



Indian Beach
Sapphire Shores
Association

NEWS & VIEWS

A Publication of the Indian Beach Sapphire Shores Association

FALL 1999

IBSSA OFFICERS & DIRECTORS FOR 1999

President

Don Farr 351-4827

1st Vice President

Burt Polishook 358-9513

2nd Vice President

Dick Lobo 351-9681

Treasurer

Frank Zimmerman 351-2925

DIRECTORS

Kafi Benz 351-5239

Viola Goldberg 955-5657

Charles Hegener 351-7426

Don Kraft 359-3576

Alan Lillie 351-2715

Jeff Winsler 351-9980

J.P. Knaggs 351-4796

Paul Wolfe 355-0706

Newsletter Editor

Anne Arsenault 351-3461

Security Chair

Debbie Muller 355-5743

Past President

Bart Cotten 351-3236

Newsletter Design & Graphics, Page Saiaa



LET'S PICNIC !!

Plan to visit with old neighbors and meet new ones at our annual picnic on **Sunday, October 24**. Come swing along with the *Fred Williams Quartet* at the **Caples Estate on Sarasota Bay from 3.00 to 6.00**. There is no admission charge - just bring a dish to pass and your lawn chairs or a blanket. We will provide hot dogs and soft drinks. There will be a tent so we will be there come rain or come shine.



The Caples Mansion is located behind USF Caples Hall on Bay Shore Road immediately south of the Ringling Museum. Enter through the gates and head towards the bay. Look for the sign and balloons. Hope to see you there!

PICNIC TIPS

COVERED DISH SUGGESTIONS: salads, casseroles, baked goods, desserts. (Please bring serving utensils and don't forget to put your name on them and the dish)

PLANT EXCHANGE: Back by popular demand. There will be a plant exchange table set up. Bring a plant (or plants) that you would like to share and take another one home with you.

VOLUNTEERS: If you would like to volunteer to help please call Jane Shea at **355-8966** or send her an email at janeshea@hotmail.com

PETS: Sorry USF does not allow pets on their campus.

GUESTS: 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.

OCTOBER 24TH 3-6 PM



THE LONG AND SHINING ROAD

By Charles Hegener

When the IBSSA Planning and Development Committee began considering a program for improvement of the North Trail (NT) almost a year ago, it wasn't at all clear that anything could actually be done.

From the inception of the Tamiami Trail Committee (TTC) with a blank slate, I am very pleased to report that the formulation of an actual proposal for improvement is beginning to take shape. With the participation of surrounding neighborhoods and institutions, and some stalwart volunteers, we have developed a forum to propose and evaluate new ideas, some of which will certainly warrant the support of the community and the City, and some of which may well prove controversial. But the important thing is that a dialog has begun.

The TTC vision statement, which builds on previous work done by RUDAT and Gateway 2000, is posted on the IBSSA website. It outlines a transformation of the NT into a neighborhood-scale, mixed-used development environment reflecting the presence of major cultural and educational institutions in our area.

In addition to restaurants, shops, bookstores, art galleries and the like, the area may also have potential as a location for executive offices, medical R&D, and businesses of the new digital economy. Specific components aside, the central theme is to create an asset for existing institutions and a setting that contributes to the quality of life of residents.

IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY

First, in the way of tangible progress, the City is now beginning a landscaping program for the median strips of the NT, and a City planning process is underway for Watertower Park on 47th Street, which has been an under-developed resource for the NT and nearby neighborhoods. The propane tank at Myrtle/US 41, which was installed without a permit, is being removed. A variety of other code violations are being pursued by the Building Department. Under the auspices of Keep Sarasota Beautiful, the NT has been 'adopted' by a neighborhood business, Jesse White's Resource Management Group, Inc. The Blue Video site is closed forever for XXX business use. Numerous major improvements have occurred at the Ringling School of Art and at the MLK/41 intersection.

Through TTC liaison with NT businesses and developers, there is a good prospect that some of the design standards articulated in the Gateway 2000 urban design study of 1990 will be applied to the NT north of MLK. Through the good efforts of Burt Polishook and the Cutting Edge initiative, the TTC Vision Statement was endorsed in principle by the Sarasota City Commission. Finally, demonstrating that the NT can be a location for businesses of the future, a computerized receivables and back office management company, Vengroff Williams, Inc., is now located in the former Bretton Reef. Its clients include such companies as Walgreens and Microsoft.

