



INDIAN BEACH
SAPPHIRE SHORES
ASSOCIATION

NEWS AND VIEWS

A Publication of the Indian Beach Sapphire Shores Association

Spring 1998

What Kind of Neighborhood do You Want?

by Burt Polishook

If you don't know what kind of neighborhood you want, you shouldn't complain about the neighborhood you get. However, I am sure you have all kinds of ideas about the type of neighborhood you want to live in. We need to plan for continual maintenance, nurturing, protection and enhancement to meet the challenges of time, change and external influences. For example, what kind of housing density should be allowed for the large properties in our area that are potential for housing development in the future? How do we want the North Trail to change over the years with respect to commercial and service support and physical appearance? What about streetscaping, transportation, ecological management, safety and security considerations? What interactions with other neighborhoods can enhance our quality of life and how we influence city planning to benefit our neighborhood?

Early this year, an IBSSA Planning and Development Committee (PDC) was formed to start developing answers to these and other questions about our neighborhood. The committee focused their initial efforts on 3 major project areas:

1-Assessment of the Sarasota City Plan

Under state law, the City of Sarasota is required to develop and continuously update a comprehensive plan covering housing, environmental protection, recreation and open space, utilities, transportation, future land use (subsequently affecting zoning regulations), governmental coordination and capital improvements. The current City Plan is undergoing a revision process, including the addition of a new chapter on neighborhoods. City Planning Board reviews are underway and City Commission hearings are being scheduled starting in May. The PDC started an assessment of the plan regarding its effects on our neighborhood. There were several issues related to the vagueness of the plan without concurrent new zoning regulations, an inappropriate land use classification for Ringling Museum-USF and New College properties within our neighborhood, the limited land use vision for the North Trail, the potential setting of single family and multiple family housing densities that are incompatible with the norms in our neighborhood, an inappropriate land use classification for Bay Haven School and the lack of open space and recreation sites in our neighborhood. The Committee presented these issues and several other points in a presentation to the City Planning Board at the February 10, 1998 public hearing. Shared concerns about the North Trail issue were voiced jointly at the February 24th public hearing by IBSSA, Gateway 2000, the North Trail Merchants Association, Bayou

Oaks Association and the Greater Newtown Development Organization, in an unprecedented showing of solidarity among the organizations, that traditionally have operated independently in north Sarasota. At the March 26th meeting, modifications to the Sarasota City Plan in favor of our neighborhood were approved, including the specific land use designation of Ringling Museum-US and New College properties, a statement to ensure that new housing development would be compatible with the adjacent neighborhood, the inclusion of an action plan to be completed by December 1999 that would focus on the North Trail, and the change to the open space status of the USF property west of Uplands Blvd.

2-Development of a Neighborhood Plan

-Phase 1 of this project area, directed by Asim Mohammed, will be discussed at a neighborhood meeting on May 9, 1998 at Sudakoff Hall, 9:00AM-1:00 PM. Please read Neighborhood Planning Meeting-Phase 1 on page 3.

-Phase 2 of this project area, directed by Olga Ronay, focuses on the long range development of the neighborhood. See the Neighborhood Planning Meetings-Phase 2 on page 4.

3-Current Neighborhood Problems

This project area, directed by Charlie Hegener, focuses on current problems within the neighborhood that should be resolved by the City. Please read Current Neighborhood Problems Requiring City Resolution on page 7.

Community Workshop on Neighborhood and Residential Crime

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• Panelists •

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Representative Shirley Brown
Joan Jones, aide from Senator Katherine Harris' office.
State Attorney Earl Moreland
Public Defender Elliot Metcalfe
Circuit Judge Barbara Briggs
Sarasota's Mayor, Gene Pillot
Chief of Police John Lewis

The President's Message

Recently a letter was mailed to the approximately 1,230 property owners within our neighborhood. Every recipient of the newsletter which you hold in your hand also received the referenced letter. The letter requested everyone to join or renew their membership in the IBSSA and also requested your input concerning how you believe our neighborhood can be made a better place in which to live. I would like to thank the over 40 of you that took the time to comment and make suggestions but, the fact is, we need more feedback.

