

To Park or Not to Park, the Task Force Asks

By Charles Hegener

The IBSSA has formed a task force to explore using the 7.3 acre Don Price property for use as a conservation area and neighborhood-oriented park, with play areas for children. The property, appraised at \$1.3 million, lies between Bay Shore Road, Corwood Avenue and 42nd Street.

The idea of a park for the central part of the IBSSA has been under discussion for several years. The need for public space is clear; while our neighborhood is known for its proximity to the bay front and the wonderful views available at some locations, there is no public space dedicated to our residents, and particularly their children. The park space we do have, was really rescued, since Indian Beach and Sun Circle were never really designed to be parks. Children must currently be ferried to locations such as Whittaker, Water Tower or Pioneer.

To date, Price's acreage has been considered for cluster housing projects, possibly more than 20 houses, or several large luxury homes. Adjacent neighbors and the IBSSA have concerns about the disposition and development of this last remaining open space and the potential impact large-scale homes will have on views and privacy.

Here are some possible ideas for use and reasons for pursuing the creation of a park:

- The park would be mixed use, emphasizing conservation and natural habitat, plus low impact recreational area for children; possible tennis court (already exists) for neighbors; par

course on trail through the area; and stopover point for our many neighbors who walk, jog, bike and skate on Bay Shore Road. Residents who grew up here contrast the current environment

to years past, when open space in the neighborhood was still available for baseball, football toss or games. The park would emphasize neighborhood orientation, with limited structures and permeable surfaces. No barbecues or gazebos.

- In addition to making IBSSA even better for current residents, this recreational area for children in the core of the neighborhood may help attract young families.

- Long-term residents here note that IBSSA has been a revenue source for the city for 75 years, yet no significant dollars have ever returned here in public projects.

- The park could be an Indian Beach Nature Trust/Conservancy. Per policies of IBSSA, this park would emphasize native plants and habitat. There are virtually no examples of this in the city.

- The park could be used passively: It

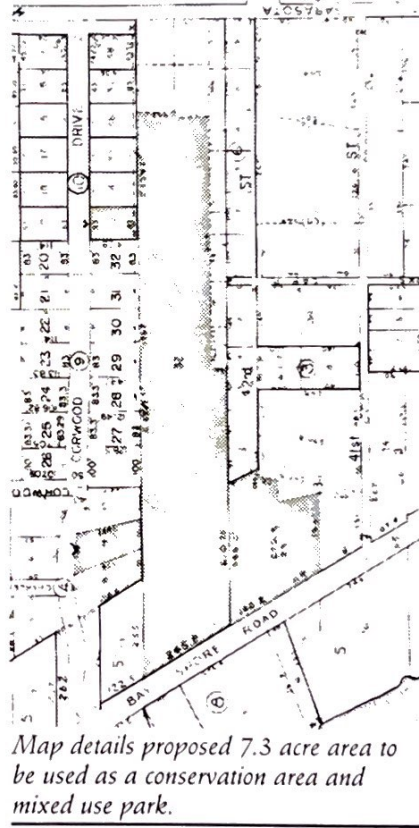
may have utility for storm water management or environmental studies for New College.

This proposed park site was originally a private park horticultural area for the Ziff property on Bay Shore Road and includes many interesting plants and mature trees and nesting sites for birds and wildlife. It also may have an historical structure.

How will the park be financed? Financing might consist of the sale of development rights to abutters; city support, grants; grants for research of native plants, donations, increase in IB dues, and membership dues. A steering committee has been formed to consider how this plan could be

developed and a neighborhood charrette is scheduled for February 26th at 9 a.m., with a possible walk through of the site, and discussion of goals, preferences and financing options. The meeting location is Room HCL5 across from Sudakoff.

Committee members are Laurence Eger, Jesse White, J.P. Knaggs, Alan Lillie, Jono Miller, and Charles Hegener.



Map details proposed 7.3 acre area to be used as a conservation area and mixed use park.

2000

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LETTER OF THANKS

Dear Neighbors...

I had intended to write this letter some time ago, but, as we all know, the months have a way of slipping away, and it is now long overdue.