In another interesting development, the TTC is working with the City

and Mobil Oil to see if a proposed new car wash at Myrtle and US 41 could be accompanied by an overall urban design upgrade, with buffer zones to protect abutting residences, improved landscaping and possibly design themes consistent with the improvements at the Ringling School of Art. We are hopeful that Winn Dixie might consider initiating similar improvements. We are also in a dialog with the new owners of the apartments in the 5000 block of the NT to see if the apartments could be upgraded consistent with the recommendations of the 1990 urban design study. If we are successful in any of these efforts, it will be the first time the study's design guidelines have been implemented here.

TO STRIP OR NOT TO STRIP

One of the major planning issues to consider is the very strip road character of the NT. It is now a place to drive through, not to. Transforming this even over the longer term to more neighborhood-scale, community-oriented activities is a difficult proposition because of the difficulty of rerouting even a portion of increasing traffic. Alternative routing via 301 is questionable because of the bottlenecks at 301 and Main. On an ominous note, the City projects US 41 levels of traffic service will deteriorate to Level D over the next five years - which means serious congestion.

The continuance of US 41 as a major artery for through traffic has been a complex issue before our planning group because it limits redevelopment options, with the old environment basically dictating the character of the new. The TTC is evaluating traffic management programs that have had success in other similar strip areas in Florida to see what solutions might be feasible. In Palm Beach, for example, an \$11 million federal grant

continued on page 3...

LONG AND SHINING ROAD CONTINUED.....

will enable the calming of Route One through the spine of the city. Five lanes will be shrunk to three, with landscaping and pedestrian crossings to encourage pedestrian patronage of stores on both sides of the road.

To create destination points along the NT, new uses for existing sites and reconfiguring of current land use regulations may be necessary. Ideas about what kind of businesses can be attracted to the NT need to be validated. Regardless of traffic conditions, there may be an opportunity to create economic 'nodes' of retail or mixed business use activity. Parcel assemblages of current commercial and abutting obsolete residential sites may be worthy of consideration, but establishing strong buffering with residential areas is essential.

One suggestion that has been made is that many existing IBSSA home-based businesses might consider participating in an executive office location. Another idea under consideration is a business incubator, a strategy that has proved successful in communities throughout the US to transform blighted areas and create economic opportunity.

The TTC is currently surveying potential startup businesses in Sarasota to determine if there is a viable market for such a facility. We would be most interested in hearing from neighborhood businesses and entrepreneurs.

*We are expecting to produce a draft report this fall.
We welcome your input and participation.*

Bay Shore Road Project

by Burt Polishook

The Bay Shore Road Enhancement Project, proposed by IBSSA to the City Commission in August 1998, after two neighborhood planning sessions, is moving ahead. Issues and concerns that have been aired between City staff and IBSSA over the past year are rapidly being resolved via a task force organized by City Manager David Sollenberger and comprising City Engineering, City Neighborhoods and Redevelopment and IBSSA board members. The key design elements underpinning the project are:

- Shared roadway and bikeway as part of the City's planned Multi-Use Recreational Trail (MURT) that starts at Selby Gardens and ends at New College
- Unique signage defining the MURT
- Sidewalk continuation and street crosswalks (where required)
- Street and lighting enhancements as appropriate
- Other streetscaping from supplemental funding sources as budgets allow

Task force recommendations to the City Manager are due within a 30 to 45 day period.

PICNIC PLANT EXCHANGE



Once again we will have
a **plant exchange** at the picnic!
SHARE WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS!

Bring a plant (or two); take a plant (or two).

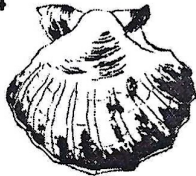
Everyone can participate .

Let's make this a resounding **success!**

PAT J. TAYLOR, REALTOR Knows the Museum Area.

She has lived in the neighborhood for 22 years and been on the Board of Directors for IBSSA. If you would like a current complimentary market analysis, please call

ERA Mount Vernon Realty Co., Inc.
(941)957-4663 office; (941)355-1454 home
email: ptaylor1@concentric.net



Beautification News By Alan Lillie

Since we have a number of major projects in progress, we'll discuss them individually for our readers' convenience. Hopefully it'll be easier to keep track this way. Incidentally, we solicit ideas and suggestions for anything involving beautification in our neighborhood.

Indian Beach Park

Don Farr, Charles Hegener and Alan Lillie representing IBSSA, and Sarah Blanchard, an immediate neighbor of the park met with City engineers and Coastal Technologies (design engineers) for a design kick-off last Aug. 17. At that meeting our desires and suggestions for the Park were discussed. The design engineer is to prepare conceptual designs which will be on display at our picnic (Oct. 24) and will be formally presented for discussion and final selection at an open to everyone meeting at John Hargreaves home, 2810 Bay Shore Rd. directly opposite the Park. **MEETING DATE IS OCT. 27 at 5:30pm.**

45th St. at Sarasota Ave.

