



INDIAN BEACH
SAPPHIRE SHORES
ASSOCIATION

NEWS AND VIEWS

A Publication of the Indian Beach Sapphire Shores Association

Fall 1998

Fall Back and Relax at our Annual Picnic

Turn your clocks back on Sunday, October 25 and come to the Caples Estate on Sarasota Bay from 3:00 to 6:00 for fun, food, and friendly folks. The DIXIE SPIRIT JAZZ BAND and Trompetin the Clown will be performing for your entertainment. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets.

There is no admission charge for neighborhood residents, but we do request each family bring a covered dish. We supply the hot dogs and soft drinks. We will have a tent set up so rain or shine we will be there. The Caples mansion is located behind the USF Caples Hall on Bayshore Road immediately south of the museum. Enter through the gates and head toward the bay. Look for the sign & balloons.
See you there!



Picnic Tips

Covered Dish suggestions: Salads, casseroles, baked goods, desserts (be sure to put your name on dishes and utensils)

Volunteers: If you would like to volunteer to help call David Bouverat at 355-5754.

Pets: Sorry, USF does not allow pets on their campus.

Guest: Members may bring a guest.

Membership Dues: If you haven't paid your annual dues (\$10) we will have a table set up to collect them.

Calendar of Events

Picnic

Sunday, 3:00 PM, October 25, 1998

Winter General Meeting

Tuesday, 6:30 PM, December 1, 1998

Executive Board Meetings

2nd Wednesday of Each Month

Newsletter Mailings

11/16/98

Indian Beach Sapphire Shores Planning Update

For the last 8 months, the neighborhood Planning and Development Committee has been leading an effort to plan for the future of our neighborhood. We've been monitoring and recommending changes to the city comprehensive plan, taking positions on various city issues such as the recent adult business ordinance and working on a neighborhood plan of our own. Two neighborhood meetings in May and June provided valuable input. In the coming months, we will continue to work with the city on their planning efforts. Also, we expect to have a draft neighborhood plan ready for your comments by the end of the year. Our planning projects are in various stages of development. In this newsletter, you will find articles on the June 2, 1998 Neighborhood Meeting, North Trail development, Bay Shore Road Improvement and a Bayhaven School Planning Initiative.

The Planning and Development Committee:
Burt Polishook, Charlie Hegener, Bart Cotten, Kafi Benz, Olga Ronay, Dick Lobo, Tim Tilton, Scott Picket, Don Farr, Paul Wolfe and Asim Mohammed.



2nd Annual Plant Exchange by Sandy Polishook

The Beautification Committee will again have a table at the picnic for neighbors to exchange plants. Bring a plant (or two); take a plant (or two). Share your garden with your neighbors.

STRATEGIES FOR THE NORTH TRAIL

by Charles Hegener

Prior to the initiative of the IBSSA Planning and Development Committee (PDC), there was no plan for upgrading our section of the North Trail (NT). The PDC felt that a more pro-active and aggressive approach was required. This view was reinforced by the North Trail charrette at the June 2nd planning meeting, at which neighbors expressed serious dissatisfaction with the road.

New City Initiatives

The City has agreed to actively consider amending the Comprehensive Plan based on planning recommendations that PDC and other stakeholders will develop for the NT. The City's newly established Neighborhoods Planning and Redevelopment Department, headed by Greg Horwedel, is now fielding a planning exercise that will hopefully result in an active program for NT improvement. The first meeting was held August 5th and called for a mixed-use, neighborhood-scale set of improvements, including retail, professional offices, and possible multifamily development. The meeting concluded that economic development strategy was the key to establishing land use, zoning, traffic and aesthetic policies. Substantial improvements are planned.

Tactics for Problem Businesses

The City has responded to our requests with an initiative to eliminate lingerie modeling and X-rated shops with a proposed new zoning ordinance. The ordinance provided the Pleasures 2 and Blue Video be "grandfathered in" for a two year period, after which they must vacate the premises. Also, the City authorized a lease buy-out strategy to hasten the departure of these businesses. In the event these approaches fail, various citizen initiatives, including demonstrations, videotaping of customers at these establishments, with mailed notifications to their home addresses, may be considered. PDC members have submitted to City officials a long list of possible code violations on the NT. The existence of problem businesses and unsightly conditions on the Trail, however, are merely symptomatic of more chronic economic and urban design issues. The configuration of parcels for roadside businesses of 50 years ago is not conducive to modern use. Zoning varies and there are no incentives for upgrading the appearance of existing establishments.