As some of you know, this past year has been a rough one for me, but I want you to know that the outpouring of affection I received from so many of you is something I will never forget. I want to thank everyone for the hundreds of cards, letters, calls, e-mails, presents, and even poems which touched me every day. Without your constant support and encouragement, I could not have come this far. Indeed, we live in a remarkable community.

Please accept my sincerest thanks and our best wishes to everyone for a happy and healthy new year.

Sincerely,

Bart Cotton

WWW.SARASOTA-ONLINE.COM/IBSSA

Important...

If you are not receiving IBSSA email we may not have your current e-mail address. Please send corrections and additions to Sylvia Knight at camirad@home.com (I have had some email returned lately because I was using an incorrect address.)

To all readers of the Indian Beach Sapphire Shores Association newsletter. I want to invite you to take a look at our association web site, created and maintained by our Vice President, Burt Polishook. There is all sorts of information on the web site that is useful to you including the Happenings page which I update monthly to list cultural and educational happenings going on in or near our neighborhood. We also have a large email directory. Those who are listed in that directory receive, via email, timely information pertaining to your neighborhood, including up-to-the-minute crime activity reports. We currently have over 200 members of IBSSA listed in the directory. If you are new to our area we invite you to add your name so that you can receive these important news breaks.

Thank you.

Sylvia Knight

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Meet the New Board Members

At the Annual Meeting held at the Sudakoff Center at the beginning of December, the Association membership voted for a new slate of officers to replace those board members that had resigned or whose term of office had expired. Charles Hegener was elected as Second Vice President, to replace Dick Lobo, who resigned because of his increased commitments to the Downtown Association. A big thank you to Dick, Don Kraft, Jeff Winsler and J.P. Knaggs for all your time and effort.

Laurence Eger is a senior attorney for the public defender's office in Bradenton. He's lived in Indian Beach Sapphire Shores for 15 years and in Sarasota for 30. A founding board member and a current officer on the board of the charter middle school, Sarasota School of Arts and Sciences, Laurence also coaches youth basketball in the First Baptist Church League. He is married to Susan Burns, a writer and editor at Sarasota Magazine, and has two children, Isaac, 12, and Anna, 8. Neighbors can usually find him every weekend rearranging his beloved garden or tooling around the 'hood' on his bike with his dogs in tow.

Scott Pickett was born and raised in Wisconsin. He and his wife, Eirini Poimenidou moved to Florida and our neighborhood in 1993. Scott is an urban planner with a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin and currently works as a planner for Sarasota County. His wife is a mathematics professor at New College.



Top Left: Laurence Eger with wife, Susan;
Top Right: Diane Underwood with husband, Wayne and nephew. **Left:** Scott Pickett. **Above:** Jane Shea with husband, Greg and son, Paul.

Scott has been active in the Association, participating in beach clean ups, landscaping projects and Association social events. He has served on the Planning and Development Committee for the past three years. Weekends find him gardening, playing sports, especially basketball, canoeing and going to the movies.

Diane Underwood and her husband, Wayne, moved to Sarasota from Tampa five years ago. He opened his business, AaSys Group, Inc. (a computer integrator) in July, 1994 and in December that year, Diane started work as Director of Human Resources for Avatar Utilities Inc. After 21 years in human resource management, Diane decided on a career change and returned to school in order to become a licensed electrologist. Diane will take her license exam for the

State of Florida later this Spring, and then plans to open her own business.

Jane Shea and her husband, Greg, arrived in Sarasota only eighteen months ago. Jane is a fourth year student at New College majoring in medieval history, and plans to write her thesis this Fall. She has been active on the Beautification and North Trail Committees, as well as organizing last year's picnic. She is interested in gardens and gardening, and worked on the Selby Gardens by Candlelight event which she plans to do again this year. Her husband, Greg, works as a consultant, but takes every opportunity to go sailing. The Sheas have two children, Julia, 24 and Paul, 22. Julia will complete her two year stint with the Peace Corps in the Ivory Coast, West Africa this April, and Paul is a junior at the

College of Charleston and is majoring in economics.

Jesse White has lived in Sarasota since age 9, and actually attended Bay Haven School. He then went on to New College and graduated in 1989 with a B.A. in Environmental Studies. He left Florida to attend graduate school at Antioch University in New England where he earned a M.S. in Environmental Resource Management and Administration. He currently runs an environmental consulting business. Jesse met his wife, Lisa, while they were both attending New College, and they have a son, Isaac, who turns 2 in April. Jesse loves the neighborhood, and in his spare time he likes to fish, landscape, compost, canoe and walk to Sapphire Park.