Work is underway at this intersection based on a design created by adjoining neighbors in consultation with Sharon Miller, our project mgr.

Plants will be supplied by City and IBSSA. Water for irrigation will be supplied by City. Lighting by FPL for the area from 45th to 47th St. is under consideration. When completed, this landscaping will dramatically improve the appearance of this long neglected entryway to the center of our neighborhood.

Street Triangles at Bay Shore Rd. & Mecca

Landscape designs are completed (selected and paid for by IBSSA). Agreement between City and Beautification Committee has been reached over division of cost and labor. Neighbors in near vicinity of the intersections have been (or will be) contacted for assistance, either financial or physical (we invite participation by all members of IBSSA). Completion date is hopefully before year's end. Jane Shea is our project mgr. - 355-8966.

Outdoor Sculpture in Public Areas

Although this program has been in a lull for some time, we do have several sculptors who have expressed an interest in participating. Some possible sites are dependent upon completion of landscaping projects, but this isn't a major hang-up. If anyone knows of artists who would like

to be part of the program please call **Ann Ericsson - 359-2621.**

Acknowledgements

A special "thank you" to volunteer neighbors who pruned and weeded our native plantings on the street island at Ainsley Pl./Bay Shore Rd. They were: Jesse White, Gaia/Damon Goldman, Tiffany/Keith Mercier, Val Halla, Sharon Miller.

We are always looking for more volunteers for Beautification Committee work - this could be committee assignments, plant maintenance, weeding or whatever.

There's much to do and it benefits all of us.

Call Alan Lillie - 351-2715.

The Knaggs Family invite their Indian Beach Sapphire Shores neighbors to stop in soon for lunch or dinner.

The BIJOU CAFE

1287 First Street • Sarasota
366-8111

Zagat Survey Top 10 as Best Continental, Most Popular, and Most Romantic Restaurants.

Striving to Serve You Better...

we are pleased to announce that

Gaia and Damon Goldman

have recently become

Licensed Real Estate Brokers

ERA Mount Vernon Realty

9 5 7 - 4 6 6 3



VOORHEES

Custom Framing

Posters
Prints,
Etc.

355-0561

5133 A N. Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL 34234

Jack Voorhees



WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR ME LATELY?

By Burt Polishook

For the past several newsletters, since I got involved in the neighborhood association, I have been writing articles about the status of various projects undertaken by the neighborhood association. Rather than do the "same old, same old", I thought I would take a different tack and write about what might have happened to the neighborhood association had it not taken action or pursued a project. In doing this, I want to make two points:

- Without a neighborhood association and its action programs, the neighborhood would not have any political strength to manage its future or protect itself from negative impacts.
- The quality of life and value of properties in the neighborhood would be less than it is today.

In writing this article, I obtained input from Bart Cotten, past IBSSA president for six years, Don Farr, current IBSSA president, Alan Lillie, chairman of the Beautification Committee, Kafi Benz, IBSSA Director and Charlie Hegener, chairman of the North Trail project. So here's the neighborhood without IBSSA:

1. **The Sapphire Shore Park** is an overgrown lot covered with debris as opposed to the beautiful neighborhood jewel it is today.
2. **Indian Beach Park** is an untamed shoreline that offers no storm protection to Bay Shore Road or the nearby residents as opposed to the enhanced road segment it is today. And current city/IBSSA plans for up to \$160,000 of additional enhancements, to be completed in the next several months, is non-existent.
3. **The Jungle Gardens** property is zoned for "Commercial Use" with the risk that if it is ever sold, there is every possibility that it could house various commercial establishments in the center of our predominantly residential neighborhood.
4. The 7+ acre property on mid Bay Shore Road is zoned for a high density multiple housing development as opposed to its current single family zoning status consistent with the nearby homes.

5. The neighborhood, starting from Whittaker Bayou, running along 22nd Street, up Alameda, down Indian Beach Drive and up Bay Shore Road to New College, might have an 8 foot wide shared bikeway/pedestrian walkway per the initial Bay Front Recreational Trail Plan. Neighborhood planning for a minimally enhanced configuration in keeping with the "old Florida" character of the neighborhood would be non-existent.

6. The Blue Video would still be operating as an adult business site as opposed to being prohibited from adult business use.

7. The North Trail, as bad as it is today, would be far worse with respect to crime and prostitution and there would be no neighborhood pressure to develop it economically and aesthetically for the benefit of our community, visitors and the city tax base.

