

NEIGHBORHOOD



Newsletter

Griffin Productions, Inc. / 727.517.1997



Indian Rocks Beach's first team - the Indian Rocks Indians. Picture here: (Front Center) Freddie Geissler; (Second Row, Left to Right) Joe Campalong Jr, Eddie Coto, Gordon Geissler, Brook Seymore, Rhea Nichols, David Murphy. (Back Row, Left to Right): Larry Johnson, Larry Leahon, Sonny Helms, Mathew Gannon, Don Deitz, Bob Klare, Bill Suarez, and Coach Joe Campalong, Sr., 1954

FIELD OF DREAMS IN INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

Indian Rocks Beach's Little League field, in Kolb Park, is named Joe Campalong Field. Do you know who Joe Campalong was? In the early 1950s, Joe lived in town with wife Minnie, and son Joe Jr. As renters, they lived in several different houses throughout Indian Rocks Beach.

Joe owned Campalong's Sundries, a small store on 15th Avenue. It was on the north end of the building where The Red Lion Pub is today, on the road that leads to Kolb Park. The baseball field was not there then, it was just a big field where kids played their own pickup ball games.

When Joe Jr. was about 9 years old, Joe Sr. began teaching him the fundamentals of throwing, catching and hitting a baseball. Soon, other kids joined in and Joe began coaching the neighborhood kids. Their parents joined in; helping keep the grass cut and created the first home field for the kids.

There was no skate park, basketball court, or tennis courts; the park was really just a big open field with oak trees in right field. Home plate was in the southeast corner, instead of today's southwest corner.

Joe began contacting nearby cities and started a little league for the beach towns. By 1954, they formed the first team with 13 neighborhood boys and a bat boy. They played other city teams including Belleair, Seminole, Madeira Beach, St Pete Beach and Pass-A-Grill. When they played in other cities, the parents would pile the kids into

their station wagons and haul them to distant fields.

After a game in IRB, they would head to Joe's store for refreshments. His fountain sodas were made the old fashioned way, with an added squirt of cherry syrup or chocolate to any Coca-Cola. He had the usual hot dogs and hamburgers, and of course ice cream.

By 1957, the program had grown to four teams. They were all obviously named after Indians - The Braves, The Mohawks, The Apaches and The Indians. That year, they joined the West Pinellas Little League and began playing teams closer to home.

With the help of our newly incorporated city, Kolb Park was redesigned. Home plate was moved to the southwest corner, a concrete block concession stand was built, two dugouts were created and the fence was installed near home plate. There was no outfield fence, so the only way to score a home run was to run faster than the outfielders.

Joe continued to coach and recruit, making sure there were enough coaches and umpires to handle the growing number of teams. Joe's Campalong Sundries grew to be known as "Little City Hall." It was the place that the real decisions were made by the city's leaders over a cup of coffee. Joe eventually sold the Sundries store, but continued to help with the Little League he built.

In 1980, 26 years after Joe started coaching the neighborhood kids, IRB's families and city officials showed their appreciation by naming the ball field Joe Campalong field and installing a sign. Joe died ten years later in February, 1990.

Today, 58 years later, 15 teams serving over 150 children play in the Indian Rocks Little League. Joe's Sundries is now the Red Lion. And Joe's son, granddaughter, and great grandson, Travis, have all played ball on Campalong Field.

by Bob Griffin, Publisher

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Residents of Indian Rocks Beach

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SALES

727-517-1997

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Is there something you would like to see included in this newsletter? Please send all comments to

bob@griffindirectories.com

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CITY NUMBERS

CITY HALL 595-2517
1507 Bay Palm Blvd
www.Indian-Rocks-Beach.com

CITY MANAGER - Chuck Coward
MAYOR/CITY COMMISSION . 517-0204

MAYOR - R.B. Johnson
COMMISSIONERS —
Phil Hanna Vice Mayor • Cookie Kennedy
Terry Wollin • Daniel Torres

City Manager, 595-2517
Chuck Coward

Building Department: 517-0404
Don Weigner

Planning & Zoning: 517-0404
Danny Taylor, Dir.

Public Services: 595-6889
Dean Scharmen, Dir.

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M-F 10-5pm, Tu-Th 7-8:30pm, Sat 10-1pm
IRB HISTORICAL MUSEUM . . . 593-3861

Across from the Post Office
IRB HOMEOWNER ASSOC. . . . 517-3131

Becky Griffin, President - IRBHome.com
Bob Griffin - Boat Club 517-1997

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Next to City Hall, 1515 Bay Palm Blvd

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Mon-Fri 8:30A-4:30P; Sat 9A-12:00P
IRB ROTARY

www.Indian-Rocks-Rotary.org
Meets at Jimmy Guan's every Wed. 7:15AM

Bruce Sobut, Past President . . . 403-4060
ACTION 2000

Eric Meyer 744-0123
Meets 2nd Monday Each Month Beach Art Ctr

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SHERIFF DISPATCH 582-6177

IRB FIRE STATION 595-1117

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COMMISSION OFFICES 464-3377

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AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:

Rep Bill Young 727-394-6950
9210 113th St, Seminole, FL 33772

www.house.gov/young

CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

MARCH:

- Bling Fling Action 2000 2
- Beach Art Center Watercolor Wkshp 2-4
- Homeowner's Happy Hour 8
- Beach Art Center Watercolor Wkshp 9-11
- Boat Club Intracoastal Clean Up . . . 10
- Daylight Savings Time Begins 11
- Boat Club Meeting Jimmy Guan's . . . 15
- Beach Art Center Watercolor Wkshp 16-18
- Green Fest at COTI 17
- Heritage Village Quilting Day 17
- St Patricks Day 17
- Great America Clean Up 17
- Spring Begins 20
- Honda Grand Prix 23-25
- Boat Club Salt Rock Grill 24
- Spring Break Pinellas Schools 26-30

APRIL:

- Good Friday 6
- Guppy's Gulfside Gallop / 5K Run . . . 7
- Rotary Pancake Breakfast 7
- Easter Egg Hunt Nature's Park 7
- Beauty and The BeachArt Show 7

- Easter Sunday 8
- Homeowner's Happy Hour 13
- Blood Drive at IRB Post Office 13
- IRB Garage Sale 14-15
- Federal Income Taxes Due 17
- Boat Club Meeting 19
- Earth Day 2012 22
- Action 2000 Arbor Day Event 26
- Biggest Beach Party Ever 28
- Operation Medicine Cabinet 28

MAY:

- Loggerhead Turtle Season Begins . . 1
- Homeowners Happy Hour (Slyce) . . . 10
- Postal Workers Food Drive 12
- Household Chemical Cleanup 12
- Mother's Day 13
- Stone Crab Season Ends 15
- Community Clean Up IRB 14-16
- Boat Club Meeting 17
- Bluegrass Festival, 19
- Safe Boating Week 21-27
- Memorial Day 28

NEXT ISSUE IS MAY

Do you need another copy of this newsletter? Ask for them at USA Grocers or any IRB realtor's office.

This newsletter is printed every other month and survives on local advertising. Please support the people advertising here. If you are an IRB resident wanting to advertise, you get a discount. We also offer discounts for advertising in our other issues, Madeira Beach, Belleair Area Downtown St. Petersburg and our Clearwater Beach.

Call us to advertise in the next issue. For more information, or to read our other issues online, visit BeachNewsletters.com

TIPS FOR TRANSITIONS: MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR RETIREMENT ACCOUNT OPTIONS

By Noelle Daniel, CFP®

It's a fact: The average American holds nine different jobs before the age of 34.* It's also a fact that the decisions you make about how to manage retirement assets when changing jobs can have a direct impact on your future financial health.

Case in point: "Cashing out" retirement plan assets before age 59½ (55 in some cases) can expose your savings to immediate income taxes and a 10% IRS early withdrawal penalty. On the other hand, there are several different strategies that could preserve the full value of your assets while allowing you to maintain tax-deferred growth potential.

Option #1: Leave the Money Where It Is If the vested portion of the account balance in your former employer's plan has exceeded \$5,000, you can generally leave the money in that plan. Any money that remains in an old plan still belongs to you and still has the potential for tax-deferred growth.** However, you won't be able to make additional contributions to that account.