The Trickle Up Theory

Another obstacle to progressive planning for the NT is the idea that new developments by downtown will reverberate north and, over time, positively transform our section of the Trail. The PDC believes this is a dubious proposition, particularly because of the existing land use configuration. With numerous small parcels currently for sale, we believe that fast food stores and other marginally desirable businesses are the most likely developers for these sites. Time is therefore of the essence.

Possible Strategies

To attract businesses that would be an asset to the NT, the PDC believes that an environment must be created so that new business can reasonably believe they will be part of a general aesthetic and economic revitalization. The components of a strategy that might accomplish this include the following:

1. Identification of parcel assemblages for development
2. Business strategies for these parcels that would create themes of activity, such as professional, financial, and medical

services, technology or upscale retail.

3. Buffer zone policies that benefit abutting residences.
4. Application of various government incentives to promote entrepreneurship and quality development.
5. Progressive zoning, signage and land use regulations, including incentives for existing property owners.
6. Improvements in traffic patterns and parking lot regulations.
7. Expansion of Water Tower Park to provide access from the Trail, and thus an amenity for adjacent businesses.

The PDC is also exploring the feasibility of establishing pilot entrepreneurial business centers for high technology or knowledge-based businesses, such as consulting, research, or multimedia. There is no economic development plan for the city to attract high paying "businesses of the future", but there is an incipient program being started by the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100. Our initial communications with this organization indicate they may be receptive to coordinating development efforts with us, and creating pilot programs for the Trail. To add momentum to this effort, the PDC is assembling a group of 10 investors, who will consider investing \$100,000 or more each, as well as providing business advice, to viable new enterprises locating on the Trail. The Committee of 100 has already referred leads to us of businesses considering locating in Sarasota. The developers of the Bay Club have also offered to assist us in evaluating opportunities for assisted living developments. There is much interesting and productive work to be done, and the basis for a private/public partnership has been established. Your participation and creative input is invited to assure that plan development and implementation is consistent with the wishes of the neighborhood.

Is Fort Armistead on Your Property?

A proposal is before the board that they consider applying for a State Historic Preservation grant to fund a search for the remains of Ft. Armistead, a Second Seminole War post that was located just north of the mouth of Whitaker Bayou. Whether we proceed depends upon whether a majority of property owners will agree to have their properties archaeologically examined. The field survey would consist of the digging and immediate backfilling of a series of small shovel test or posthole tests, as well as remote sensing by ground-penetrating radar. After the testing, you won't be able to tell we've even been on your property. After analysis, all discovered items would become the property of the particular parcel owner. Be assured that any discoveries made would not in any way prevent your full and continued use of your private property. We'd just like to try to determine where the fort was located and whether any remnants of it still survive beneath your feet. But unless we get a majority of you to agree to the testing, the's little point in doing the survey - and less likelihood of getting the funding. So please consider joining in this effort to discover an exciting part of Sarasota's past. Bill Burger, M.A. Archaeologist.

North Trail Planning

by Burt Polishook

Several years ago, the North Trail was an area with poor economics, an abundance of crime, prostitutes and a negative reputation. Gateway 2000 was formed by a variety of interested groups and concerned citizens to upgrade the trail by bringing in new business, proposing a design theme throughout and changing zoning. It was a defensive move to combat the deleterious environment that was being created on the northern gateway to the city. That effort, plus the general positive economic environment of the last several years, has started to change the lower section of the North Trail. The North Trail that bounds our neighborhood on the east is about 2 miles long. It is currently a hodgepodge that falls far short of the strategic requirements that the northern "Gateway to the City" should provide to visitors, neighborhoods abutting the North Trail and residents

of Sarasota. From a tax base point of view, the current North Trail does little to economically sustain Sarasota. It is now time to develop and execute a long range strategic plan for the North Trail. Without that plan, the Trail will continue to develop on a piece meal basis, driven by individual business people, free enterprise, or developers as they see immediate opportunities.