8. The quality-of-life assets of the neighborhood, such as the Ainsly Place plantings, the 40th nature walk to the bay, the outdoor sculpture in various public areas in the neighborhood, would be missing. No landscaping plan for the Mecca/Bay Shore Road triangles would be underway. Neighbors could not avail themselves of the city street tree program for beautification of their street.

9. The other adult businesses on the north trail could operate without impunity in the future as opposed to having to consider the impacts of the 2 year amortization period at the end of which they must find another location (not in our neighborhood) to operate.

10. Every house on the bay would have 200 to 300 foot docks on it, thereby depriving fisherman, kayakers, and neighborhood bay watchers visual and physical access to the bay.

11. The airport would feel no pressure to ensure that noise patterns from changing flight paths would limit impacts on neighborhood housing.

12. Mega-homes in our neighborhood, which impact vision, water flows, etc.

would get larger and larger and there would be no organized local voice to ensure ordinances to control development.

13. You wouldn't know what was going on in the neighborhood as you wouldn't have an association newsletter or an internet web site and you certainly wouldn't be alerted, in virtually real-time via an e-mail or telephone call, of crimes or vandalism in the neighborhood.

I think I have made my point. Some people may say the neighborhood association has exceeded its prerogatives in taking positions on city programs as well as managing action programs. To them I say, "if you trust government and commercial developers to provide the environment and associated services that is best for you in the neighborhood, you are being naive".

The neighborhood association performs a necessary and vital service that benefits you on a daily basis. There is no substitute process for the actions it performs. If it is not fully operational, and that is certainly possible without your volunteering to participate in committee activities, you can easily get the neighborhood you deserve by your inaction. Even trusting others in the association to do what you want done is abrogating your responsibility.

You, as a property owner or renter, must get involved in neighborhood activities by supporting the association as a member and participating in its committees and action programs to ensure the vitality and enhancement of our community.

Every IBSSA committee needs help...your help. The committees are: **Newsletter** (contact Anne Arsenault), the **Web Site** (contact me), the **North Trail Project** (contact Charlie Hegener) the **Picnic Committee** (contact Jane Shea), **New Member Committee** (contact Viola Goldberg), **Neighborhood Watch** (contact Debbie Muller), **Planning & Development** (contact me) and the **Beautification Committee** (contact Alan Lillie). And if you're interested in acting as secretary of the IBSSA Board, contact Don Farr.

Senior Academy Program

at USF/New College

The second term of the new program,

Senior Academy,
or those over 55 years of age will begin on **MONDAY, OCTOBER 25.**

This is a membership organization for those who wish to develop and take interesting programs, called Study Groups. Many of the classes and the office are in Sudakoff Conference Center, although many sessions are held throughout the area. For example, the seminar called *The Ringling Legacy* will be held at the Ringling's Asolo Theater. Other topics include *Florida Gardening*, *The Criminal Justice System*, *American History Revisited*, *An Introduction to Psychoanalysis* and *A Peek at the Arts II*.

For further information call **Anne Arsenault at 359-4296.**
Pre-registration is required.



DEDICATION WORKS!

About ten years ago Kafi Benz, one of our directors, initiated an effort to close Bay Shore Road off from Tamiami Trail at Poincianna Drive in the Uplands because of serious accidents and cut-through speeders. She marshaled the project through negotiations with the county, the city, the university, the airport authority and the state.

Poincianna and Bay Shore will remain connected - later additional landscaping will occur - and Spatz will be connected to Bay Shore with a traffic light for the safety of the northbound traffic. The medians in Tamiami Trail from the University Parkway to the Manatee county line will be beautified and maintained to enhance our neighborhood.

Poincianna will be closed temporarily, but will be reopened in a few weeks. Several steps will be required before completion, but by the beginning of the year we should have a much improved and safer neighborhood intersection, and we can anticipate additional beautification, including the planting of shade trees.

HELP WANTED!



Newsletter Editor to coordinate the production of the quarterly *Indian Beach Sapphire Shores Newsletter*.