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An IBSSA News Update

Dock Ordinance Upheld by City

On January 26, following a 10-hour marathon meeting, the City of Sarasota's Board of Adjustment voted unanimously to deny a request for five variances to allow the construction of a 232-foot dock on our neighborhood's bay front. The meeting was attended by more than 50 stalwart IBSSA members, many of whom stayed to hear the vote, which did not occur until midnight.

Bay Shore Road Project

Since its kickoff at an IBSSA neighborhood planning meeting in May 1998, the Bay Shore Road Enhancement project has gone through several low and high points. IBSSA and the City of Sarasota continue to work towards developing a plan that maintains the character of our "old Florida" neighborhood.

The project, in part, is supported by funding from the Florida Department of Transportation for a Multi-Use Recreational Trail (MURT), starting at Selby Gardens and running north through downtown on the bay, as close to the shore as possible, and up through our neighborhood to the county line. Regulations associated with such funding often have conflicted with our neighborhood's interests and much time has been spent clarifying issues and resolving them.

At this point, IBSSA and various city departments are discussing the details related to the route, sidewalk and safety requirements, lighting, neighborhood entry design, road signs, road surface material, planting and traffic calming, particularly at transition points.

Hopefully, a plan in sufficient detail can be reviewed by IBSSA members at our spring general meeting, scheduled for May 23rd.

In the mean time, "Have faith, baby! We

are dancing as fast as we reasonably can!"—Burt Polishook

Proposed Airport Expansion Gains Momentum

The Manatee County Commission voted in January to approve the proposed expansion of the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport. (The IBSSA board voted at its January meeting against the expansion.)

The expansion is in two phases. Phase 1 is the runway extension and the construction of a hangar; Phase 2 is for the construction of a parking garage and the expansion of the terminal. The airport is considered a development of regional impact (DRI).

The Sarasota County Commission will hold a public hearing, March 15 at 9 a.m. on the DRI. The City of Sarasota Planning Commission will hold a public hearing March 2; and the Sarasota City Commission holds its public meeting the first week of April.

Creating an IBSSA Conservation District

IBSSA board member, Kafi Benz, will lead a committee to develop a conservation district for our neighborhood. A conservation district is a planning tool that is used to create a special set of regulations for our neighborhood that expand upon the current city planning regulations. These special regulations will enable us to protect the character and historic aspects of our neighborhood as well as its natural and environmental treasures by having more detailed and specific regulations than feasible for general city regulations that must apply to all portions of Sarasota.

From Our Institutional Neighbors

At the John and Mable Ringling Museum. John and Mable Ringling Museum Director David Ebitz says plans to landscape the

museum are proceeding, although not finalized. Ebitz does not know how or if these plans will include any changes to the expansive grassy mall in front of the museum. Ebitz says a mailing will go to the IBSSA board when the museum is ready to do a public presentation. So far, the south border of the museum (next to the Caples mansion) is going to be turned into a "tree walk," with the removal of exotic tree and shrub species and the planting of 75 to 100 native trees. The museum was also selected as the national site of the Millennium Tree (as announced by Hilary Clinton last December) and it will be planted April 29 in a public ceremony.

The Medieval Fair on the museum grounds is scheduled for Thursday, March 2 through Sunday, March 5. Ebitz reports that IBSSA streets will be closed to parking as they have been the last several years.

Ebitz also invites IBSSA neighbors to view the museum's show, "Green Woods and Crystal Waters: The American Landscape Traditions," through March 19 in the museum's West Galleries.

At USF/New College

USF/New College is also sprucing up its yard. The construction of Gen. Spaatz Boulevard from U.S. 41 to Bay Shore Road is complete, says Michael Bassis, the dean of the campus. Future plans in that area include signage and landscaping (berms, trees and bushes) to the north and south of the new road; an information/reception kiosk, and parking on the north side of the road; and a "university icon" (basically a decorative architectural wall) that announces the presence of the university and college. The decorative fence that runs along the west side of campus on Bay Shore Road will be relocated to the campus' U.S. 41 entryway.