What are the requirements, characteristics and action strategies of the plan? Building on the excellent work by IBSSA members at the June 2nd neighborhood meeting, wherein a summary set of ideal requirements for the North Trail and how to achieve them were developed, (see June 2nd Neighborhood Meeting Report by Olga Ronay), the following conceptual plan is offered:

North Trail Requirements		Destinations	Business Projects	Multifamily Housing
Gateway to the City	Neighborhood Support			
Requirements Characteristics		Accommodations Entertainment Restaurants Schools Museums	Value to City Local Labor New Residents	High Quality Road Buffered
Consistent Design Crime Free Road Planned Development	Stores Services			
Action Strategies		List Current Sites Seek Expansion	City Pilot Program Package 2-3 Sites Seek Developer Offer Tax Benefits Seek Businsses	Establish Prior Requirements Set Design Standards Plan Site Strategy Seek Developer
City Programs NT Overlay Zone Design Standards Art Program Plantings Program Road Buffering Land Planning Architectural Review Crime Reduction No Porn Laws Traffic Management Enforce Site Code		Neighborhood Plan Define Needs Seek Providers		

Pat J. Taylor's current listings in Indian Beach/Sapphire Shores area:

337 North Shore\$675,000
 1016 Caloosa Dr\$289,900
 842 Highland St\$165,000
 5136 Winchester\$124,900
 5214 Winchester\$110,000

Pat J. Taylor
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Meet at Sun Circle Beach for the Annual Beach Cleanup Saturday September 19, 1998 at 9:00 A.M.

Our neighborhood again joins forces with "Keep Florida Beautiful" for a country wide cleanup program. The goal is to promote environmental stewardship of the State's natural resources, increase public awareness, and encourage proper waste handling practices. Call Jack Martin at 355-3080 if you have any questions. Remember to wear proper clothing and ask your neighbor to help us. We have been known as a leader in this program. Let's do it again!

Bay Haven School Planning Initiative

The IBSSA has an opportunity to participate in planning for the future of Bay Haven School. The Planning and Development Committee will begin meeting with senior school administration officials at the end of September. Many neighbors are concerned about the accessibility of the school to neighborhood children. There are inadequate funds to maintain the school per its original historical standards. The school board has proposed closing the school, which most residents view as an essential amenity of our neighborhood. If you would like to participate in the planning process, please contact Charles Hegener at 351-7426 or chegener@ix.netcom.com.

Candidate Lawn Signs

The primary is over but election day is several weeks away. For those of you with signs of candidates who won in the primary, why not store them until about mid October and then bring them out again.

Your Vote Makes a Difference!

In the two precincts covering our neighborhood there are 2148 registered voters. On September 1 there was a primary election and only 371 or 17.2% of those registered voted. Keep in mind that voting is not only a right it is a privilege. Let's hear from everybody next time!

IBSSA Web Site-Your Window into the Neighborhood

Our neighborhood web site <<http://www.sarasotaonline.com/ibssa>> is chock full of neighborhood and related news. We now have over 90 member e-mail addresses on the "Member E-mail Directory" page. This directory is used to send out flash messages on significant neighborhood news. In the near future, the City of Sarasota's web site, <<http://www.ci.sarasota.fl.us/homepage.nsf>> will start to provide city wide information on neighborhood activities in their "Neighborhoods and Redevelopment" section. So look at our web site every once in a while...and give us information to include and ideas to improve the site.

Check out our website!

<http://www.sarasota-online.com/ibssa/>

40th Street Access Wins Restoration/Community Project Award

The Florida Native Plant Society honored IBSS with the First Place award in the Restoration/Community Project category of its Landscape Awards for the 40th Street Bay Access Reclamation. The Beautification Committee, chaired by Alan Lillie, selected the 40th Street site as one of its projects for 1997/98. Assisted by many residents, the neighborhood resolved to reclaim the Sarasota Bay access at 40th Street from accumulated trash and overgrowth of Brazilian Pepper and other non native, destructive plants.

Under the guidance of Charles Hegener, Helen Hegener and John Cronholm, a plan was created that called for preservation of plants which were native, or provided habitat; planting of natives for habitat; preservation of the character of the neighborhood; low maintenance; and education through plant identification marking. Additionally, new plants were to be drought resistant, salt tolerant near the water, and low maintenance. Helen Hegener, Sandy Polishook and Ann Ericsson, directed by the Beautification Committee, entered the project in The Florida Native Plant Society contest. The award was presented at the FNPS Annual conference in Palm Beach Gardens in June.