Our neighborhood is fortunate to have a small group of very dedicated volunteers who are willing to work hard to improve our area. It is incumbent on you as a resident, however, to let us know where our efforts should be focused. Otherwise, you risk having all of the decisions for this very large neighborhood being made by a very small group of individuals who may not have your same priorities and may be totally unaware of any of the specific matters which are of serious concern to you.

Talk to us. Write to the address on this newsletter. Call the officers or directors at the phone numbers listed herein. E-mail us at the address listed herein. Attend the IBSSA general meetings.

As more specifically described elsewhere in this newsletter, on May 9, 1998 the IBSSA will host a forum on the future of Bay Shore Road. This project has the potential of resulting in the most significant changes to our neighborhood in over a decade. It will affect you regardless of where you live within the Indian Beach- Sapphire Shores area. This is your chance. Get involved. Become part of the process.

Don Farr, President

The Hoops are Back


by Joel Srodes

Bay Haven, Basics Plus, our neighborhood school, has like most elementary schools basketball courts on the playground. Recently some parents have donated the money or hardware for new rims and nets. That was done for the students, but neighborhood kids are welcome to play as school authorities want to be part of providing opportunities for all kids. Vandalism has been a problem in the past and unfortunately it may happen again. I would like to suggest that as we travel around our neighborhood we all keep a watchful eye on the school. If that means going a block or so out of your way, cruise by the school with a proprietary attitude. Better yet, grab a basketball and play a game of "horse" with your kids.

The Knaggs Family invite their
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to stop in soon for lunch or dinner.

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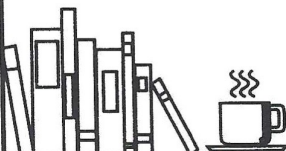
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Neighborhood Planning Meeting-Phase 1-Bay Shore Road

by Asim Mohammed

Let's start our neighborhood planning process by focusing on Bay Shore Road as it is the interconnecting back bone of the IBSS neighborhood. It identifies and defines the neighborhood, links its various components, fosters people interaction while walking, encourages recreation via bicycling, provides rapid transportation within and through the neighborhood, and allows visual and people access to the cultural, educational and recreational sites within the neighborhood (including Sarasota Bay). Bay Shore Road belongs to the people of the neighborhood and we should ensure that its streetscaping, is appropriate to its central importance to the neighborhood.

Fortunately, City funds are currently allocated for Bay Shore Road repaving and gray water distribution. Other funds are potentially available for traffic calming and streetscaping. In order to maximize

the use of earmarked and potential funding for Bay Shore Road as well as two key feeder streets, Indian Beach Drive and Myrtle Avenue, a neighborhood planning meeting is scheduled for May 9th at the Sudakoff Auditorium, 9:00am-1:00pm. Every one is invited to participate...IBSSA members and potential members, neighborhood businesses, architects, planners and engineers. The meeting will be organized in an interactive format where the participants will get ample opportunities to shape the future of their neighborhood.

The meeting will begin at 9 am and from 9-10 am an introduction and slide presentation will be given. After 10 am, the participants will be divided into 4 separate teams, each with a group leader.

Each group will discuss issues such as image and aesthetics, pedestrian and bicycle safety, water access, drainage, funding and will develop recommendations.

At 11:30 am each group leader will present their recommendation to the larger group. Each group will be given 15 minutes to present their recommendations and answer questions. At 12:30 pm, the planning meeting facilitator will summarize the recommendations and reach consensus. Then we'll take this neighborhood plan to the City and work on its implementation.

This is your opportunity to plan enhancements that will affect the character of our local physical environment and the value of your investment in the Indian Beach Sapphire Shores neighborhood. See you at the meeting!

May 9th Neighborhood Planning Meeting at Sudakoff Auditorium, 9:00am-1:00pm. Everybody Welcome!

IBSSA Web Site-Your Window into the Neighborhood

by Burt Polishook

Our neighborhood web site <<http://www.sarasotaonline.com/ibssa>> is several months old and continues to be the model for other neighborhood sites being developed. Our 14 different information pages, with over 50 typewritten data pages, is chock full of neighborhood and related news. For example, you can check out the monthly minutes of IBSSA's Executive Board meeting or the latest free entertainment going on in our neighborhood. We now have over 90 member e-mail addresses on the "Member E-mail Directory" page. I suspect we have another 50 members who have not provided us with their e-mail address. So let's hear from you! E-mail your address to <polisho@ibm.net> 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.

