



INDIAN BEACH
SAPPHIRE SHORES
ASSOCIATION

NEWS AND VIEWS

A Publication of the Indian Beach Sapphire Shores Association

Fall 1997

Fall Back & Relax! It's Time For Our Annual Picnic



The Association will hold its 10th annual picnic on the bay at Caples Hall USF Sunday October 26th from 3 p.m. 'til 6 p.m. So remember to turn your clocks back and come to the picnic for fun, food and friendly folks. As usual, we will provide clowns for the kids and soft drinks for all. The Dixie Spirit Jazz Band will be performing and this year we have a tent so plan to come rain or shine. There is no admission charge for association members and their guests except for a covered dish that can be shared with everyone. We will also have a table set up where you can pay your annual dues. Hot dogs will be provided so bring salads, casseroles, baked goods or desserts—just be sure to label your dishes and utensils. We need volunteers so call David Bouverat at 355-5754 if you would like to help out. Where is Caples Hall? If you're heading north on Bay Shore, it's the first driveway past North Shore Drive, the southernmost driveway of the USF and museum complex. Enter through the gates and head toward the bay, look for our sign and balloons. Sit back and relax, enjoy your neighbors, friends, the music, a great meal and lots of fun. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets but please leave your pets at home. See you there!!



Neighbor to Neighbor Plant Exchange

The Beautification Committee is planning to have a table at the picnic for neighbors to exchange plants with each other. Please look around your garden and house and bring a plant or two to the picnic.



"Bring a plant - Take a plant" will succeed only if you participate. If you have any questions or if you'll be away and want your plants picked up before the picnic, call Sandy Polishook at 358-9513.

Neighborhood Watch Meeting

Thursday, October 16th, 7P.M.
Bayshore Mennonite Chapel
(Bay Shore Rd. at Myrtle)

This is a meeting for ALL residents of the neighborhood. We will meet in four separate groups by Area for one hour to discuss problems and efforts to improve our effectiveness. Then we will all come together for a general discussion and hear reports from each Area.

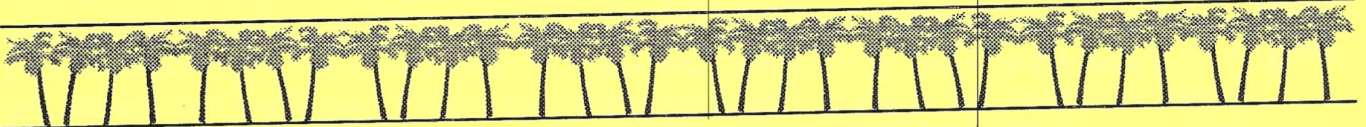
Please, mark your calendar now and come to this meeting! This is a "must" meeting for all Block Captains!

The President's Message

Hi Neighbors,

Surely our cup runneth over....Our membership is larger than it has ever been, well over 500 families and climbing steadily towards 600! Our bank account has never been so healthy! Our Crime Watch, under the direction of Debbie Muller, continues to be one of the city's best. Our beautification committee, under the direction of Alan Lillie, has embarked on an ambitious schedule of projects. The association has been successful in urging the city to budget \$50,000 for the repair and prevention of erosion of the shoreline at Indian Beach. Our district commissioner, Nora Patterson, has requested an additional \$5,000 for the beautification of the area and I am sure your board of directors will also allocate funds for the project. This newsletter gets better with every publication. Laura Scahill has joined the News and Views staff and is assisting Sylvia Knight with the graphics and layout. We are fortunate and very grateful to have her help. As noted in the last newsletter, Barnett Bank is now sponsoring the publication by generously providing the paper and printing. This savings and the revenue from the kind folks who advertise with us, make our newsletter self supporting for the first time. Our annual picnic continues to be a much looked forward to event and is, without a doubt, the largest neighborhood picnic in the city. We are hoping that our annual concert will, in time, become as popular as the picnic. This association has always strived to earn the respect of our city officials and we feel we have been successful in that area. We may not always get everything we ask for but we have always been given a fair chance to be heard. Our latest excitement is the establishment of a web site for our association on the Internet. Through the initiative of Bert Polishook, with the help of Kafi Benz, our web site should be on line by late October.