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Neighborhood Meeting Report, June 1998

by Olga Ronay

Thanks to all the folks who came to the neighborhood planning meeting at Sudakoff Center June 2. The meeting really got going when we broke into discussion groups to talk about key neighborhood issues. We have chosen two things to concentrate on during the next few months, namely Bay Shore Road and the North Trail. Not only are neighbors keenly interested in these areas, but things are happening now that will greatly impact our neighborhood. As always, we welcome your participation but we need the help of all neighborhood residents. If you want to take part, please contact any member of the Planning and Development Committee or e-mail <polisho@ibm.net>.

June 2nd Neighborhood Meeting Summary of Group Findings The North Trail should be safe, attractive, welcoming to pedestrians and bicyclists, and home to viable businesses. The fact that the North Trail is now far from this ideal unites us and strengthens our resolve to improve this crucial area. How to get there: Create destinations that encourage neighbors to walk and visit, as well as buy. For example, a cafe, ice cream shop or movie theater. Build on our strengths, such as educational & cultural institutions, proximity to airport and beach, racial diversity. Strengthen relationships with institutions such as New College/USF, Ringling School and the Museum. Develop buffers and architectural design standards to ensure that businesses are good neighbors.

Bay Shore Road As the heart of the neighborhood, it's already very good, but it can be better: with continuous sidewalks and bike lanes, landscaping and built features

that reflect the unique aesthetic and historic qualities of the neighborhood. Reduce traffic by closing Bay Shore at Poinciana (no more through lane from US 41 southbound). Reduce amount and speed of traffic by narrowing the road with painted bike lanes, and increased police enforcement. Improve landscaping first by planting the three islands near the Museum, and replacing the Washintonian palms along Bay Shore, keeping the existing trees. Putting utility wires under ground.

Land Use and Development This group identified three key concerns: development of the Price Property; compatibility between new development and existing neighborhood character; and the creation of small, local parks in the neighborhood.


Natural Environment Ideal

Preserve old trees and plant new ones. Improve bay water quality. Reduce the amount of pavement. Create small parks, linked by greenways. Share plants through a plant exchange program. Share information about environmental matters, using the web site as one method.

Social Environment Ideal

There should be more places and ways for neighbors to meet, chat, and do things together. These opportunities should range from quick to intensive, from casual to elaborate, and should accommodate young, old, and in-between. How to get there: Create more parks, especially small ones that form a common ground for one or two streets. Encourage the neighborhood schools and institutions to be partners in neighborhood social events. Organize special events (films series, blues fest).

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Neighborhood Watch News

Notice: The new police dispatcher telephone number on Neighborhood Watch signs is 316-1199 and is for non emergency calls only.

Alert: Mail in mailboxes has been tampered with in various locations throughout the neighborhood. Be alert, use common sense, drop your out going mail in a public drop box, and bring your delivered mail in promptly.

SEE IT! • HEAR IT! • REPORT IT!

1. Call Police 316-1199 or 911 for emergencies only.
2. Inform your block captain or coordinator so that residents can be made aware of the situation.
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 St. - Indian Beach Dr.
Don Kraft 359-3576

Sapphire IV: Indian Beach Dr. - Whitaker Bayou
Dianne Underwood 954-5129

Uplands
Sgt. Dave Hart 951-5051

North Coordinator
Lt. Bill Spittler 364-7317

To volunteer to become a Block Captain call your Coordinator or Officer Debbie Rossnagle at 954-7057.

Neighborhood Watch Area Coordinator Needed

Don Kraft, who has been in this position for 7 years, will be moving soon. Therefore, Area 3, from Myrtle to Indian Beach Dr. needs a person to volunteer to fill this vacancy. It is not time consuming. The biggest problem is trying to find residents who will function as Block Captains to collect and disseminate information on potential crime or problems. Won't someone please call Don at 359-3576 and volunteer? He will be happy to meet with you and explain the responsibilities.

IBSSA Officers and Directors for 1998

President - Don Farr, 351-4827
1st Vice President - Burt Polishook, 358-9513
2nd Vice President - Richard Lobo, 355-2442
Secretary - Carla Harding, 351-0531
Treasurer - Frank Zimmerman, 351-2925

Directors

Paul Wolfe, 955-4562 Don Kraft, 359-3576
 Anne Arseault, 351-3461 Jack Martin, 355-3080
 Pat Taylor, 355-1454 Alan Lillie, 351-2715
 Kafi Benz, 351-5239 David Bouverat, 355-5754

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Sapphire Shores/Indian Beach neighbors
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Bay Shore Road Improvement Project Supported By City Commission

On August 3, 1998, the Association's requests concerning the Bay Shore Road Improvement Project, based on the results of our May 9 and June 2 neighborhood meetings, received support from the City of Sarasota Commission and was referred to the City Staff for further approval. Congratulations to the committee and to all the neighbors who participated in defining its content. Here is the outline of the project request shown to the City Commission.