Events! Events! Events!

by Don Kraft, Director of Events

At the February board meeting I was asked to present some ideas/plans for association events for 1998. We have 3 planned as of now such as the Spring General Meeting on June 2, the Winter Annual Meeting on December 1, both at the Sudakoff Center, and the Annual Picnic on October 25, at Caples Mansion. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

Some board members suggested that we have more events and the following ideas were explored briefly: A musical concert, a walking tour of selected Bay Front residences, a "behind the scenes tour" of the Ringling Museum and The Asolo Theater Complex, a Neighborhood Day at Jungle Gardens, and perhaps helping the Ringling Museum host a jazz concert like last summer with a special section allocated for our residents/members.

We would like to hear from you! So, let me know your ideas. It is important to have your input soon so call me at 359-3576 or write to me at 842 Highland St. with your suggestions. Thanks!

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Neighborhood Planning Meetings Phase 2- Our Future

by Olga Ronay

Planning is my day job and frankly, sometimes I get tired of it. So why am I willing to give up an evening a week to be part of the IBSSA Planning and Development Committee (PDC)? Because we have a wonderful opportunity to work with the City of Sarasota to make our neighborhood more like we want it to be. The city is adopting a new city-wide comprehensive plan, and it makes an unusual offer....neighborhoods may develop their own plans, which could ultimately be adopted as part of the city plan.

Now all of Florida's cities and counties are required by state law to adopt a comprehensive plan. If you've ever seen one, you know they can be long and full of legalese and statistics. But our neighborhood plan doesn't have to be like that. Our neighborhood plan can just focus on what we want, and say it in plain English, with a few maps and pictures.

The question is, What do we want? The purpose of this neighborhood planning process is for us as residents to get as many ideas out for discussion as we can, then to choose what we like. You don't have to be a planner or an architect, or a twenty-year resident of the neighborhood to have good ideas. Maybe you've seen something work in another community. Maybe there's a place on your street that you think would be great for a park--or just a flower bed. Maybe you'd like to see more places for old and young residents of the neighborhood to get together. Or maybe you'd be willing to help take a survey, or draw a map. These are all valuable things that would help in our neighborhood planning effort.

How can you take part in this? We envision several meetings and activities over the spring, summer, and fall. You are welcome at any and all of them. Watch the newsletter and

website for more details and dates. What will the plan include and how do we build it? There are lots of ways, a few of which are noted below:

We'll start with the Neighborhood Planning Meeting-Phase 1-Bay Shore Road as described in Asim Mohammed's article. We'll try to learn what other folks are planning through meetings with our neighbors in Bayou Oaks and Newtown. We'll also invite speakers from New College/USF, the Ringling School, the airport, and developers working in our area. We'll collect data and make maps.

Some helpful information includes:

How many people live in the neighborhood? Are there areas with lots of kids? What kinds of crimes have been reported, and where? What about car, bike, and pedestrian accidents? Where are the parks--and those little gathering places that serve as unofficial parks? What is the quality of the bay? Is it getting better or worse? We'll brainstorm. What do you think should go in at the North Trail Plaza? Can we start a neighborhood film series like the Ringling Museum used to? How can we make our neighborhood "greener"--more energy-efficient and less polluting? We have a very successful annual beach cleanup, how about a day for helping elderly or disabled neighbors paint their houses or do minor repairs? Work on an idea yourself--or better yet, get together with some neighbors and do it! These ideas and more will be presented to the whole neighborhood at a meeting that will be scheduled to take place in the fall. This is when we'll invite everyone to come look, listen, and build on each other's ideas. When we're done, we'll have a neighborhood plan!

Storm Drains Marked

by Don Kraft

On February 21 the new plastic decals that state, "Dumping here pollutes our bay!" were placed on/near all the storm drains in our neighborhood. Your neighbors, Jack Martin, Jim Richards, Richard Bennett, Alan Lillie, Molly and Don Farr, Richard Thomas, George Taylor and I volunteered in cooperation with the city and county groups that sponsor the "Keep Sarasota Beautiful" campaign. Each team was furnished with maps and computer listings of locations and the job went smoothly. At certain asphalt drains, the decals wouldn't stick so we will be working on a different procedure for those locations.