All of the above does not happen by chance, nor does it happen because of me. Good things happen in the neighborhood because of the hard work of a dedicated, unfortunately small, group of people. My sincere thanks and appreciation goes to these neighbors and friends. The accomplishments of this association are limited only by the extent of the imagination and desire of its members. See you at the picnic! Bart Cotten, President



Beautification News

Our second project, the 40th St. right-of-way from Bay Shore Rd. to the bay, is now about 80% completed. We've removed all trash including bottles, cans, styrofoam, plastic, fishing lines, rotted shoes, and more. It was amazing. In addition, piles of dead bamboo (suffocated by potato vines) were carried away. Brazilian pepper plants were cut back to ground level and all potato vines pulled down and dug up. After this clearing phase, 110 native plants were planted composed of 13 different species. A temporary irrigation system of plastic tubing and drip nozzles has been installed with water being supplied by Burt and Sandy Polishook (a very generous contribution). All plants have been fertilized and mulched. We plan to tag all species as an educational project to promote interest in natives. A winding pathway has yet to be designed and mulched. Our great thanks to all the neighbors who did all this work, they are; John Ericsson, Jim Kelly,

Allyn Gallop, Jack Martin, Bart Cotten - and our very special thanks to Charlie Hegener and his sister Helen who designed, directed and labored on this project. Plants and advice were supplied by Laurel Schiller and Dan Walton of *Florida Native Plant Nursery* and Linda Osborne of *Hard Scrabble Farms*. The neighborhood street tree program is underway, with Winchester between Beverly and Mecca, and Stevens Drive between 47th and Marlin being designated for trees of their choice.

On a less upbeat note, our experience with our first project, a 12 ft. diameter circle at Poinciana and Lane in the Uplands neighborhood, has been mixed. The installation went well and the watering program established the plants, but we have been unable to find any neighbors who will pull weeds and monitor the plants. So the circle is overgrown with weeds and the holly tree has died. It may be necessary to salvage the plants for other installations and

let the weeds take over again if we can't find any Uplands neighbors to help out. Future projects are Ainsley Place/Bay Shore Road and the right of way at 45th St. and Sarasota Ave. Both areas are in the planning stage.

Your plant donations are still invited. We'll probably need quite a few for the 45th St./Sarasota Avenue project. Our thanks to Pat Vaughn for her donation of a Sago Palm.

A brief word on the potato vine. This exotic is just about as undesirable as the notorious Kudzu vine of Georgia. It's extremely invasive and very damaging to all other plants. It kills by covering and smothering, plus it's shear weight breaks branches from even large trees. It can be recognized by its heart shaped leaves and fruit which resembles a small potato. When you find a plant, dig out the "potato" from which it grows and pick up any that may be lying on the ground. It's about the only way to control it.

Alan Lillie

Keeping the Neighborhood Beautiful

by Don Kraft

Most likely you take pride in your property and your neighborhood. After all it generally is one of the biggest investments most of us have, and most of us came here because it is an attractive place to live.

But, some of us don't closely follow the rules/laws that help protect us from unsightly conditions. Specifically, trash and recycling bins (by law) must not be placed at the curb before 5 P.M. the day preceding collection, and must be removed to the side of the property (hopefully out of sight) by 9 P.M. on the day of collection. Similarly, yard cuttings/waste should not be placed at the curb before 5 P.M. the day before collection. Also, lawns should be mowed frequently in the growing season. Boats and recreation vehicles must be parked at the side of properties and behind fences.

In addition, there is an increasing amount of litter all over the neighborhood thrown out by people who drive through. I walk my street almost daily and have to pick up fast food containers, bottles, cans, and paper/plastic bags discarded at random. If you want to live in a nice attractive neighborhood, please help by picking up some of this litter.

Remember, you are and should be responsible for not only your property but generally the whole immediate neighborhood you live in. Please, do your part. It takes only a few minutes of your time.

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The New Look Newsletter

by Sylvia Knight

One year IBSS resident and professional layout designer, Laura Scahill, has volunteered to redesign and typeset our association newsletter on the computer. I am working closely with Laura helping her in any way I can (i.e. referring advertisers, collecting text material, etc.) and I will continue to organize the labeling and mailing with the help of our committee. Laura, owner of Iconics Graphic Art and Design company states, "I love working on the newsletter and being able to contribute something to our great neighborhood." Take note of her ad on this page. So thank you Laura for your time, expertise and our super new look!