Option #2: Transfer the Money to Your New Plan You may be able to roll over assets from an old plan to a new plan without triggering any penalty or immediate taxation. A primary benefit of this strategy is the ability to consolidate retirement assets into one account.**

Option #3: Transfer the Money to a Rollover IRA To avoid incurring any taxation or penalties, you can enact a direct rollover from your previous plan to an individual retirement account (IRA).** If you opt for an indirect transfer, you will receive a distribution check from your previous plan equal to the amount of your balance minus an automatic 20% tax withholding. You then have 60 days to deposit the entire amount of your previous balance into an IRA, which means you will need to make up the 20% withholding out of your own pocket.***

Option #4: Take the Cash Because of the income tax obligations and potential 10% penalty described above, this approach could take the biggest bite out of your assets. Not only will the value of your savings drop immediately, but also you'll no longer have that money earmarked for retirement in a tax-advantaged account.

Call my office today at 727-408-5209 to discuss your best option. We are located in Indian Rocks Beach at 1201 Gulf Blvd., Suite 101 or visit our website for more information www.ndwealthmanagement.com

This information is not intended to be a substitute for specific individualized tax advice. Individual circumstances may differ. LPL Financial does not provide tax advice or legal services.

*Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Withdrawals will be taxed at ordinary income tax rates. Early withdrawals may trigger a 10% penalty tax.

***You will receive credit for the withholding when you file your next tax return. © 2010 Standard & Poor's Financial Communications. All rights reserved.

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Did You Know....

MATILDA THE OWL A few months ago, someone broke into McGough Nature Park, just across the Intracoastal from IRB, and let J.R., the resident owl escape. Recently, the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary rehabilitated a barred owl and called the park to see if they wanted it. They quickly agreed, and after determining it was a she, they named her Matilda. Currently, Matilda is being worked into educational programs at the park. She weighs 4 pounds and appears to be about 9 years old, but has a damaged wing and can not fly. See Matilda at McGough Park, located at 11901 146th Street North. This is at the first stoplight after you cross the Walsingham Bridge!



CANCER SWIM Swim Across America is sponsoring a 1-mile Gulf swim Saturday, May 5. This national nonprofit organization is dedicated to raising money for cancer research, prevention and treatment through swimming-related events. This is their first open water fundraising swim in Florida with funds benefitting the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa. The event, which includes former Olympians Brooke Bennett and Janel Jorgensen, and IRB resident Anna Thayer takes place on Clearwater Beach, at Pier 60, at 8:30am. Swimmers of all skill levels are invited to participate. Contact Island Estates resident Trent Fraebell at 743-8460 or visit www.SwimAcrossAmerica.com.

5K RUN The 2012 Guppy's Gulfside Gallop 5K Run - 1 Mile Walk/Fun Run is Saturday April 7 at 8am. The run is directly on the beach at the Indian Rocks Beach County Park. Early registration ends on Sunday, March 31st. Visit IRBhome.com for forms or to register online.

WANT TO BE A CLOWN? The St. Petersburg Suncoasters are sponsoring their annual Clown Alley Clown School, March 10th, beginning at 10am. A tradition in St. Petersburg since 1972, it is co-sponsored by All Children's Hospital's Education Center. Children and adults will learn the finer points of becoming a professional clown and will be invited to show off their new skills and ride on the All Children's float in the Honda Grand Prix Illuminated Night Parade and the 2012 Santa Parade. Class will be held at the All Children's Hospital Education Center, 710 4th Street S., St. Petersburg. The cost is \$20 per person, plus \$10 for each additional family member, and includes lunch and a Clown Alley T-shirt. Make up is available for purchase during class, for about \$5-\$10 per person. For more information, visit www.Suncoasters-StPete.com or call 821-9888.



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50 YEARS OF SERVICE

In April, The Calvary Episcopal Church and Father Bob will celebrate their 50th anniversary. Interest to establish a mission on



Indian Rocks Beach began in 1954 and in April of 1962, the then little church on the beach was officially established. Calvary will be holding Anniversary service April 15th, at 9am followed by a Gala Luncheon at noon at the Holiday Inn Harbourside. Please RSVP if you plan to attend the Luncheon.

HISTORICAL MUSEUM GETS FREE AC IRB resident Frank Wallace, owner of Statewide Air Conditioning, is donating a new Air Conditioning system to the History Museum. He replaced the system in the old part of the museum and donated a new system for the new area, too. This is valued at \$15,000. Frank has lived in IRB since 1996. He can be reached at 596-4446.

CELEBRITY BASKETBALL To raise money to send the Seminole Warhawk High School Marching Band to the 124th Annual Tournament of Roses Parade, Seminole High School Marching Band is hosting a Charity Celebrity Basketball game, March 24 featuring Harlem Globetrotter Alumni: "Showbiz" Jackson, "Hollywood" Brown, "Airman" Dixon, "Above and Beyond" Clark, "Smooth" Forbes and others vs. The Tampa Bay Generals. General Admission is \$15 in advance or \$22 at the door. Premium VIP Reserved Seating is \$25. A limited number of tickets are available - to purchase tickets, call 727-254-9556 or visit: www.shswarhawkband.com.

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO SWIM IN IT, DON'T PUT IT IN OUR WATER! Anyone who has been to the beach knows that there is a lot of garbage floating in our coastal waters that ends up on shore. Most of this garbage makes its way down to the water's edge through street gutters and storm sewers that drain directly into local creeks. However, a small percentage still originates from vessels.

RUNNING CLUB Clever Training, a new business in IRB, is starting a weekly group running our beach every Wednesday. Runners meet at the store at Keegan's Plaza at 6pm or on the beach at 16th Avenue at 6:15pm and run south. Most runners do a 5K (3 miles), but runners can turn around at their own pace. They return to the store for free sport drinks or go to Keegans for food and drinks. The run is for people of all levels. Call the store at 213-0008 for more information.

LOCAL AUTHOR IRB resident, Ann Wilson-Daley recently published a book of short stories about 20 common Florida Flowers titled "Butterfly Brides." The 84 page book contains quotes and flower photos as well as a story or essay about each featured flower. It is perfect gift or souvenir. Visit www.ShackOnTheSand.com and click on the tab labeled Ann's Book to see the cover and read the title story. The book is \$12.

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Real Estate News

THE DECISION TO SELL SHOULD YOU DO IT OR NOT?

By Gordon Obarski, Broker Associate
Doiron Realty on the Beach

"Is this a good time to sell?" That's the most-often-asked question of realtors today. The answer is rarely cut and dry. No two situations are exactly alike and it often comes down to timing and personal circumstances.

The year you purchased your property is an important determining factor. If you bought at the market high in '06, sit tight unless there is a compelling personal reason to sell. If you bought in the late 1990s/early 2000s, you're probably in good shape, unless you borrowed against the gain for improvements, debt consolidation, etc.

Make no mistake...there are some advantages to selling now. According to U.S. Census data, only 11.6% of the population moved in '10 and '11—the lowest mobility factor since 1948. (20% moved in 1985) Some "northern boomers" with visions of retiring to Florida have delayed their move to work a few more years. Folks are staying put, meaning fewer listings and less competition for a buyer's attention.

If you decide to "wait it out" and not sell until next year, use the time wisely. Whip your home into tip-top shape so it's among the top listings to capture online "lookers" from the day it hits the MLS. Take the next year to meet with a number of real estate agents. By interacting with these individuals over time, you'll get a better feel for how they work—their follow-up, attention to detail, adherence to deadlines, etc., before you charge them with the important task of selling your home. Ask each candidate for a market analysis of your property and listen carefully to their rationale supporting the price they recommend. Talk to folks whose houses they've listed and sold. How well they "play" with other agents is also important. If you discover their colleagues aren't showing or selling their listings, this will mean fewer eyeballs in your living room.

Ask for a net seller's sheet of the amount you can reasonably expect to walk away with. If the number is red, will your lifestyle improve enough to warrant the financial hit? If you're getting a steal on a foreclosure, does the gain on the purchase offset the loss on the sale? If your family is packed into a house that's too small, how much value is there in peace of mind? If you stare at the ceiling most nights worrying about not being able to meet your financial obligations, the "investment" might be worth it.