Bay Shore Road Improvement Project

1 Indian Beach Sapphire Shores Planning Efforts

Planning & Development Committee
Newsletter, Web Site & E-mail Communications
Neighborhood Planning Meetings; May 9 & June 2
Planning Projects:

*North Trail & Neighborhood Development
Pocket Parks, Social Programs & Physical Environment
Bay Shore Road Improvement*

2 City Plans

Funded Gray Water Distribution System
Funded Bike Path

Available Funds For:

Traffic Abatement, Sidewalks, Lighting, Trees, etc.
Enhancement of N. Sarasota & N. Trail
Support of Neighborhoods

3 Neighborhood Requests

Commission Support of Bay Shore Road Project
IBSSA Report as Conceptual Blue Print
Single Coordinated Effort
Gray Water System & Bike Path
Traffic Abatement & Roadway Improvements
Neighborhood Participation
Plan, Design, Approval & Implementation

4 Bikeway

Supported by Community
Safety Assurance & Right-of-Way Constraints
Preserve Existing Mature Trees
No Integrated Bike Lane & Pedestrian Sidewalk

5 Traffic Abatement

General Speeding Problem
Recommended Solutions
Increased Traffic Enforcement
Closure at Bay Shore & 41, New Entrance/Egress
Via Gen. Spatz Extension
Landscaping to Calm Traffic
Islands, Tree Replacement, New Trees & Shrubs
Traffic Circles/Speed Tables/Neck-Outs
Limited Support: Changes Character of Road
Consideration for Intersection Safety
Travel Lanes Less Than 12' Standard if Necessary

6 Additional Improvements

Sidewalks
Ensure Repair & Wheel Chair Access
Resurfacing & Road Changes, with Gray Water System
Lighter Colored Reflective Material
Repairs Consistent, No Patch Work
Assess Drainage Problem: Highland-Patterson
No Curbs or Storm Drains
Assess Street Lighting for Safety & Security
Similar Design Theme Throughout
Neighborhood Entry Landscaping & Signage
Indian Beach Drive & Myrtle Avenue
Benches at High Usage Locations, Bus Stops
Surplus Ringling Museum Sculptures Along Roadway
Utility Wires Placed Underground

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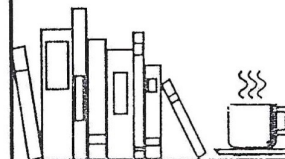


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Beautification News

by Alan Lillie

The Ainsley Place/Bay Shore Rd. triangle landscaping has been completed using only native plants. All plants are provided by the Beautification Committee of IBSSA. The City installed the curbing and soil. Margie O'Riorden, a neighbor, did the watering and final planting of some plants. Our very great thanks for her continuing help and support.

The City's plan for stabilizing the bank at Indian Beach Park has finally been completed and should be going out for bids within a month. Hopefully the project will be completed before year's end. We have asked for landscaping along the sidewalk to include native beach plants and will be given an opportunity to review plant selection.

Volunteers for weeding the 40th St. "Nature Walk to the Bay Front: are badly needed. Even an hour once a week would be helpful. Contact Sandy Polishook 358-9513.

Plans for a pocket park on 45th St. didn't make the City's budget so the Beautification Committee is now considering other alternatives for landscaping this area.

Our thanks to Gaia Goldman and John Hargreaves for their financial contributions to our program.

Bart's Fish

A dedication ceremony was held at Sapphire Shores Park to honor Bart Cotten and present his fish to the City of Sarasota in recognition of the six years of devoted leadership he gave to IBSSA. The whimsical fish was commissioned by IBSSA and friends of Bart, and created by sculptor Charles Meyrick. The City moved, installed and will maintain it as part of the park. Thank you and congratulations Bart Cotton!

Public Service Directory

Ambulance, Emergency, Fire	911
Animal Control	316-1081
City Commission	954-4115
City Manager	954-4102
Florida Power and Light	379-1424
Public Works	365-7651
Marine Patrol	316-1201
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
Crime Stoppers	366-8477



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