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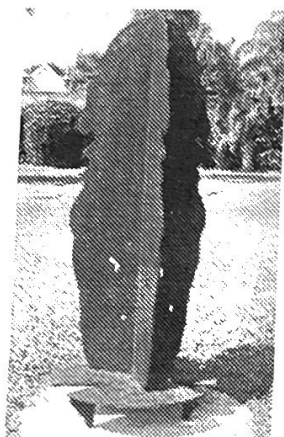
Public Art in Our Neighborhood...De Soto's Ghost

By Ann Ericsson

Institute of Chicago; University of Illinois, Chicago; Southern Illinois University: earning a B.S. and M.F.A. For almost 40 years, he has worked with curators, collectors and consultants. Dennis has been awarded 27

ty and has offered to donate the art of PHOTON II and related design and engineering, valued at \$25,000, to the city of Sarasota. Over two years in the making, the scale of this project is especially noteworthy because it will coexist with the newly designed, G-WIZ Science Center. Both projects will be located on Boulevard of the Arts, overlooking Sarasota Bay. PHOTON II would be a gift to the city where the sculptor lives with his family.

Who hasn't noticed the wonderful sculptures popping up around the neighborhood? What's it all about? Because we live amidst some of Sarasota's most prominent cultural and education institutions, Alan Lillie, Chair of the Beautification Committee, felt it was appropriate that we should promote art as part of our landscape. Alan originated a project which offered creators of outdoor sculpture an opportunity to display their work while enhancing the ambiance of the neighborhood, increasing art awareness among neighbors and promoting sculpture in public places. Several sculptors responded,



De Soto's Ghost, is located on Bayshore Drive at the intersection of Sapphire Drive.

and the IBSSA Art in Public Places program was begun. While we are continuing to search for new work, it seems fitting to pause and learn about the sculptors and the work that already graces our surroundings. In this, and upcoming editions, I will describe a sculpture and introduce its creator.

Dennis Kowal, a nationally recognized artist, who lives in Sarasota was very supportive of the program from its inception; he is the first sculptor spotlighted. Kowal attended the Art

major public commissions, held 45 one-person exhibitions, and participated in over 400 group shows. His sculptures, both monumental and archetypical, show an unusual and sensitive awareness of entropy and human scale. Dennis considers his sculptures to be classical and symbolic, sensual and intuitive: the affirmative energy of life. His creative use of modern science and technology reflects early hands-on training in industrial design and engineering. His pioneer work with carved acrylic, solid steel and light has attracted interna-

tional attention. Kowal has many permanently installed public sculptures in Maryland, Massachusetts, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island to name a few. Dennis Kowal, former Chairman of the Sarasota Public Art Committee, now serves the Florida Department of State-Florida Arts Council, 1999-2000.

Kowal created two sculptural awards for the 2000 Sarasota film Festival: PHOTON II, Prototype for millennium 2000, and Photon Series #1. Dennis feels a deep sense of communi-

ty and has offered to donate the art of PHOTON II and related design and engineering, valued at \$25,000, to the city of Sarasota. Over two years in the making, the scale of this project is especially noteworthy because it will coexist with the newly designed, G-WIZ Science Center. Both projects will be located on Boulevard of the Arts, overlooking Sarasota Bay. PHOTON II would be a gift to the city where the sculptor lives with his family.

Dennis is one of only 18 artists to be included in the upcoming Sarasota Season of Sculpture, a national invitational exhibition of significant American and international sculptors engaged in the creation of large-scale public works of art.

Dennis Kowal is the creator of "De Soto's Ghost Remnant Series #19," located in the triangle at Bay Shore Road and Sapphire Drive. He selected this especially for our historic neighborhood because of the history of De Soto relative to the area; Dennis considers it to be mystical, "although not totally." *De Soto's Ghost*, was designed to be viewed from all sides. It is created out of corten steel, which will rust to a certain point, develop a "skin," then stabilize. While *De Soto's Ghost* looks symmetrical, Dennis explains that if you look carefully you realize that it is not. Walk up to *De Soto's Ghost* and take a close look. View it from all sides, touch it, and you will get a different understanding of, and appreciation for, it than when simply driving by.

PAT J. TAYLOR, REALTOR Knows the Museum Area.