Nationally, home sales are projected to be flat through 2012. However, the number of sales in Indian Rocks Beach/Indian Shores is up 28% from last year. During the first six weeks of '11, there were 18 sales. This year, there have been 23 sales from 1/1-2/15; however, the average sale price has declined 14% (\$378,833 to \$323,656). Last year, it took 152 days to sell a property. This year, it's taking 228 days—or 50% longer.

In a recent poll, 70% view NOW as a great time to BUY but only 11% feel it's the right time to SELL. Whether this is perception or reality depends on your unique situation.

Source: My Florida Regional (MFR) MLS.

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TEENS BEHIND THE SCENES

by Commission Chair Karen Williams Seel



Where will our future leaders come from? The ones who guide businesses to prosperity. The ones who will invent and discover. The ones who will run for public office and help determine the direction our community takes.

They are all around us, and you can find them in our high schools today, learning about math, engineering, science and technology in classrooms throughout Pinellas County. While this classroom experience is great for the development of these students, it's just as important that these future leaders have the opportunity to get into the field and discover what's happening in the world outside the classroom.

In addition to internships and volunteer opportunities, Pinellas County also offers teens the chance to go behind the scenes of their county government to see how it works.

Teens Behind the Scenes is a new program that takes an exclusive look at the inner workings of Pinellas County government. Once a month, from January to April, teens are going behind the scenes to experience first-hand what goes into keeping the county running.

Presented by the county's Youth Advisory Committee, the program was created by students and is modeled after the popular Pinellas Citizen University. The sessions meet the fourth Wednesday of the month from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the site of the featured department.

So far, students have visited the county's public works facility where they had the chance to explore traffic control and engineering, and to see the big maintenance trucks up close and personal. In February, the students went to the Criminal Justice Center to learn about the roles of law enforcement, prosecuting and defense attorneys and the judge.

Registration opportunities for upcoming sessions are available for high school students at least 14 years old. There is no charge to register for the program.

Most Wanted! (March 21) This session will take the students through the county jail, where they will learn about intake, maximum security and direct supervision of inmates. Parental permission is required for this tour.

9-1-1 101 (April 18) Students will have the opportunity to learn about the county's EMS system and participate in a first responders' demonstration.

When these students complete their course of study, they will be awarded certificates from their county commissioners, and they have gained knowledge of how their county government functions.

While the Teens Behind the Scenes program is just a small part of their studies, the lessons learned during their participation may lead some to consider serving the public as an elected official or as part of the government staff.

With the success of this first group, additional Teens Behind the Scenes programs are being considered. For more information about this program, visit www.pinellascounty.org/yac or call (727) 582-2656.

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**LIPOSONIX: THE LATEST
 INNOVATION IN NON-SURGICAL
 FAT REMOVAL**

By Stephanie Schlageter, Medspa Director

As the trend of cosmetic surgical procedures becoming less invasive continues to rise, another new trend is also gaining in momentum: non-surgical fat reduction. Treatments that are scalpel free are less expensive, less risky, and require less downtime than traditional plastic surgery and, as a result, have been readily adopted by many men and women seeking to look and feel their best. More than 83% of all cosmetic medical procedures performed in the U.S. in 2011 were non-surgical. While treatments for lines, wrinkles, and sagging skin such as BOTOX, Juvederm, Thermage, and Fraxel were among the most popular of these services, body contouring also captured a significant share of this fast growing market.



Brand names like SlimLipo (Laser Lipolysis) have become well established in recent years as safer, easier, and less-invasive alternatives to older surgical liposuction methods by virtue of the fact that they are done without general anesthesia, through tiny skin incisions and with minimal downtime. Laser methods such as this have the ability to melt and permanently remove fat and tighten the skin, enabling individuals to lose up to 2 clothing sizes in a single session.

Liposonix, the very latest non-surgical fat reduction treatment to hit the market, targets fat cells beneath the surface with focused ultrasound. The treatment is performed strictly on the surface of the skin (no incisions) in under an hour and without anesthesia. The energy delivered by Liposonix causes thermal damage to the layer of fat beneath the skin and the fat is then resorbed by the body. Liposonix requires only one treatment session that takes about an hour and patients can expect to see about a 1-inch reduction of the area treated over an 8-12 week period following the treatment.

Radiance Medspa in Belleair Bluffs is one of only a few facilities in the country and the only facility on the West coast of Florida to offer Liposonix. If you'd like to learn more about Liposonix, SlimLipo or any of Radiance Medspa's other non-surgical services, contact 727-518-7100 or visit radiancemedspa.com.

FIFTH ANNUAL GREENFEST

Show how truly green you are this St. Patrick's Day by attending Indian Rocks Beach's Greenfest. The day will include live music by Tony Wylie and the Islands, beer and wine, local food, a weekend giveaway and many eco-friendly and local vendors. There will be lots of activities for kids including a Bounce house, playground, dance stage and "green" crafts. Local non-profit organizations such as Sea Bird Sanctuary, Surfrider Foundation and Pinellas Co. Ext. will be on hand to provide information and education. Green minded businesses will offer natural products and services, plus art, jewelry, organic produce, gifts and more.

All proceeds benefit COTI Community Christian School. The festival is Saturday March 17th from 11am - 5pm at the Church of the Isles on 24th Ave in Indian Rocks Beach, two blocks east of Gulf Blvd. For information, contact Christy 727.667.0019 or email her at crunchymama@live.com.

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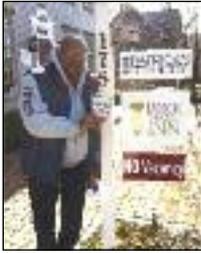
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ROTARY NEWS
 "SERVICE ON THE ROCKS"



The Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach congratulates our 2011 Super Bowl Grand Prize winner, Mike Washington of Lutz, who attended the game at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. Mike is shown here preparing to check in for his four night stay at the Brick Street Inn, Zionsville, IN.

After returning from his big trip, Mike said: "Seats were great and the Brick Street Inn is a fabulous place, the staff provides a second to none service with a great room. I choose the Patriots because Tom Brady was my fantasy league quarterback, so I followed him all season. My team did not win but what a great game! Thanks to the Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach for giving me this exciting opportunity!"

The Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach extends our sincere gratitude to all you who supported what turned out to be our biggest Super Bowl fundraiser ever. The proceeds generated from this event, Oktoberfest and the Pancake Breakfast allow our club to support the many humanitarian works of the global, national and local Rotary organizations.

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BOAT CLUB

Members of the Boat Club went to The Pub in Indian Shores for a lunch outing in January, just one of many events planned for 2012. They also went to The Sea Blues concert in Coachman Park, and in February had brunch at Island Way Grill in Island Estates.

MEETINGS - They meet at Jimmy Guana's (Holiday Inn Harborside) on the third Thursday of the month. The next two meetings are March 15th and April 19th 6pm. Their last meeting was an interesting presentation about the upcoming dredging in Clearwater Pass and the Beach Renourishment project

NEXT EVENTS AT A GLANCE:

- March 10: Intracoastal Island Clean Up
- March 15: Meeting
- March 24: Salt Rock Grill, Indian Shores
- April 19: Meeting

See the complete list of Boat Club events, pictures and more at IRBHome.com or follow us on Facebook.com/IRBhomeowners.

Call Bob Griffin at 517-1997 or email us at BoatClub@IRBhome.com.



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Restaurant News....

CRABBY'S ON FOOD NETWORK Crabby Bills was featured on a segment of "Heat Seekers" on the Food Channel, February 13th. Hosts Aaron Sanchez and Roger Mooking interviewed Matt Loder Jr. while he made Crab Cakes with 5-Pepper Sauce and their new Volcano Gator Nuggets drenched in Ghost Pepper mayo. The dishes almost made the TV hosts cry. So they must be hot. See this segment now on www.FoodNetwork.com



SALT ROCK CHANGES Salt Rock Grill, owned by Frank Chivas and the Baystar Group are changing things up in Indian Shores. This spring, the Salty Seas Bar near the entrance will undergo a conversion to a craft beer room. Salt Rock might even brew their own beer.