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Pat Taylor, 355-1454	Alan Lillie, 351-2715
Kafi Benz, 351-5239	David Bouverat, 355-5754

And the Winner Is!

This year's Christmas Light-Up Mailbox Contest gave us several exceptional and creative efforts to choose from. The 3 winners are:

- ❖ 4500 Bay Shore Rd., for the clever wooden reindeer head covered with colored lights,
- ❖ 700 and 706 Indian Beach Circle who joined forces to create a charming display of guardhouses and toy soldiers outlined in lights.

Each of the winners will receive a gift certificate to one of our neighborhood's restaurants. Several others merit an honorable mention; the blue wonderland at 4520 Guava Ct., the charming grapevine deer at 1014 Sylvan Dr., the white twigs and snowflakes at 655 45th St., and the red bows on each mailbox along Highland. Thanks to those who participated and brightened our neighborhood over the holidays!

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Beautification News

by Alan Lillie

The 40th St. right-of-way, (we're going to have to find a better name) from Bay Shore Rd. to the bay is now essentially completed. We've installed a split rail fence - donated by Bart Cotten - at the entrance on Bay Shore, mulched the pathway, planted a few more plants, and have placed identification tags on all species. Please visit and browse. Any suggestions for further improvement will be appreciated.

On to our next project - Ainsley Pl./Bay Shore Rd. We have asked a native plant landscape architect, JoJo Lindquist, to create a design for this triangular space using only native plants. A base for a piece of sculpture will be incorporated into the design, with the sculpture to be added later. We expect to start planting shortly after the design is approved.

The latest news on the right-of way between 45th & 47th St. at Sarasota Ave. is that the City is considering turning this into a pocket park for us. As you may recall, our committee has been planning to landscape the area in phases spread over a number of years. If the city is willing to develop it into a neighborhood park with landscaped walkways, sitting areas, children's play area, etc., it could be accomplished within a year. Budget requests have been entered. It will be known shortly whether or not the request is approved.

A plan for stabilizing the bank at Indian Beach Park has been completed by the City Engineering Dept. and our committee has been asked to comment. We're now in the discussion phase and hope that an agreement can be reached shortly. Work could start as early as this summer.

As part of the City's street tree program, trees have been planted on sections of Stevens Dr., Winchester and some on 42nd. If any members have an interest in the program, please call Ann Ericssen at 359-2621.

Our outdoor sculpture program is moving right along. Four artists have agreed to participate and the City will soon install bases at several different locations for the sculptures. Hopefully this can be completed within the next month. It should be an interesting and enjoyable program.

We've recently received a financial donation from Gaia Goldman specifically for beautification use and are most appreciative. It occurs to us that other individuals may wish to donate to our program so a separate accounting fund has been set up by our association treasurer, Frank Zimmerman, for this purpose. We'll happily accept and acknowledge any contributions.

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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.

F.Y. I. Solicitors are required to have a city license. All solicitors should have proof of a city license and some form of personal identification. Call the Police if you have any suspicions about the solicitor or their behavior.

Crime Watch: Be wary of strangers who come around wanting to do odd jobs. Burglars often use this technique to case your home for a later break-in. We also need to be watchful for the theft rings that often include parents, grandparents and children. Their usual method is distracting the residents while an accomplice burglarizes their home. Don't be a victim, be cautious, be aware, remember descriptions of persons and their vehicles and call the police if you have any suspicions.

Leash Law: Please obey the leash law when walking your dog and be considerate of your neighbors by keeping your dog and all pets in your own yard.

Update: The Adult Entertainment Ordinance may be going to the City Commission in May for the public hearings and approval process. The ordinance requires there to be at least 600 ft. between adult businesses and homes, schools or places of worship. However, the ordinance also allows for the two existing businesses in our area to be grandfathered in regard to location only. Your opinions can be voiced at the public hearings. The dates and times will be in the local newspaper or call the City Auditor's office at 954-4160 for information about Ordinance No. 97-4015. The city's main objective is to pass an ordinance that will be upheld in the courts if challenged. We need an enforceable ordinance regulating the location of adult businesses in order to preserve our city and protect our neighborhoods.

Welcome: Due to promotions for Sgt. Ledwith and Capt. Hollaway, we welcome Officer Debbie Rosnagle - Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Watch, 954-7057, and Lt. Bill Spitler - North Coordinator, 364-7317. Congratulations to all!

