibssa.ws

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS GROUP

Log onto web site for complete instructions on how to subscribe 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.

Birds in the `Hood continued from pg 1

great horned owl nests. Crows seem to like the Norfolk Island pines. Yellow crowned night herons nest in some of the big live oaks on Indian Beach Road and Ixora Avenue. There are green heron nests in the myrtles and American egrets in the mangroves along the water, just to mention a few. Whether it is cardinals in the ficus, mockingbirds in the bougainvillea or pelicans in the mangroves, they are all native birds and legally protected species. These animals belong here and are not pests.

Bird watching can be as casual as observing what our feathered friends are doing while we garden or walk our dogs, or can become a way of life. If are interested in bird watching, but do not know where to start, I recommend the Peterson Field Guides.

For information and help with birds, contact any of the following associations:

Save Our Seabirds (388-3010) is now operating in the old Pelican Man site between Mote Marine Laboratory and Ken Thompson Park. They even have an after hours drop box in back for bird patients.

The Wildlife Education & Rehabilitation Center (778-6324) is out on Anna Maria Island.

The Bayshore Animal Hospital (756-5544) will also accept orphaned or injured wildlife and is located at 1511 Florida Blvd off the Trail north of the airport. ♦



John Hoover, the author of this article, can be contacted at Otterdad48@aol.com



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Casa Museo & Sapphire Shores

Déjà Vu All Over Again? by David Jennings

Many significant development projects take time to complete. They may even span the highs and lows of a market cycle and thus end up quite differently than originally planned.

Sapphire Shores is one such development. Platted in the early 1920's, the original deed restrictions required all homes be in Moroccan, Italian Mediterranean or Moorish style. Other restrictions dictated that principal homes be built before the guest house and the cost of construction must equal the cost of the land.



About 13 homes of this nature were built prior to the Florida Real Estate bust of late 1926. Most were constructed on multiple lots and they all survive to this day. They are not hard to identify and most have been extensively written about in various local and national publications.

At the time of the bust, about 150 platted lots were left undeveloped. These were intended to be built out as, at least, another 75 grand residences. It's hard

to determine how many unsold lots the Brywill Realty Company walked away from due to lost records at the County and I have never determined who purchased the unsold balance.

Over time, the deed restrictions became null, if not totally forgotten, and it appears the first home built after this devastating collapse was on Brywill Drive in 1935 followed by the 1940 cottage on Woodland Drive I am sitting in as I write these thoughts. 436 Woodland went up in '48, George Luzier built on a lot he bought from a relative in '49 and it was up, up, up from there.

Today, this neighborhood is a rich tapestry of different architectural styles, a wide range of values and varying lot sizes.

As for Casa Museo... a similarly eclectic story could unfold before our eyes. The market was not able to absorb the Houses of Indian Beach project as originally planned, although Guy Peterson won an Architectural Institute of America design award for an "unbuilt environment." Rather than abandon the opportunity, the Coastal Island Group changed their plan, significantly lowering price points to be more attractive to today's market.

Native Floridian and Sarasotan, Walter Hamm was chosen to design the new collection of homes in a Classic Spanish genre, which he says is influenced by the designs and scale of Addison Mizner. They do not appear to be "tract type" Med Revs with applied ornamentation to make a box look like something it is not. In fact, boxes don't work on most of these lots due to



size, shape and the extensive number of trees on property. Such "form creating" obstacles should result in a very interesting neighborhood, regardless of architectural style.

The original Rus-in-Urbe columns are back in place and the property is being tended to regularly. Lots are all marked and if you have not walked this property, you have not taken advantage of what the IBSSA fought very hard for...continued public access to the roadway.

RUS-IN-URBE... A NEW NEIGHBORHOOD PARK?

Members of our neighborhood have thought for many years, "What a wonderful park Rus-in-Urbe would make!" If you're not familiar with this Latin phrase meaning "Country in the City," it's what we have historically called the large tract of land at 4200 Bay Shore Road where the Casa Museo development is now planned.

Over the years, significant efforts have been made to purchase this property, first led by the board of the Association and, more recently, through Lisa Wilson's Emerald Forest initiative.

The county's inability to become involved was one of the catalysts for a referendum that landed on the ballot in 2005. 85% of voters supported a continuation of Sarasota County's Sensitive Lands Protection Program until 2029 and they also approved the Parkland Acquisition Program, opening up the use of these funds for purchases within City limits. Today, the Environmental and Parkland Acquisition Program takes suggestions from the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Oversight Committee and the Parks Advisory and Recreation Council.