ON THE ROCKS The on again, off again restaurant at 213 Gulf Blvd is on again. They are offering breakfast on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays. They also cater to large groups and parties. Call manager Glenda at 286-6224.

TIME TO VOTE March is the month you vote for the Best IRB Restaurants. We will announce the winners in our May issue. There is a ballot inserted in this issue for you to vote for your favorites. Voting is open only to IRB residents. The deadline to vote is March 31st. One ballot will be drawn from the entries and the person submitting that ballot receives dinner for two at the IRB restaurant of their choice.

SEABREEZE ISLAND GRILL OPENS The Loder family, owners of Crabby Bill's, opened their new restaurant in Redington Beach. Called Seabreeze Island Grill, it is in the former location of the Cici's Pizza and Shells Seafood. This restaurant is very different from Crabby's. There are no picnic tables and it has beautiful waterfront dining with an outdoor bar and deck. There is a dock if you want to go by boat. The menu is more upscale than Crabby's with lots of seafood and even vegetarian selections. They are located at 17855 Gulf Blvd in Redington Beach.



CLOSED Sabala Plaza, 14100 Walsingham, lost two restaurants recently.

PLANET PIZZA on Walsingham closed last fall. They said with the addition of several new pizza places opening in the area, they just could not make it any longer. We will miss John and The Planet.

THE GATHERING a small cafe serving breakfast and lunch, closed in November.



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VOTING VOLUNTEERS

By Ruth Antepenka, Indian Rocks Beach

Editor's Note: On January 31st there was a statewide election. Many Poll Workers spent the month leading up to the election preparing. This is one person's story.



Election Day is finally here. I rise early and report to work at 5:45 am. I make sure to dress comfortably as I know it will be a long day, at least 13 hours. Once I arrive at the polls, I cannot leave the building until we closed at 7pm and our duties are completed. I must bring my lunch, drinks, medication and whatever else I may need for this day.

First, we help get the polling place ready to open. Since some voters will arrive right at 7am, there is much to do. We have deputies, inspectors, clerks, assistant clerks, ballot managers and machine managers each with specific duties based on what job position they are working. We must be sworn in as well. Outside, the candidates and their supporters are busy posting political signs.

It is now 7am. Our deputy announces that "the polls are now open." Let the voting begin. We get to be a part of the process, while meeting many of our neighbors.

At 7pm, our deputy goes outside to announce "the polls are now closed." But our day is not over yet. Our election results must be sent electronically to the Pinellas elections office. Clerks work diligently to be sure everything balances perfectly. This count is posted on the outside of each precinct for the public to view.

All the poll workers share the responsibility of taking down the polling equipment. We work together making sure the voting site is left in very good condition. After this, we are finished with our duties. The memory stick, voted ballots, official scanner, and result tapes are delivered to the office of the Supervisor of Elections.

Pinellas County will hold 3 more elections this year. On March 13, many municipal elections (but none in IRB) will be held. On August 14, a primary election is held. And on November 6, the general election will be held to select the President of the United States. Early voting for the primary and general elections will be held for 8 days from 7am until 7pm, Saturday through Saturday, before each Election Day. For more information on that, visit www.VotePinellas.com.

Poll workers are paid to attend training classes and work on election day. If you are interested in being a poll worker and supporting our local voting process, visit VotePinellas.com or call (727) 464-6110. If you do it once, you will love it. Get involved and help make a difference.

BEACH RENOURISHMENT IS COMING

The project will begin in March, on the northern end of Clearwater's Sand Key and will move south to Redington Beach. Offshore bottom sand will be dredged & transported by barge, sand piped onto the beach, then spread by bulldozers. The project will move 1,250,000 cubic yards of sand at a cost of \$31,539,350. The entire project should be completed in October. When will it reach Indian Rocks Beach? No one knows for sure but they estimate the beginning of July. They plan to work 24 hours a day and all active beach construction areas will be closed to the public. Residents can expect noise day and night with spot lights on during all night.



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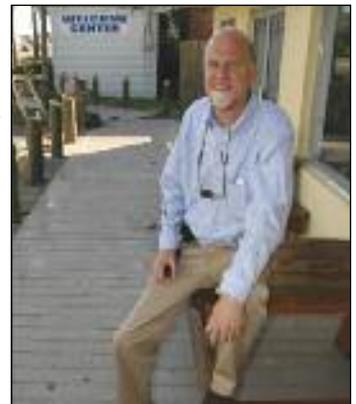
Business News....

NEW BRIDGE The bridge leading to the Holiday Inn Harborside was recently replaced. The old bridge was installed by the first developers in the mid-80s. The bridge replacement is just part of several upgrades being done by the Holiday Inn Harborside.



NEW LAUNDRY The new IRB Laundry at 2300 Gulf Blvd, next to Cafe de Paris, is still under construction, because a few snags slowed them down. IRB resident/ owner, Dan Hale, says to look for them to open before May 1st.

NEW BOARDWALK Plumlee Realty, who owns the Sand Dollar Plaza at the corner of Walsingham and Gulf Blvd., built a new boardwalk connecting the Welcome Center to the shops in the Sand Dollar Plaza. Now patrons of the Tropical Ice Cream store and Jake's Sandwich Shop can have a place to sit outside and eat. When the deck is finished, they will be adding more picnic tables.



NEW MASSAGE Z.E.N. Healing Massage just opened at 1401 Gulf Blvd, next to Pinky's Ice Cream. This is owner and IRB resident Hope Wyant's first venture into business. The goal of ZEN is to make people in our community healthier and happier through the art of massage therapy. They hope to add services in guided meditation, personalized yoga, and seminars on healthy eating. She can be reached at 417-7349.

ISLAND COVE BEADS AND GALLERY

Everything you want, in beads, is in this store that just opened at 1519 Gulf Blvd, next to Keegans. It is owned by Roger and Colleen Ewart, IRB residents.



Colleen is an artist, collector and instructor who has had an attraction to beads since she was 4. She always wanted to have a store like this. In addition to beads, there are gift items and art by local artists, including her mother. Their phone number is 510-1657 or get more info at www.Island-Cove.com.

More Business Briefs....

VET MOVING In May, Dr Matt and the Indian Rocks Beach Animal Hospital is moving to 12712 Indian Rocks Rd, across from Wilcox Nursery. Matt says he is moving because his rent was going up, and this new location in Largo was too good a deal to pass up. It also offers him greater visibility, more parking and a larger waiting room. He plans to offer new services including boarding and grooming. The move is only one mile from the bridge, and he hopes to keep all his old customers, dogs and cats. Look for him to move around May 1st.



COOKIE'S 25 Joanna 'Cookie' Kennedy, also a City Commissioner, has been cutting and styling the heads of IRB since she opened her Cookie Cutter Hair Salon in 1987 - 25 years ago. You are invited to an Open House on Sunday, March 25th at the Cookie Cutter Salon, located at 408 2nd Street, near the Post Office.



NEW OWNERS USA Grocer, located at 1211 Gulf Blvd at 13th Avenue has a new owner. After many years, Nabil sold his convenience store to Nazih Tageddine. You may recognize him; he also owns the Sunoco Station at the north end of IRB. Except some cleaning and remodeling, you won't see much difference.

FREE SMOOTHIES

Nutrizon, a new health food store, recently opened in the Wal-Mart Plaza. They have all types of health products and smoothies that make you feel better or lose weight. IRB residents Rich and Ruth Antepenko (Harbor Drive North) are your local contacts. Call them at 415-5623 for a free smoothie. The store is located at 13819 Walsingham, near Wal-Mart Neighborhood Store.



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HEY, THANKS BUFFALO BILL!

The Indian Rocks Beach Community Food Pantry would like to recognize an unsung hero. He humbly asks us to just call him Buffalo Bill. His repeated and generous food donations continuously help feed the beaches hungry.

Before Thanksgiving, Buffalo Bill swaggered into the pantry like John Wayne, a hero and his right hand man wielding a multitude of fresh turkeys to feed those in need. More than our shoppers shed a tear at the sight of those birds.