For further information call:

Anne Arsenault

359-3461

Whimsical Realities

INTERIOR DESIGN SPECIALISTS

EDMUND ALBRIGHT

phone

Elegant 5-7435

AFFORDABLE DENTAL PLAN

SAVE UP TO 80 %

\$15 MONTHLY, COVERS ENTIRE HOUSEHOLD

\$9 MONTHLY FOR INDIVIDUALS



- * No Deductibles
- * No Claim Forms
- * No Age Limits
- * Braces/Dentures Included
- * Covers Pre-Existing conditions
- * 3 Years Vision & Prescription Plans

For **FREE** Brochure

Call Bob (941)-758-3593



Are you the kind of person that wants To: **A) SAVE Money Or B) MAKE Money ??**

Career Opportunities Available

No License Required Work From Home

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!
THE NEIGHBORHOOD SPECIAL
15% OFF COUPON

MELODEE
FAMILY RESTAURANT

Open daily from
7a.m. 'til 9p.m.
4685 N. Tamiami Trail
355-5768

BYRAM'S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR

TOD BYRAM
941-358-7071

ASE Certified

8490 TAMAMI TRAIL
SARASOTA, FL 34243

Just behind Campbell RVs off
Edwards Drive

REMINDER

School has resumed! Pay special attention and be especially watchful for children and older students on their way to and from school and bus stops. Please obey the 25 mph speed limit throughout our neighborhood and the 15 mph speed limit in all school zones.

UPDATE

Mail theft in our area has declined; however, residents are still advised to take their out-going mail to the Post Office or deposit it into a blue postal drop box.

Many dog owners are allowing their pets to run unleashed in the neighborhood. Please obey the leash law and make sure that your dog is under your command at all times.

FYL... SURVEY SAYS!

The Sarasota Police and the County Sheriff's Departments run Consolidated Communications Center and they want to know how they can improve service to city residents. In an effort to address problems, citizens are being asked to fill out a survey-type form so the all complaints, comments and suggestions can be documented. If you are not satisfied with the service you receive when reporting a crime, either from the caller or officer who responds, please take the time to fill out the questionnaire. Problems must be identified in order to be resolved.

If you would like a questionnaire, call

your Neighborhood Watch Coordinator or the S.P.D. Crime Prevention Unit.

S.P.D. Front Desk: 954-7025

Crime Prevention Unit

Officer Rossnagle: 954-7057

Officer Art Walls: 954-7056

North-side, Lt. Bill Spittler: 364-7317

CRIME WATCH

Eyes, Ears and Knows!

Several incidents involving people (thought to be in their teens) congregating and obstructing traffic on our streets, harassing residents and trespassing have been reported. There have also been numerous cases of mailbox vandalism in our area. Please report any suspicious person or activity that you observe. Crime in our neighborhood will be minimized if we simply **...See It! Hear It! Report It!**

NOTICE

Neighborhood Watch Coordinators are needed in SAPPHIRE II (south of 47th St. to Myrtle St.) and SAPPHIRE III (Myrtle St. to Indian Beach Dr.). Please call Paul Hoyt at 355-6324, Debbie Muller at 355-5743 or Officer Debbie Rossnagle at 954-7057. Your participation would be greatly appreciated!

THANK YOU! Your participation in Neighborhood Watch and the care and concern among our residents is what makes our neighborhood a wonderful and safe place to live.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH COORDINATORS

SAPPHIRE I:

58th Street to 47th Street

Debbie Muller 355-5743

SAPPHIRE II:

47th Street to Myrtle Street

Paul Hoyt 355-6324

SAPPHIRE III:

Myrtle Street to Indian Beach Drive

Coordinator Needed*

SAPPHIRE IV:

Indian Beach to Whitaker Bayou

Dianne Underwood 954-5129

UPLANDS:

Sergeant Dave Hart 951-5051

Report all crime and suspicious activity immediately!

1. Call the Police **316-1199** or (Emergency) **911**
2. Inform your Block Captain or Coordinator
3. Alert you neighbors



HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE HALLOWEEN !!



Looking for help with Estate Planning? Want your current Trust or Will reviewed? Stop by or call your local Huntington office at 941-358-0960 to set up an appointment with our banking professionals.

Huntington – North Trail
3300 N Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL 34234

Member FDIC

*Thank you
Huntington Bank
for printing the last
and current issues of
News and Views.
We appreciate your
support of the
neighborhood!*

*Indian Beach Sapphire Shores Neighborhood Association
Membership Application and Dues Renewal Form**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ New Membership: _____ Renewal: _____

email Address: _____ Occupation/Hobbies _____

Are you interested in volunteering for neighborhood projects? _____

* If you have a question
about your dues status please
contact the Treasurer,
Frank Zimmerman at: ?
email, afzim@home.com
phone, 351-2925

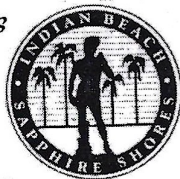
1999 Dues Payment _____

Voluntary Contribution _____

Total Enclosed _____

Make checks payable to IBSSA. Mail to: PO Box 49673, Sarasota, FL 34230

*Indian Beach
Sapphire Shores
Association*



PO Box 49673
Sarasota, FL 34230
www.sarasota-online.com/ibssa/

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #771
Sarasota, FL