She has lived in the neighborhood for 22 years and has served on the Board of Directors for IBSSA.

If you would like a current complimentary market analysis, please call Pat at

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Indian Beach Before the Spanish Conquest

By Jane Shea

Many of you have stopped and read the historical marker next to Sarasota Jungle Gardens. It tells us that Indian Beach was named by Dr. F.H. William of Connecticut after he saw the obvious signs of habitation by Native American peoples in the area north of Whittaker Bayou. Shell middens extended nearly a mile north and south of the Bayou and there were numerous mounds nearby. After various excavations, the archeological evidence suggests that the area around Whittaker Bayou has been occupied on and off since the Perico Island period (1000 B.C.E. - 500 C.E.). These peoples and the ones that followed during the Weeden Island (the Manasotans were a local variant of this culture), and Safety Harbor periods were hunter-gatherers, dependant on the rich harvests of the bay and the plants and small animals of the hinterland for survival.

During the Safety Harbor era (after c. 1400), Sarasota Bay was a transition area between the Tocobaga and Central Gulf Coast groups centered on Tampa Bay, and the Calusa Indians that dominated the southern part of the Florida peninsula. The Calusas had a major base of operations and mullet fishery at Tampa village at the

mouth of Charlotte Harbor. Pedro Menendez, an early Spanish visitor to Tampa village, tells of a feast laid on in his honor by the Calusa chief. It consisted of boiled and roasted fish, and raw, boiled and roasted oysters, and nothing else. Only the Tocobaga grew corn.

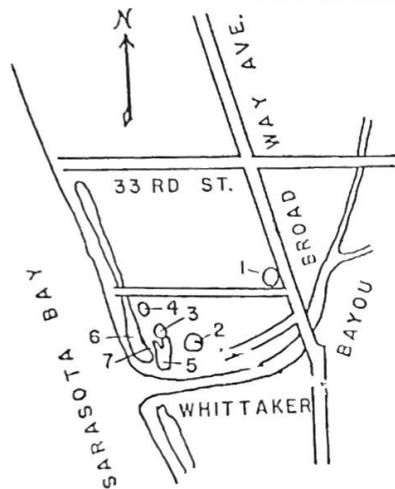
For a better understanding of how they lived we must depend on the archeological evidence and first hand accounts by

Spanish invaders. One such narrative describes Uzica village located at the mouth of the Little Manatee River. It was a small village of seven or eight houses built of timber and covered with palm leaves. The chief's house sat atop a large defensive mound near the beach, and at the other end of the village was a temple or chamel house on top of which was a wooden fowl with gilded eyes. It is thought that perhaps the settlement at Whittaker Bayou was similar to Uzica.

Many of the native groups that lived between Sarasota and Clearwater did not survive the Spanish invasions. They were ravaged by disease, enslaved, or perhaps went to live with other groups known by different names. There is no further mention of them in the Spanish chronicles after De Soto's landing, nor were missionaries sent here. Unfortunately some of the artifacts of their culture also disappeared. In the early part of this century some of the

mounds were used for road fill, and the shell middens bordering the bay became a shell road that ran along Indian Beach.

(I hope to make this "history column" a regular feature of the newsletter. If you have any documents, photos, or interesting stories about some of our more colorful residents or structures please give me a call at 355-8966.)



1. Whittaker Ceremonial Ground
2. Weber Burial Mound; 3 & 4. Other Mounds
5,6,7. Shell Middens

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Year: 2000

TUESDAY, MAY 23rd

Spring General Meeting

Location: Sudakoff Center

Time: 7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22nd

Picnic

Location: Caples Mansion

Time: 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5th

Winter General Meeting

Location: Sudakoff Center

Time: 7:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

Held 2nd Wednesdays of each month



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Projects Show Signs of Progress

By Alan Lillie

Indian Beach Park...

is located at the south end of Bay Shore Road at the water's edge. Design for the renovation are complete and the City will take bids for the construction in the Spring with an anticipated completion date for June. It's going to be great!