Christmas found he and his elf pulling up in their sleigh to provide us with a large sack of fresh hams just waiting for hungry families to prepare and enjoy. He also provided stuffing, cranberries, and mashed potatoes to complete the meals. Many of these folks would not have had a turkey or ham dinner for the Holiday without our hero's help.

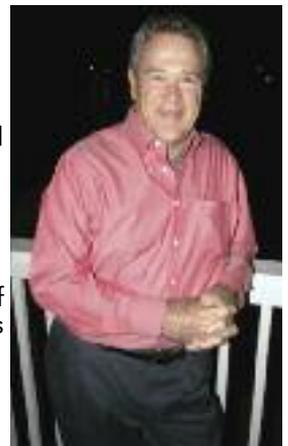
Often Buffalo Bill drops in to ask pantry volunteers, "What do you need today?" Within the hour this special man returns with cases of much needed staples such as baked beans, peanut butter and jelly, and soup. He often delights our patrons with chips and snacks not usually available.

We sing your praises Buffalo Bill for your big heart and generous spirit, and for choosing to provide our hungry with food. Each donation that you make to the Beach Community Food Pantry is appreciated so very much.

If you look in your heart, perhaps you will find a Buffalo Bill in you. Your donations can be made to our Beach Community Food Pantry at 1615 1st St, Indian Rocks Beach Monday, Wednesday, and Friday between 10am and noon. We also accept donations at the Clearwater Beach & St. Pete Beach Chamber of Commerces and the IRB, Indian Shores, and Redington Shores' City Halls.

**MEET JIM LABADIE,
 OUR NEW CITY
 COMMISSIONER**

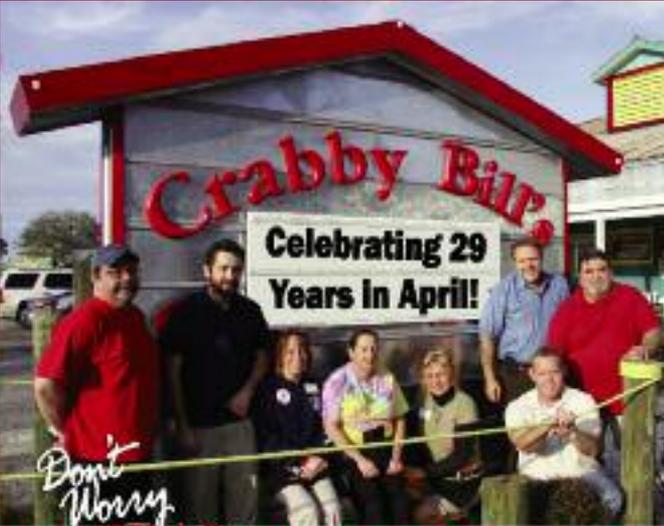
Jim Labadie (66), IRB resident and business owner, is your new city commissioner. He is replacing Dan Torres, who did not run for a third term. Jim and his wife Laura live on 10th Avenue and have owned Colonial Court Inn on Gulf Blvd for the past 30 years. He was previously President of Action 2000 (A2K) and Chairman of the Board of Adjustments.



He says, "I hope getting on the commission will be a positive experience. I feel I can bring a common sense approach to the problems we have here." He says he wants to revisit the noise issues here in IRB. He also would like to have some direct input into the beautification efforts of the city. "Landscaping our entranceways is a key element as to how people perceive our city," says Labadie.

"I am concerned with all of IRB, and especially development in the business triangle," says new Commissioner Labadie. "The city is addressing the issue now, and reviewing all the data from the Planning & Zoning Board and Community Development. We need community input and participation on this matter. The decisions we make will affect us all."

Jim will take office later this month and may be reached at 459-0441.



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AUTO INSURANCE – WHAT’S IN YOUR POLICY?

If you are in an auto accident – the last thing on your mind should be money, but it is important to know you are covered and what that coverage includes. Your auto insurance should compensate you for your losses and have funds secured for those unforeseen events.

The value of auto insurance cannot be stressed enough. If you are an uninsured driver involved in an accident, you may face thousands – possibly millions – of dollars in expenses, depending on the severity of the situation. There are several types of personal auto insurance coverage. Basic auto insurance includes liability, property, medical and under/uninsured motorist coverage. While you are not required to purchase all of the offered coverages, let’s examine these auto insurance policy coverages:

- Liability coverage pays for bodily injury or property damage to those you are legally responsible to. This covers damage you cause to someone or their property.
- Property coverage compensates for damage or the theft of your car. Two types of property coverage are collision and comprehensive.
- Medical coverage pays for the treatment of injuries to the driver and passengers of the policyholder’s car. Coverage is provided if the individual is a passenger or struck as a pedestrian.
- Uninsured motorist coverage reimburses you if you are hit by an uninsured driver. Underinsured motorist coverage provides compensation if the at fault party does not have adequate coverage to pay for your entire loss.

These are a few of the coverages you might find in your personal auto insurance policy. Do you know what’s in your policy? If not, it is a good idea to take a look and understand the ways you, your car and your loved ones may or may not be protected.

By Ken Peterson, Indian Rocks Beach resident and independent insurance agent with Florida Best Quote Insurance. Need an auto insurance quote? Call him at 727-584-9999 or e-mail Ken@FloridaBestQuote.com. Florida Insurance license W039404



SENIOR’S SOFTBALL LEAGUE

This group of older Little Leaguers plays softball on Joe Campalung Field every Tuesday afternoon at 4pm. Bert Valery, former City Commissioner, organized the group about two years ago. What started with 6-8 interested players has now grown to over 20. It is open to anyone 50 and over that wants to play, just show up at 4pm. Bring your own glove and ben-gay. Women are welcome, too. Call Bert at 517-8888 for more information. When the temperatures heat up, they will move their playing time back to 7pm.

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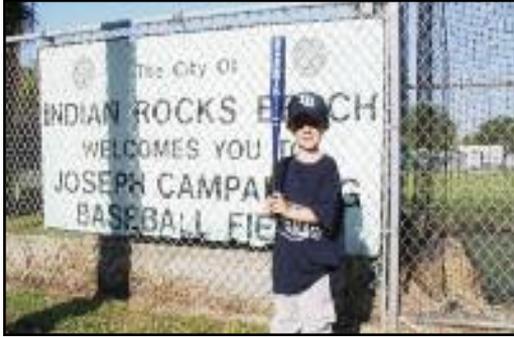


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INDIAN ROCKS BEACH'S LITTLE LEAGUE, AS I REMEMBER IT

I remember my Grandpa and Grandma talking about the days when they started Little League and operated "Campalong Sundries". That building now is the Red Lion Pub. Unfortunately, by the time I came,



Grandpa wasn't coaching anymore and the store was gone. He was working part-time at the Breezes' Market where Los Mexicanos is. I heard stories about times during spring training when major league players would happen to be in the store and chat with my grandpa. One of them was Pete Rose. While I was growing up, Grandpa was a fixture in front of the TV during baseball season. His love for the game never waned. One of the most memorable moments I have is when we found out that the city of Indian Rocks Beach had decided to honor my Grandpa by naming the baseball field after him. There was a great wooden sign in front of the park that said "The Joseph Campalong Baseball Field". He was so proud. I have a great picture of him standing in front of it with a big smile on his face. Although, I wasn't lucky enough to ever have him coach me, I did have the chance to watch my own son, Travis, play in the league a few years ago. My husband, Scott, took a picture of our son in front of the current sign. I told my daughter, Rosalie, that Grandpa and Grandma Campalong are looking down on us and smiling! **by Christine Burns Joe Campalong Sr.'s Granddaughter**

Every year we had "Tag Day." After being assigned a team and getting our new uniform, we went door-to-door and begged people to put money in our little tin cans.

Joe Campalong owned a little store at 15th Avenue & Gulf Blvd. It was an everything store with sodas, ice cream, toys, comic books, beach supplies – you name it. Most of us went there after games to have a soda and eat. He made cherry cokes and vanilla and chocolate milk shakes. Cokes only cost 5¢." **by Joe Sweeney**

"When I was 9, I was on Indian Rocks' very first little league team. We all knew each other because we all went to Anona Elementary school. One day, I was riding my bike near 15th Street and saw the kids playing ball. Joe Campalong asked me if I wanted to play.