If you have any comments, articles or questions about the newsletter call me, Sylvia Knight, at 355-8335 (e-mail: camirad@gate.net) or Laura Scahill at 351-2626 (e-mail: Iconics LA@aol.com).

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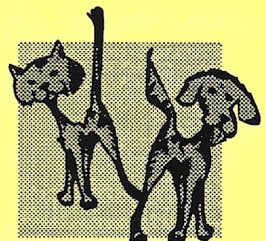
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Recent Action in the Commercial Zone

by Don Kraft

As you probably know, there is a special commercial zone for the North Trail called "NT". It is only about 200 to 500 feet wide on either side of the North Trail. Your Board continuously watches what is proposed and happening in this zone as it borders our residential area and definitely affects our quality of life and real estate values.

If you attended the General Meeting in June at USF, you are aware that we had a group from Eckerd's present their plans for relocating and building a new store at the corner of the North Trail and Myrtle where the billiard parlor is now. Both our residents and those from the Bayou Oaks Neighborhood Assn. were articulate in letting Eckerd's planners know that while we had no problem with their relocation, that we would hope that they could and would modify the architecture of a new building to be more compatible with the surrounding neighborhood. Specifically, a large number of us find the ubiquitous sameness of chain operations boring and monotonous.

Eckerd's had to obtain a special exception from the City Planning Board to permit parking between the proposed building and the North Trail and between the building and Myrtle as the "NT" zoning ordinance no longer permits parking in those areas. The objective of this ordinance is to eventually move to a buffer between the North Trail and commercial enterprises that can be developed as a more pleasant area visually and for people to walk and enjoy. It is a long term and worthwhile goal and I am sorry the Planning Board allows exemptions.

However, Eckerd's appealed to the Planning Board and was granted permission to have parking areas both on the Trail and Myrtle sides of the building. I did appear before the Planning Board representing our Association and requested that this exception not be granted. I also took the opportunity to articulate to

Eckerd's that the Neighborhood Associations in the area genuinely would appreciate their changing the exterior architecture from their standard model found all over the city. I don't believe that they were at all sensitive to this request.

Bingo Parlor Request Denied

The owner of the North Trail Plaza had requested permission to lease the former Publix space to the operators of a Bingo Parlor. I personally strongly objected to a gaming establishment in our neighborhood and found 40 other property owners to sign petitions which I presented. I might have had more but many of you were at your summer residences or on vacation.

I am pleased to report that the Board of Adjustment listened and voted unanimously to uphold the previous decision of the manager of the Building, Zoning and Code Enforcement to deny their request. All members of the Board of the Association had also been in agreement that we did not want this type of gambling.

We, the Board, and all owners/residents of our neighborhood must work together and constantly monitor actions/plans in the Commercial Zone. Please become a member if you are not now and, become active in supporting things that will improve our neighborhood.



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Block Captains Needed

Neighborhood Watch works if we have active, involved neighbors and volunteer Block Captains. It takes very little of your time, most everything is done via telephone. Vacancies are in the following blocks or streets as follows:

Area 3 call Don Kraft 359-3576

W. Tamiami Cir., Bay Shore Circle, Patterson St., Bay Shore Rd. from 32nd to Myrtle, Highland St., Norwood, 32nd St.

Area 4 call Diane Underwood, 954-5129

Hickory & 24th St.

Area 3- call Paul Hoyt, 355-6324,

Iroquois (North of Myrtle), Chapel (North of Myrtle), 45th St. from Guava Ct. to Sarasota Ave., 40th St to Iroquois, Bay Shore Rd. from 45th St. to Myrtle, Sarasota Ave. from 45th to 47th St.