There is a lot of competition among interest groups in Sarasota County, but the Sarasota City Commission recently voted unanimously to add this Bay Shore parcel to the list of eight potential properties within City limits to be considered for purchase. It is hoped the parcel will be moved up on the priority list. A recent proposal from the property owners would involve the northern part of the property becoming a public park and the southern half developed with 13 homes.

Efforts toward turning the whole property or part of the property into a public park continue as this newsletter goes to press. All will be kept informed as the project evolves and, also, as neighbors are called upon to turn out at public meetings in support of the project. ◆

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

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT

by Debbie Muller

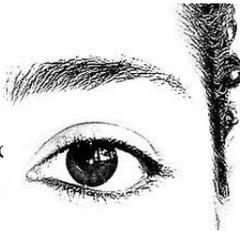
Did you know IBSSA has the oldest Neighborhood Watch Program in the city? A program involving the joint efforts of the police and the community, Neighborhood Watch is designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's powers of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern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

Crime Report: During the year 2008 there were approximately 36 residential burglaries, 31 auto burglaries, eight motor vehicle thefts and several cases of vandalism reported in our neighborhood. Thankfully, the police have made arrests in connection with numerous burglaries in the area and in one incident of vandalism suspects were identified. As of April 30, 2009 there have been seven residential burglaries and five auto burglaries. Mailbox vandalism and graffiti also continue to be a problem.

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.

Keep an Eye Out

Make our neighborhood a better, safer place to live. Let's watch out for each other.



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

By following these three steps our neighbors can be quickly informed of a crime or potential for crime and be on the lookout for possible suspects as the police are responding.

Our City Police Department, as well as all law enforcement agencies, functions more effectively with the assistance of concerned residents who take the time to observe and report suspicious activity. Responding promptly with accurate information is vital.

Report: What happened? When? Where? Was anyone hurt? ▶

Suspect Description: Age, race, sex, height, weight, hair, clothing, unique characteristics (scars, tattoos, jewelry, etc.)

Vehicle Description: Make, model, color, license number, distinctive features, noticeable damage, and the direction of travel

Your call could stop a criminal act, prevent an injury, or save a life!

Alert: Prostitution to Drugs to Burglary to Robbery to Assault to ??? eliminated.

Let's not be complacent about the illicit activity often occurring along the North Trail. Be sure to report any criminal activity that you see. Call the Police...they need to know!

Reminders:



Don't speed! BE a safe driver and obey the 25 mph speed limit throughout our neighborhood and the 15 mph speed limit in all school zones.

Mail theft often leads to identity theft! Outgoing mail should be taken to the Post Office, deposited in a blue USPS drop box or handed to your carrier.

Police recommend locking your vehicle and not leaving valuables inside...especially not in plain sight!

Be in control of your dog at all times! Although the leash law is somewhat vague, it is very clear that dog owners are always to be in control of their dog. Responsible dog owners do not allow pets to run loose in the neighborhood and they realize that there are many people who, for various reasons, do not want to be confronted by dogs. Please be respectful of others and don't forget to clean up after your pet.

Sarasota Police Department Citizen Volunteer Program:

Two residents of our neighborhood have recently become citizen volunteers. Egon and Urte Tuerpe will be conducting vehicular patrols in our area and are hoping that others will soon join them in becoming volunteers and helping to make our wonderful neighborhood even safer. For information about the SPD Citizen Volunteer Program, contact Officer Ford Snodgrass at 954-7056.

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

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IT'S A CLASS III DROUGHT

by Julia Burch

In case you didn't know it, we are in a drought. Not just any drought, but a Class III drought. That means surface water bodies, groundwater and reservoir levels are extremely low. This type of extreme water shortage was declared for our region by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) on February 24, 2009. But don't be fooled, we've been in a drought for the past three years and are about 30 inches behind in average rainfall!

As a result, SWFWMD and local governments, including the City of Sarasota, have issued watering restrictions for your yard. Don't water just because it's your day. The basic principle of lawn and garden watering is not to over-water. You can only water once a week. Even numbered addresses may water only on Tuesday, odd numbered addresses only on Thursday. Watering can only occur before 8am or after 6pm. These restrictions apply to ALL water sources including private wells, lakes and canals!

Specific water restrictions are as follows:

- For new lawns (installed 30-days ago or less) you can water any day during the first 15-days before 8am and after 6pm. After 15 days you can water every other day for the next 15 days before 8am and after 6pm. After the 30 day establishment period, the regular watering restrictions above apply.
- For new plants (installed 60-days ago or less) you can water any day during the first 30 days before 8am and after 6pm. After 30 days you can water every other day for the next 30 days before 8am and after 6pm. After the 60 day establishment period the regular watering restrictions above apply.
- You can hand water plants any day before 8am and after 6pm.
- Fountains and waterfalls can only run 4 hours per day.