In the beginning, we were not part of Little League. We formed a private league with other teams in other nearby cities. We played teams in Madeira, St Pete Beach, Pass-A-Grille, Seminole and Belleair. Each city had one or two teams. Kolb Park was not what it is today. Home plate was in the other corner of the lot and there were no fences. Our fathers mowed the grass with their own lawn mowers

Indian Rocks started with only one team. We were the *Indians*. When we went to away games, our parents would take us. I played there from 1954-1957. My brother Freddie, was the bat boy. Joe was still a coach, but other fathers helped coach and referee. Joe had the sundries store at the corner of 15th where the Red Lion is today; after each games we went to Joe's for cokes and ice cream.

Joe kept everything in the trunk of his car. Whenever we wanted to play, we just got the bats and balls out of his car. Sometimes we played ball in the street near his store. Everyone went on to

play in high school, mostly at Largo High. I played at Largo, St Pete Jr. College (where I held the home run record) and then USF where I was on their team. Then, in 1967, I coached an IRB team. Freddie was my assistant coach." **by Gordon Geisler**

"I went to school with Chris Campalong, Joe Jr.'s daughter. In 1977, we had a girl's softball league. I played on a team call the *Gold Diggers*. I played catcher and our team made it to the All Stars. My brother played Little League at the same time. We made friends while playing and now that we are all grown up, we put both our sons in WPLL."

by Patricia Slaughter Jewell, Slaughter Plumbing

"In the '70s, I was President of the West Pinellas Little League. On most spring evenings when the weather conditions were just right, you could detect a strong odor coming from the area around second base. Having grown up in Largo when we had sulfur drinking water, there was no doubt what the odor was. It was one of the famous local sulfur springs. I knew Joe Campalong very well. He was an outstanding gentleman who loved the kids. As a coach though, he hated to lose a game."

by Charles Harper, Largo Historical Society

"When I was 8 years old, I was the official bat boy for the first Indian Rocks team. My brother Gordon, played on that team. Back then, there was only one team. We lived in Belleair Beach and every day we rode our bikes to 15th Avenue to play ball. Sometimes we just played in the street.

Archie Archibald, a kid our age in Madeira Beach, had a batting cage in his yard. We used to go down there and hit balls in his cage. I remember in 1982, they made Joe Campalong the Parade Marshall of the big July 4th parade in Indian Rocks Beach." **by Freddie Geisler (shown front center in the photo on the cover)**

"We moved to Indian Rocks when I was seven and I joined Little League the next year (1958). By then, they had built the new dugouts and concession stand, put up a fence and upgraded the baseball field. I remember two coaches, Coach Warren and Coach Riley. Mr Riley was one of the survivors of the Indianapolis ship attacked by the Japanese during WWII. Both were really great men.

"I have lived in Indian Rocks since 1951. At age 7, I started playing ball (1957). My first team was the *Apaches*. There were 3 or 4 teams. We rotated the teams; one year you were on one team, and the next year another. We played ball almost every day after school. If we weren't playing with the team, we would just play a pick up a game.

I remember the field did not a fence. To get a home run you had to run around the bases, fast. A kid named Thomas Warren hit one all the way over to the City Auditorium, but he was not very fast and we got him out at third base.

"I remember John McGuire who lived across the street from the field on 1st Street. He was both a coach and an umpire. My Dad almost got into a fight with John over one of his calls. They argued all the time." **by Buzzy O'Bannon**

"In 1971, when I first opened Pajano's Pizza, I was in the same building as Joe Campalong's store. Needing publicity, I offered a free pizza to any kid that hit a home run. The coaches would give them a card to give me. I did this for years." **by Nick Faraone, Pajano's Pizza**

"Randy Schwab and I installed the sign designating Kolb Park as Joe Campalong Field. The sign was made by resident Herb Oppel who lived on La Hacienda. I played Little League here in IRB and remember Joe used to live on 11th Avenue near Bay Pine Blvd. Later, I even coached my son's team for few years." **by Dean Scharmen, City of Indian Rocks Beach Public Works**

SO WHAT DO THE RED AND WHITE SIGNS ON BUILDINGS MEAN?

By Marshall R. Eiss, Fire Inspector, Pinellas Suncoast Fire/Rescue District

In 1989, firefighters Todd Aldridge and Mark Bengue responded to a structure fire in a gift shop in Orange County. As the fire progressed, the light truss construction in the roof failed while they were inside, it collapsed on them and they lost their lives.

In 2008, Governor Charlie Christ signed "The Aldridge/Bengue Firefighter Safety Act" into law, which took effect in December 2009. The law requires "the owner of any commercial or industrial structure or multiunit structure with three units or more that uses light frame truss type construction to mark the structure with a sign or symbol approved by the state fire marshal in a manner sufficient to warn persons conducting fire control or other emergency operations of the existence of light frame truss construction in the structure."

When the new law was passed, Pinellas Suncoast started noting the absence of the signs during the annual inspection process and has now gotten almost all buildings of this type marked.

So what do the R, RF and F signs stand for? The "R" is for roof, the "F" is for floor and the "RF" is for roof and floor. The sign must be of a reflective material and be plainly displayed on or near the front of the structure.



So, the next time you are driving down the beach and see one of those now familiar signs, you too will know one thing more about that building that the firemen know.

LITTLE MISS BEAUTY & THE BEACH

A celebration of the beach! APRIL 7, 2012

Sign up is at 11 am, in the booth under the tent on 18th Avenue Beach Access. There you can sign up for Little Miss Beauty and the Beach and the Sand Castle building.

The first 12 girls, ages 6-12, who fill out the application are asked to be there at 12:30 so they can start the line up process. We will start the event on the beach at 1 pm.

Questions about promoting a litter free beach, birds and sea life, and what you can do to protect them will be asked.

Little Miss Beauty and the Beach for 2012 is asked to go into the community and tell people about the wonderful beaches we have in Indian Rocks Beach and ask them to help protect the sea life. Also, she will be a part of the Halloween festivities and the IRB Christmas Parade.

SAND CASTLE BUILDING - Applicants for the Sand castle Building, ages 12 and under, can sign up under the tent at the 18th Avenue Beach Access at 11 am where they receive their number and utensils. One applicant per sand castle. Each applicant will wear their number during the sand castle building, and the numbers are to be returned to the sign up space at the end of the judging to receive the goodie bag/shirt/and prize if applicable. Shirts and bags will be given only to the applicant.

The child may have help from an adult, but he will be responsible for the finished product.

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INDIAN ROCKS BEACH HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWS



2012 HAPPY HOURS

Homeowners Happy Hours continue at the following restaurants:

March 8: Tapas Garden April 12: Red Lion
These FREE Happy Hours are 6-7:30 pm the second Thursday of the month. Visit IRBhome.com for info.

GUPPY'S GULFSIDE GALLOP Saturday, April 7th at 8 am we will be sponsoring this annual 5K Run and 1 mile Walk/Fun Run along the beach behind the Indian Rocks Beach County Park. This is one of the kickoff events in a long day of fun with Indian Rocks Beach's Beauty and the Beach. The event's main sponsor is Guppy's. Plumlee Realty is sponsoring the fruit and water, and Publix will be sponsoring the bottled water and bagels. Register online or download forms at www.IRBhome.com

BIGGEST BEACH PARTY EVER APRIL 28 Plans are underway for another great Beach party. Enjoy Music, Food from Crabby Bills, Red Lion and Pajanos, Beer sponsored by Crabby Bills and Wines directly on the beach at the County Park, from 6 - 11pm. Volunteer sign-ups are underway. Email info@IRBhome.com to help.

KAYAK RAFFLE This year at the Biggest Beach Party, we are raffling a Pelican Pursuit 100 Kayak, donated by Watersports West, 12900 Walsingham Rd., Largo. Tickets are on sale now at our HOA Happy Hours, from authorized HOA members, at Beauty and the Beach and at other community events. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. The winner will be drawn at the end of the evening at the Biggest Beach Party where the Kayak will be on display. You do not need to be present to win.