45th Street at Sarasota Avenue...

has made real progress. The City has completed its phase of the project with all plantings in place and the irrigation system in operation. We all appreciate the efforts of the Public Works Department. The next phase is up to us and we plan to install a butterfly garden. We are looking for anyone who already has a butterfly garden and can lend their expertise in garden design and also donate plants to the project. There's lots of space available so this could turn out to be an extensive and impressive garden - but that depends on the amount of assistance we get. Please contact Sharon Miller at 358-8361.

The Street Triangles at Bay Shore Road and Mecca

includes native plantings and several bases for sculptures, and is moving more slowly than planned. However some progress has been made. Twenty-six immediate neighbors made financial contributions amounting to \$1,300 to purchase plant material. In addition, the City has installed water lines

to each island. Next comes removal of some palms, bed preparation, and installation of an irrigation system. Jane Shea (355-8966) is the project manager.

Street Tree Program

The City has a very ambitious program to plant 2,000 trees in the year 2000. These trees will be planted primarily in median strips and roadside rights of way. Originally, the program required that a majority of homes in a block request trees before they would plant. Now this has been relaxed somewhat. Contact Jessie White (351-5409) if you have an interest. Additionally, we have a program, in cooperation with the City, to replace the dead Washingtonian palms along Bay Shore Road and also plant new palms in anticipation of more deaths.

Public Area Outdoor Sculptures

provides foundations in highly visible areas for sculptures on loan by local artists. In addition, we are considering a program for donations of permanent sculptures as memorials or gifts to the community. Call Ann Ericsson if you are interested in either of these programs.

Volunteers

We are always looking for more volunteers for Beautification Committee work - whether it involves taking on committee assignments, plant maintenance, weeding or whatever. There's much to do and it benefits all of us. Call Alan Lillie at 351-2715.

Neighborhood Watch Coordinators

SAPPHIRE I 58th St.-47th St.
Debbie Muller 355-5743

SAPPHIRE II 47th St. - Myrtle
Paul Hoyt 355-6324

SAPPHIRE III
Myrtle St. - Indian Beach Dr.
Coordinator Needed

SAPPHIRE IV
58th St. - 47th St.
Diane Underwood 954-5129

UPLANDS 58th St. - 47th St.
Sgt. Dave Hart 951-5051
Sarasota County Sheriff's Dept.

REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY IMMEDIATELY

- Call the Police 316-1199 or 316-1201
- Inform your Block Captain or Coordinator
- Alert your neighbors.

See it, Hear it, Report it!

Reminder: If you don't want a ticket.... don't speed! The police are strictly enforcing the speed limit and issuing numerous traffic tickets. Please be a safe driver and obey the 25 mph speed limit throughout our neighborhood.

Do You Know Where Rover Is?

Reminder: Dog owners ... please obey the leash law! Although the leash law is very vague, it is clear that dog owners are to be in control of their dog(s) at all times. Responsible dog owners do not allow their pets to run loose in the neighborhood. Please make sure that your dog is under your command at all times.

CRIME WATCH...Incidents of vandalism, mail theft, and residential burglary were reported in our area during the past months. Incidents vary from smashed mailboxes to juveniles throwing fruit at cars travelling on Bay Shore Road. Check thefts from mailboxes are still a problem. Police and postal officials recommend that you take your out-going mail to the Post Office or drop it into a blue postal mail box.

URGENT! Neighborhood Watch Coordinators Needed For...

SAPPHIRE II (South of 47th Street to Myrtle Street)

SAPPHIRE III (Myrtle Street to Indian Beach Drive)

These two areas are without coordinators. If you live in either of these areas please consider taking over this much needed and worthwhile position. For information call Debbie Muller at 355 5743, Paul Hoyt at 355 6324 or Officer Debbie Rossnagle at 954 7057.

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

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954-7057

Officer Art Walls
954 7056

North-side Lieutenant
Lt. Bill Spitler
366 8000 ext.7857

S.P.D. Front Desk
954-7025

2000 Membership Application and Dues Renewal Form Indian Beach Sapphire Shores Association



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

I'm interested in volunteering for neighborhood projects: Yes

Membership type: New Renewal

• If you have a question about you dues status please contact Frank Zimmerman, Treasurer at 351-2925 or e-mail, afzim@home.com.

Please make checks payable to IBSSA.
Mail to: P.O. Box 49673, Sarasota, FL 34230

PAYMENT 2000 Dues	_____ \$10.00
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