Calculate your water use at <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/conservation/thepowerof10>. Be part of the solution and reduce your use.

Follow these tips for training your yard to need less water.

- Use non-cypress mulch liberally around plants to conserve moisture.
- Convert irrigation systems to low volume micro-irrigation.
- Irrigate grass and plants only when they start to wilt.
- Defer installation of sod and plants until the rainy season begins.
- Reduce amount of existing grass by expanding plant beds ▶

or using turf alternatives like sunshine mimosa (native) or perennial peanut (Florida-friendly).

- Install native plants and/or drought tolerant Florida-friendly plants: <http://www.scgov.net/EnvironmentalServices/Water/SurfaceWater/Fertilizer.asp>
- Install a rain barrel: <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/conservation/rainbarrel>. For more info on the drought, watering restrictions and reducing your water use visit www.watermatters.org or the SWFWMD water restrictions hotline at 1-800-848-0499. To report a watering violation, call the City of Sarasota Public Works Department at 941-955-2325. ♦

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

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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EARTHBOX GARDENING WORKSHOPS

by Holly Cita

On April 22, (Earth Day) one of two gardening workshops was held at Sapphire Shores Park. Our IBSSA newsgroup served as the catalyst in communicating this neighborhood event. Approximately 25 neighbors and friends joined together to listen and learn from Holly Cita how to create an Earthbox.

An Earthbox is a self-contained rectangular garden system that is designed with the bottom acting as a reservoir. Water is added into a plastic pipe located along one side of the box. Seven Earthboxes were provided and purchased by enthusiastic gardeners. An example of a homemade container for growing food was also demonstrated. Three red wiggler vermicultures were given away and organic heirloom tomato seedlings were also available.

The benefits of home composting were encouraged as a means of diverting food and yard waste from our landfill, and turning this waste into a renewable source, SOIL for GARDENING!

At a second workshop a simple composting system was demonstrated. The importance of providing habitat and fresh water for wildlife and avoiding the use of pesticides, herbicides and chemical fertilizers was discussed.

Many thanks to Sharon Carr from Carr's Café for providing veggies, dips, chips and water, and to Sherry and Vald Svekis for providing beverages.

Drawing: Drawing by Jane Ford, age 9, Holly's daughter. ◆

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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: _____

new or changed

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

2009 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

N TRAIL NEWS

Jay Patel of the N Trail Business Alliance tell us a new Chinese restaurant (dim sum) is scheduled for a June opening, located in the former KFC building at Tamiami Trail and 42nd St. Let's give our support to all our business neighbors.

An announcement soon will be made about plans for the Serendipity Gallery property on Tamiami Trail at Sylvan Drive. Artist Marietta Lee, a 23rd Street neighborhood resident, has purchased the property and will be opening a museum to house her extensive collection of "whimsical" art. The former boat sales property across the street on Whitaker Bayou has been purchased to provide parking for museum visitors. You will read updates through the discussion group as plans unfold. ◆

THE HISTORY PROJECT

Indian Beach-Sapphire Shores has a rich history and a group of neighbors have decided to join in researching and preserving that history. At an initial meeting, a wide range of activities to pursue were identified. First priority will be given to collecting oral histories from longtime residents. There are even some whose grandfathers were early Sarasota settlers in this area.

Anyone interested in participating can contact Vald or Sherry Svekis by calling 359-0683 or e-mailing vsvekis@gmail.com. If you know long-time residents who would share stories of the neighborhood or if you have photos, postcards or other materials that could be scanned and preserved as part of the neighborhood history archive, please call Vald or Sherry.

And, if anyone has used video equipment that they might be willing to donate to the project, it will be much appreciated. ◆



Clean Up After Your Pet

Remember that in our neighborhood whatever you don't clean up goes into the bay. And obey the leash law.

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Indian Beach Sapphire Shores Association

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<http://ibssa.ws>

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

June 2, 7 pm

Bay Shore Mennonite Church

Thank You Neighbors!

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

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Manasota, FL



GAME NIGHT AT FUNTOYSIA

Our first IBSSA Game Night was held on March 25th at our new neighborhood toy store, Funtoysia, located at 5119 N. Tamiami Trail. Robin, the proprietor of Funtoysia, hosted the event, providing a diverse sampling of games for all ages. With about forty people attending, the event was declared a great success. Another Game Night was scheduled for May 20, with four or five new games to be featured. We'll keep you posted on future Game Nights. Please join in the fun. It's a wonderful way to greet and meet your neighbors.