MORE POWER ON THE BEACH The Homeowners are having more electrical power installed on the beach behind the County Park. It should be finished in time to make April's two big beach parties - Beauty and the Beach and the Biggest Beach Party Ever even better!

DOG BAGS The Indian Rocks Beach Homeowners, in cooperation with the City, will be conducting a test project to use old plastic grocery bags distributed in wooden stands for picking up dog waste. This would replace the black bags the city buys. Look for this first stand to be in Kolb Park. If the project is successful, additional stands will be installed throughout the city and in our parks. Everyone is encourage to put your old grocery bags inside for others to use. While the used grocery bags will be thrown away and not recycled, it will keep purchased dog bags out of our landfill. This year the city has budgeted \$6000 to pay for dog waste bags. The grocery bags are FREE! That is a \$6000 savings for our city.



ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION May 16th is our annual meeting and elections. Everyone is invited.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK get all the news, see photos, read what your neighbors have to say, find out about events and more at Facebook.com/IRBHomeowners or visit www.IRBhome.com.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Indian Rocks Beach Library have been very busy this season with visitors using the Library for internet usage and getting temporary cards for checking out books and buying books in the book sale room.

They recently donated money to purchase the new DVD system for the library. This new system will make checking out the DVD's easier for the volunteer and the patron.

Our annual meeting with election of officers is April 15 at 3 pm at the City Auditorium. If you are interested in becoming a Friend you can come to this meeting or pick up information at the Library. The Friends is a group that volunteers to run the library six days and two nights a week. Volunteers are working 13 shifts a week keeping your library open. If you are interested in volunteering contact Jean Scott at 727-512-1895.

BEACH ART CENTER

Monte Carlo Night a Smashing Success! The Beach Art Center's Monte Carlo Night 2012 was a great party and very successful fundraiser, breaking previous records for income with approximately \$14,000 raised.



The major sponsor for the event was Tampa Bay Newspapers. The Beach Art Center wishes to thank all who participated, especially table sponsors, auction donors, volunteers and guests. A very special thanks goes to Annemarie Goossens, Chairman of the event, for a job well done.

Beach Art Center Surf, Skate, Skim Design Competition

The Surf, Skate and Skim exhibition will showcase the talent of amateur and professional artists on the West Coast of Florida through each artist's design, painting or decoration of an actual surf, skate or skim board using the medium of their choice. The Beach Art Center in Indian Rocks Beach, Florida, will hold the art competition and exhibition, beginning with a reception on June 8. There will be three categories: 6 – 12 year olds, 13 to 17 year olds and 18 and up. Entry forms, a \$10 fee and pictures of the works will be required by May 2 for jurying. Applications can be found at the Beach Art Center or on the Beach Art Center website at www.beachartcenter.org

Curators, jurors and organizers are Warren Kenny (graphic designer, fine artist and book illustrator), and Gordon Bonnett (Music major at University of Tampa, avid surfer and skim boarder). The competition is open to anyone throughout the West Coast of Florida. The exhibit will open June 8 with a reception and party.

TURTLE TROT 2012

Come run the second annual Turtle Trot April 14 at 7:30 am, as they blast through McGough and Bonner Nature Parks for a run on the wild side. All ages are invited. Call (727)518-3047 or visit LargoNature.com for more information.



Calvary Episcopal Church

The Clergy and People of
Calvary Episcopal Church, Indian Rocks Beach
 request your prayers, and your presence with them, as they celebrate
 the 50th Anniversary of their Admission as a Parish
 of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida

Sunday, April 15th, 2012

Solemn Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving - 9am

*Proclamation: The Right Reverend Bishop Gene Robinson
 Bishop of Southwest Florida*

Blessing of Boats for Youth Sailing Program

followed by a Gala Luncheon - Noon

Hosted by Ann Goossens, Indian Rocks Beach, Florida

R.S.V.P. for Gala Luncheon & Journal - no later than April 7th, 2012

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READY FOR A NEW POOL?

by Lance Hidalgo

Pool remodeling is a fabulous way to enhance your backyard and add value to your home. Think of your backyard as a place where you can relax and escape your daily routine, a place where friends and family gather.

Planning your pool renovation or a new pool starts with choosing your decking material. It is important to select material that complements the existing style of your home's exterior. Travertine, which is a natural stone, is a great way to accomplish this feat. Travertine is a great way to add value and longevity to your backyard. The advantage of travertine versus manufactured brick pavers is that travertine will not fade. Pavers are a more affordable alternative and come in a great variety of colors; however, they will fade over time.

Your next decision will be regarding your pool's interior finish. You have the choice of affordable quartz finish, which is smooth and has a ten year warranty versus the pebble finish, which comes with a lifetime warranty.

One of the most difficult decisions for some home owners is the selection of the water tile. It is important to select something that won't become rapidly outdated. Porcelain tile is much more durable than ceramic tile. Glass tile is very popular and affordable.

When choosing pool equipment, you need to consider energy savings. Pool pumps with variable programmable speeds save energy for pool and spa combinations. Solar panels are a great way to harness the sun and save money on your power bill in the long run.

Like any other home remodeling project, it is important to get at least 3 quotes from licensed and insured pool contractors. Ask for references from customers within the last 3 months. Visiting completed jobs is a great way to see the detail and quality of the installation first hand. Remember, not all pool contractors are the same. Don't forget make sure your contractor carries an "A" rating from the Better Business Bureau.

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RECYCLING - ONE YEAR LATER

January 2011, Indian Rocks Beach entered into a contract with Waste Services, Inc. to provide curbside recycling pick up. The company agreed to provide all the residents of Indian Rocks Beach with a large blue plastic container to hold their recyclables and pick them up once a week. So after a year, how's it working?

"We think it is working very well there," says Ian Boyle, of Waste Services. "IRB is one of our best neighborhoods, percentage-wise." The average participation rate in Pinellas County is between 30-40%. IRB is at 49% participation rate. Everyone has their reasons to either recycle or not."

"After the first year, we are very pleased with the overall success of the Curbside Recycling program," says Calvin Warren, IRB's Solid Waste Supervisor. "We hear the participation rate is close 50%. Over the course of a typical week, I answer many questions about recycling here in IRB," Warren continues. "This is a positive sign and I always enjoy discussing ways to increase the participation."

LOCAL STATS: JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER

(Information supplied by IRB Public Services Department)

Curbside Recycling Collected: 421 tons

Yard Waste Program Collected: 727 tons

Drop off Center Collected: 28 tons

White Goods Program Tons Collected: 5.7 tons

Electronics Program Collected: 8 tons

Cardboard Program Collected: 171 tons

Chemical/Electronics Program Collected: 8.8 tons

TOTAL TONS COLLECTED: 1,371 Tons

Total Tipping Fees Deferred: \$36,148

Total Deferred Transportation/Maintenance Costs: \$23,744

Revenues from Recycling: \$6,375

Revenue from Recycling Grant: \$3,960.

TOTAL REVENUE FROM ALL ABOVE: \$70,229

Recently, we followed along on a recycle pick up day and asked questions of someone who should really know - Eric Foster one of several Waste Services Inc. employees who worked that day.

"One problem we have is people do not put their containers out early enough and they get missed. They should put them out the night before. Many times they put them out after we pass their house. Then they call to complain that we missed them and we have to go back."

What shouldn't be put in the containers? "No regular garbage. No large Styrofoam like the kind that comes in packaging boxes for large items, like TV's. No batteries, paints or pesticides. We do not take aerosol spray cans like bug or hair sprays and paint. Someone once put a toaster oven in their recycling; we don't recycle that. No plastic bags or plastic items without a recycling number. No dog waste; some people put plastic bags full of "you know what" in their recycling bins. No dirty containers - cans and bottles need to be washed. We see a lot of dirty mayonnaise jars and ketchup bottles. We take them, but they aren't recycled; they are thrown away at the plant. We don't recycle Styrofoam containers. Normally if people give it to us, we take it, but we don't recycle it."

Pizza boxes - "you can recycle clean card board. So, if there is pizza stuck to the top of the box, tear off the top and recycle the bottom."