Area 1- call Debbie Muller

**This is a needed function in YOUR neighborhood.
PLEASE VOLUNTEER NOW!**



Sarasota Police Department News

Lieutenant Mike Hollaway is the newly assigned North District Commander. He invites us to call him with any questions, comments or concerns. He will be spending some of his time at the North Trail Substation. We can look forward to welcoming Lt. Hollaway at an upcoming meeting. Patrol Officers are now working 12 hour shifts. This change is intended to put more police officers on our city streets and will hopefully mean more patrols in our neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Court Watch

Volunteers are needed to attend hearings of repeat drug and prostitution offenders. The Court Watch volunteers are recognized in the courtroom and their presence has had a positive impact. Recent rulings by several Judges have called for higher bonds and more severe sentences on convictions. Offenders are now realizing that their criminal actions are not going unnoticed and are not being accepted by the law abiding community.

If you are interested in participating in Court Watch, a list of the court dates will be posted at the North Trail substation. For more information call: PBA office at 366-1436 or Linda Holland at 365-1807 or Debbie Muller at 355-5743.

Neighborhood Watch News

What is a Neighborhood Watch? It is a program involving the joint efforts of the police and the community designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and to encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors. An effective Neighborhood Watch needs residents who are willing to call the police when a crime or suspicious activity is observed and then inform their Block Captain or Coordinator so that others will be alerted to any problems or incidents in the area. Thankfully, we live in such a neighborhood. The concern, awareness and communication among our residents have been the key to keeping our neighborhood safe.

SEE IT! • HEAR IT! • REPORT IT!

1. Call the Police 316-1199 or 955-7171, 911 for emergencies only.
2. Inform your block captain or coordinator.
3. Alert your neighbor.

Neighborhood Watch Coordinators:

Sapphire I: 58th St. - 47th St.

Debbie Muller 355-5743

Sapphire II: 47th St. - Myrtle Ave

Paul Hoyt 355-6324

Sapphire III: Myrtle Ave. - Indian Beach Dr

Don Kraft 359-3576

Sapphire IV: Indian Beach Dr. - Witaker Bayou

Dianne Underwood 954-5129

Uplands

Sgt. Dave Hart 951-5051

Update

A new Adult Entertainment Ordinance must be written and approved. The ordinance passed in October 1994, regulating the location of lingerie modeling shops, adult bookstores and other such uses, was voided on technical grounds this past May. The City Attorney is in the process of writing another ordinance which is due to go before the Planning Board and then to the City Commission by the end of this year. An ordinance is needed to insure that these types of businesses are not allowed to operate next to our homes or schools. The community's support of the ordinance will be needed during the Public Hearings. WATCH FOR DATES AND TIMES. Our city officials should realize that these businesses along the North Trail create a very poor image of our city and of our neighborhood. Hopefully, an ordinance will be passed and enforced.

**Remember; Neighbors working together
will keep our neighborhood safe!!**

Around The Corner

by Don Kraft

In the 2/28/97 Wall Street Journal I read an article entitled "A Strip-Mall Builder Woos the Neighbors". It briefly describes the efforts of a coalition of Neighborhood Associations that worked on and with a mall developer to get the kind of shopping center that the residents needed and wanted. How? The people worked on the politicians to deny developers things they did not want. Then they found a young developer who let the neighbors get involved in determining the types of businesses they wanted, the design of the buildings and location design of the parking area. The people even had the opportunity to choose trees and other landscaping elements such as fountains.

Result: Design and success for the neighborhood and the developer, as people supported the businesses with their trade. Most of us want an upscale Mall to replace what we have. Ideally, with the proper developer, and support from the City and Neighborhood Associations, we might attract and achieve our goal. Conceivably a consistent development could run from Myrtle down to Indian Beach Drive.

Perhaps we might be able to attract such a developer as Rick Caruso in California, or someone locally who is enlightened. It certainly would be worth spending some time and effort on to gain neighborhood improvement.

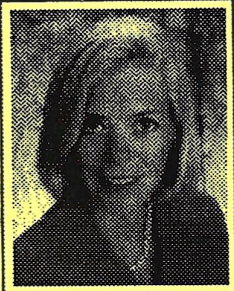
Sarasota News & Books to Open at Former Charlie's News



New IBSSA neighbors, Dick and Caren Lobo, are renovating the old Charlie's News site at the corner of Main and Palm, and will open their new newsstand, cafe and bookstore on October 1st. The new shop will carry international newspapers, along with thousands of books, magazines, greeting cards and gifts. Dick and Caren are striving to achieve a unique look and feel, comfortable to both local residents and international visitors. The European-style cafe will specialize in Torrefazione Italia coffees, bagels, pastries, wine and beer, and will include indoor and sidewalk cafe seating. Business hours will be 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. Sarasota welcomes the Lobos and their new venture, Sarasota News & Books and wishes them the best of luck.