Alert: Several cars burglarized in the early morning hours of March 23rd. Most of these cars hadn't been locked. Remember to lock your cars and report anything suspicious.

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

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For more information about Neighborhood Watch or to volunteer to become a Block Captain call your Coordinator or Officer Pat Ledwith at 954-7057.




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Current Neighborhood Problems Requiring City Resolution

By Charlie Hegener

The IBSSA Planning and Development Committee (PDC) has developed a "hit list" of neighborhood problems to present to the City for resolution. Our goal is twofold: first, to get problems solved on your behalf; and, second, to establish a disciplined approach to assure the responsiveness of the City to our interests. The City has recently established a Department of Neighborhoods and Redevelopment. The Department's objectives are:

1. Encourage the formation of neighborhoods,
2. Foster collaboration between Sarasota's citizens and the City,
3. Help build a neighborhood planning process,
4. Promote compatibility of new and redevelopment projects within neighborhoods,
5. Promote neighborhood safety,
6. Help provide neighborhood transportation networks,
7. Enhance the unique aesthetic identity of neighborhoods
8. Address the problems with maturing neighborhoods.

So, our neighborhood, along with all the others in Sarasota, officially has an overall "ombudsman" in City government. Greg Horwedel is the Director of this new department. You can contact him at 954-2098. If you continue to have difficulty in getting results for a reasonable request to the City, let the Association know by calling an IBSSA board member or by e-mailing <polisho@ibm.net>.

Through your input, we compiled the following list of neighborhood issues to be presented to the city:

1. North Trail. Problems with the "Gateway to Sarasota" continue at the top of the charts, with concerns about North Trail Plaza and undesirable businesses along the strip. Although flagrant streetwalking is not the problem it once was (thanks to good efforts of the SRQ police), there are continuing reports of prostitution and vagrancy, especially along Remington and Sarasota Avenue. Uncovered or substandard dumpsters and garbage cans of Trail businesses was a concern, along with the absence of buffer zones between business and residential areas. On 25th Street, an uncovered, rusted-out dumpster --in violation of city codes--is placed on a city right-of-way. Complaints to the City regarding this dumpster, and cans and dumpsters at Beverly and US 41, have thus far been ignored.
2. Traffic/Roads. Complaints were made about speeding on Bay Shore Road and side streets, such as Myrtle, Sarasota Avenue and Patterson Drive. Repaving was requested on several streets, and sidewalks were requested for the high traffic Bayshore Road area north of Virginia. Curbing and/or landscaping were requested for "pocket problem" areas where 25th Street and 42nd join US 41. All street repairs should be made with materials consistent with existing pavement. Flood water is a problem at Sun Circle and S. Shore Drive.
3. Development. Several residents expressed concerns about development of remaining open tracts within the neighborhood and also want to ensure that "monster" homes, incompatible with the adjacent neighborhood are not constructed.
4. Infrastructure. Availability of sanitary sewer was requested on 58th Street; higher water pressure at Beverly; and

- additional lighting at Sapphire Shores Park. Public space or playground is requested between 47th and Myrtle.
5. Beautification. Removal of dead palms is requested for Indian Beach Park; and a water fountain for Sapphire Shores Park. The absence of any planting around Bay Haven School was also noted.
6. Political. A request is made for IBSSA to monitor political candidates regarding their position on issues effecting the neighborhood. Another request is for a candidate from the neighborhood to run for Nora Patterson's seat on the City Commission.
7. Pets. Too many unleashed dogs and cats; destruction of bird population by the latter duly noted. 25 or more cats were reported congregating at one location.
8. Crime. Police do not necessarily fingerprint burglary scenes. Police crime reporting to the IBSSA is inconsistent; coordination between police shifts may be lacking; and there appears to be frequent turnover of police personnel dealing with the neighborhood.
9. Schools. Several residents request that Bay Haven be accessible to neighborhood children, and expanded if necessary.

Finally, while the focus of this exercise is problem-solving and further improvement in City responsiveness, there were numerous complements regarding city effectiveness in reducing crime, making repairs, and conducting maintenance activity. The city, through Greg Horwedel's office, is making available a survey, so that residents can make their views--both positive and negative--known.

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