Plastic bottles: "Check for a neck. Recycle any plastic container that has a neck opening smaller than the base - things like water, milk and mouthwash. They should be emptied and rinsed and marked #1 through #7 on the bottoms. The caps

must be removed if not they explode when processed through the compactor. We see a big difference in the neighborhoods. Most homes do a good job, but many renters don't. Many of the less expensive homes don't recycle.



What can be included? Aluminum and metal cans, all colors of glass, newspaper, all paper, junk mail, magazines, flattened corrugated cardboard, and plastic bottles. Make sure items are emptied and rinsed with no food inside. This is partially for sanitary reasons and it helps when we crush it to save space."

What happens after pickup? The truck goes to a company called Recycle Services of Florida in Clearwater. They are a 'MRF' (Material Recycling Facility). The truck dumps the load there, and it is separated into smaller sections. Plastics go one place, paper and glass another.

It's a Waste 76% of trash coming into the County's Solid Waste Facility could be recycled. The largest bulk items in our garbage are paper-26%, food-12% and bottles/cans-11%.

City Dumpster The City has a large container at Kolb Park (directly across from City Hall) for you to put your cardboard in. But, boxes have to be broken down. You can also include them, if broken down, with your bin.

Plastic Bags The City along with the Indian Rocks Beach Homeowners are starting a test project to collect plastic bags in a wooden stand for people to use when picking up their dog waste. The first stand is in Kolb Park. People are encourage to put their used grocery bags in it. If the stand is used successfully, additional stands will be installed in all the parks. While the bags will not be recycled, it will keep the additionally purchased dog bags out of our landfill.

WHAT LOCALS THINK ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

"I followed the WSI truck on two streets in January. To my horror, 80 homes on 20th Avenue and 28 on 20th Parkway did not recycle. The city pays \$1.54 per house to provide this service whether it is used or not. WSI pays for the blue bins and supplies them for free. We made it as easy as possible by choosing a program that does not require sorting. Neighbors should point out to neighbors that they need to do their share. A household not recycling not only is a cost to our citizens, but an expense to our planet." **Commissioner Terry Wollin**

"We love the program. We recycle 100% of the time. We save money in other ways, too - we do not have to buy those large trash bags anymore. Kudos to those at City Hall that made recycling possible." **Ron and Rebecca Sacra, La Hacienda.**

"I began recycling when the city installed bins at Kolb Park. The curbside recycling made the system extremely easy to use. Due to the large savings to the city on dumping fees, and customer friendliness of the system, I think the city should consider mandatory recycling as many other Florida cities do." **Bruce Sobut, 18th Avenue.**

"I recycle 99% of the time. It reduced my other trash a lot. My only comment is I wish we had containers with lids. Sometimes the wind blows the paper and plastic out of the bins." **Tricia Priest, La Hacienda**

Opening Day 2012



TODAY'S LITTLE LEAGUE

Indian Rocks Beach's Little League (West Pinellas Little League – WPLL) is part of a larger, worldwide system of teams introducing children and their parents to the joys of baseball. The purpose of Little League is more than just playing ball. It has become a leadership program for children and adults whose true aim is to help children become good citizens.

In Little League, there are two types of members- regular and player members. Many people are involved in running the Little League organization. Regular members are the managers, coaches, volunteers, umpires, board members, parents, maintenance workers, concession workers, etc. The parents of the players are usually referred to as player members. It is similar to the PTA, you must do something if you are a member.

They play Spring and Fall ball. But things really get started in the fall, when each individual field elects officers whose terms begins October 1st. Then, the organization starts gearing up for January sign ups, then February opening days.

Membership in Little League is promoted in the local media, within nearby schools and by word of mouth. On registration day, children and parents must show identification that proves they live in the district they plan to play in. Normally, there is a registration fee. What used to be a few bucks has risen over the years to over a \$100. Each league sets their fees based on their individual expenses.

Fundraising is a huge part of little league. They have to supply their team's equipment such as bats, baseballs and more. Many supply maintenance equipment (lawn mowers). To help pay these expenses, each league conducts fundraising. Children are only allowed to participate in one fundraiser a year. But, parents can be part of as many as they can stand. Little Leagues biggest fundraiser is Decal Day, where they sell Little League decals for \$1.

To make it happen each year, people are needed just as

much as money. Little League relies heavily on volunteers to coach, umpire and serve hot dogs. All board members, managers, coaches and other volunteers, everyone who provides service to the league and has contact with the players, must provide an official ID with photo and be willing to submit to a conduct background check.

Opening day is one of the biggest events in most little leaguer's memories. Indian Rocks Beach Little League held theirs February 11th. Teams started playing a few days later.

In 2012, Indian Rocks has approximately 160 boys and girls playing on 15 teams. The children range from 4 to 16. They also have T-Ball for kids 4-6. WPLL has to pay \$1800 per season (twice a year) for insurance. They also pay National Little League \$2400 per year to be a part of Little League, Inc. West Pinellas leases the field at the Largo Southwest Rec Center for \$2,000 per year. They also lease Campalong field from the City at no charge. The city pays for the electric and the water - a \$3700 donation, but WPLL pays for all maintenance and improvements to the field and buildings – about \$3,000 per year. The field is used during the season for games as well as practice. Uniforms cost approximately \$8,000 per year. These funds come from registration fees, business and individual sponsors and civic group donations, such as the Homeowners, Rotary and others. Then, of course there are the fundraisers.

Currently there are 12 board members running the totally volunteer organization. Mike Kelley is the current President.

Spring Ball runs through May, when the tournaments and All Stars play begins. All Stars can last through August. The Top All Stars in the Majors (11-12) go on to play in the Little League World Series in Williamsport PA. Then it all starts again for Fall Ball - played September through November.

Get more information at www.LittleLeague.com. Learn about every team on www.ETEAMZ.com.

ACTION 2000 NEWS



BLING FLING

This year, in lieu of Valentine's Day, the event was planned for early March. Tickets sales went quickly, and everyone had a wonderful evening at The Holiday Inn Harborside Banquet Room. Music was provided by Kaleidoscope. Homebanc and many local businesses helped sponsor this event. Shown here as President Eric Meyer, Jim Ladade and Pat & Doran Jason winners of the painting donated by the Plein Air Artists.



ARBOR DAY EVENT

APRIL 26, IN THE NATURE PRESERVE

Residents are invited from 6 till 9pm to enjoy music in the park. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the evening. Food will be served to the first 100 attending. Plans to display Native Plants and helpful planting information will be available that evening. With the assistance of the Plein Aire Cottage Artists, Action 2000 will again present Preservation Awards recognizing properties that preserve the coastal quaint look of our community. In addition, Action 2000 will add additional landscaping to the 10th Ave, mini park extension. Founding member Ralph Montgomery and his wife Phyllis are donating replacement trees to some areas that are in need.



LET THERE BE LIGHT! They are looking into plans to light the new palms planted in the Narrows along the Intercoastal. The trees enhance the look of Gulf Blvd and provide a great sense of arrival for travelers. With some up lighting in the evening, they will look majestic.

OKOTBERFEST ON THE BEACH

planning is underway. They are looking for volunteers to help on committees for this year's annual event on October 13th. If you are interested in helping, please contact them via their website irbaction2000.com or contact Diane Flagg 727-612-9454. Be a part of this fun filled community event!



BECOME INVOLVED

They are always looking for new members, and volunteers with a spirit of community and service. Beautification projects benefit our city and those who live in this great community. For more information, visit irbaction2000.com or contact Eric Meyer, President IRB Action 2000, 727-744-0123.

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Open Mon-Friday 9am to 4pm

For more information call Chuck at (727) 595-7464

The Beaches Food Pantry is a non-profit service run totally by beach residents and volunteers.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING.

Covered in Spots? emerge with Fraxel

As much as you may love the sun, those brown spots on your face, arms, chest, hands and other exposed body parts are living proof the sun is no friend to your skin. And while spots may look good in the jungle...on the beach, not so much. The good news is there's a spot less you under all that sun damage just waiting to emerge. Our Fraxel Dual Laser treatments remove not only brown spots, but also lines, wrinkles and most scars as well.

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