Don't forget!

IBSSA
Annual
Picnic on
Sunday
October
26th at
3 O'clock.



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Association Plans Web Site on the Internet

In October, IBSSA will become the first neighborhood association in Florida to establish a community oriented, interactive information service on the World Wide Web of the Internet. Through the new web site, residents will be more fully informed on a timely basis about neighborhood news and issues. This will enhance the neighborhood's reputation and vitality by improving it's interfamily communication, decision making capabilities, political effectiveness and security.

"This provides an exciting new dimension in our continuing quest to enhance the quality of life within the IBSS neighborhood", states Bart Cotten. Burt Polishook, who will act as Publisher, envisions the site "as changing the neighborhood into a virtual electronic village where information and communication is immediate and only a keyboard away".

The web site is segmented into 3 general areas:

1. *Welcome to Our Neighborhood* provides a profile of the community including a brief overview of the neighborhood's history.

2. *Neighborhood Association* offers detailed information on IBSSA including applications for joining the association.

3. The site centerpiece covers the following topics:

- Knowledge is Power, includes Crime Watch, Calendar of Events and City/County Planning issues.
- Happenings covers events and people oriented news within the neighborhood.
- The Forum provides an on-line assembly for neighbors to discuss local issues.
- Over the Fence offers advice and ideas that good neighbors share with each other.

"The Home Page."

- Neighborhood Links contains web sites of interest to the neighborhood.

The editors of the web site will be Kafi Benz, Sylvia Knight, Pat Taylor and Laura Scahill. Charlie Hegener and Marcia Ente provide advisory assistance. For further information call Burt Polishook at 358-9513 or e-mail Polisho@ibm.net.

Beach Clean-up a Success

A very impressive beach clean-up was executed Saturday, September 20th. Eleven neighbors braved the hot sun to remove all kinds of trash from our waterfront. Our IBSSA's "Navy", Jeff Hess and Philip Chiochio, patrolled the waterfront and overcame the enemy - trash. Missing from the picked up items were plastic 6-pack

holders and cigarette butts - so maybe things are getting better. Our efforts were rewarded by donations of Brita water filter machines, along with descriptive tee-shirts donated by local merchants. Thanks to all!

Next time, we want to make the whole neighborhood aware of this activity by way of this newsletter

and our web page. We need more volunteers, especially waterfront residents to participate in this rewarding exercise.

I plan to inform you and organize future Florida State Beach Clean-ups so all of us can help overcome the thoughtlessness of some of the "other people".
Jack Martin

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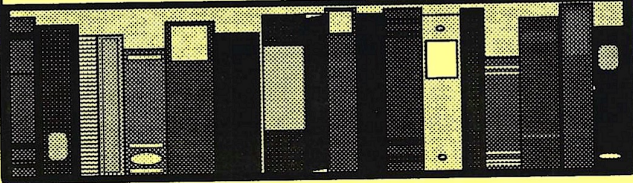
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Book Fair and Reading Festival

The New College Library Association, headed this year by one of our neighbors, Tish Benetovitch, will hold it's Book Fair and Reading Festival on November 7th, 8th, and 9th, at various locations. They will host prestigious guest speakers including Brian Lamb, Deborah Norville, Donald Spoto, Jimmy Breslin, Peter Masters, Carl Hiaasen, Rick Bragg and Richard Paul Evans. Additional information on times and locales may be obtained by calling 351-3700. Assisting Tish on the board are Dr. Robert Barylski and Caren Lobo, both residents of our neighborhood.



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 Comcast Cable TV 371-6700
 Police, parking/noise 955-7171
 Police, non emergency 316-1201

Police, No. Trail Plaza 359-5808
 District Commander 954-7015
 Recycling 953-6559
 Water/Sewer Emergency 955-4838
 Zoning Permits 954-4156
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