

IRNA MISSION STATEMENT

We believe that Indian River County is a special place because of its character and stability. It is unique because it has historically grown in a way that has preserved its charm, beauty, and quality of life. The purpose of the Indian river Neighborhood is to ensure that the tradition of controlled growth, which has made Indian River County the envy of the Treasure Coast, is continued.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Become a rallying point for, and an advocate of, the people of Indian River County who want their quality of life protected and preserved.

- Support economic development and employment consistent with the character of the county.
- Choose and support qualified candidates for the County Commission who have views consistent with those of the IRNA.
- Actively participate in County board, committee, and staff meetings on issues related to community planning, zoning, and growth.
- Support the passage of a County Ordinance that requires a voter referendum to change either height limitations or a change in the Urban Service Area boundary and its land use density.

- Support new bond issues, to purchase outright land for public use or conservation.
- Require public notification of proposed Planning and Zoning actions.
- Promote quality development with amenities and architectural integrity.
- Protect the environment, including strict tree ordinances and the preservation of the Indian River Lagoon and all other water resources.
- Insist on fiscal responsibility – growth must fully pay for itself through impact fees for quality schools, roads, parks, libraries, jails, public buildings, landfills, human services, fire protection and law enforcement.

THE IRNA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

George Christopher, *President*

Grant Beadle
Hugh Beath
Bill Case

Ted Gordon
Robin Honiss
Ralph King

Karl Mahler
Grant Withers

Indian River Neighborhood Association, Inc. NEWS

Dedicated to Quality Growth



It is time to take a stand, to fight to preserve the essence of what makes Indian River County special. Working together, we can, and will ensure that our unique quality of life in Indian River County is preserved for future generations.

Vol. 1 No. 1 – April 2004

Thank you for caring enough about the quality of life in Indian River County to join IRNA. This is our first newsletter to our members and is designed to provide you with important information concerning the upcoming primary election for Indian River County Commissioners.

HERE IS WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP CONTROL COUNTY GROWTH

- **If you are a Florida registered voter, and will be away this summer, request an absentee ballot form now.**
- **Consider crossover voting if you are not a registered Republican – it's for the primary only.**
- **Let us know your e-mail address if we do not already have it. Your privacy will be respected.**
- **Contribute up to \$500 per person to our political committee (IRNA PC).**
- **Volunteer your time and talent. Let us know how you think you may be able to help. Please fill in our questionnaire, even if you are already a member.**

Details on all of these steps are outlined below. IRNA neighbors working together from all over the County CAN make a difference!

IRNA HISTORY

The *Indian River Neighborhood Association* (IRNA) started in the fall of 2003 as the *Riomar Neighborhood Association* (RNA) when a handful of concerned neighbors in the Riomar and Central Beach area met around a kitchen table and started placing the spotlight on growth problems in the City of Vero Beach. In a few short

months, RNA developed into a potent activist group of nearly 1,000 members who were able to get two of its three endorsed candidates elected as City of Vero Beach Counsel Members. Recognizing that the real growth problems are in Indian River County, in March RNA joined forces with the *Controlled Growth Committee of Indian*

IRNA NEIGHBORHOOD LIST

- Baytree
- Bent Pine
- Bermuda Bay
- Cache Cay
- Castaway Cove (5 of 6 waves with 6th in process)
- Central Beach
- Fairlaine Harbor (in process)
- Fountains
- Grand Harbor
- Indian River Club (in process)
- Indian Trails
- John's Island
- Marbrisa
- Moorings
- Ocean Colony
- Ocean Pearl
- Orchid Island (in process)
- Park Shores
- Pebble Bay
- Pebble Beach Villas
- Peppertree
- Riomar
- Riomar Sands
- Riverside at Island Club
- Robles del mar
- Roseland (in process)
- Seaforest
- Seagrove Oceanside
- Seagrove West
- Sea Oaks (in process)
- Sea Watch
- Shores
- Vero Isles
- 43rd Avenue

Total: 34 (4/9/04)

– see **History** on page 2

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INDIAN RIVER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 643868
VERO BEACH, FLORIDA 32964-3868

How Do INDIAN RIVER COUNTY ELECTIONS WORK?

The key election this year in Indian River County is the Republican primary for the election of County Commissioners. The only primary contests are among Republicans, and with a 2 to 1 registration advantage, the Republican who wins the primary, is likely to prevail in the general election.

The primaries are held on **August 31**, a time when many IRNA members will be out of town.

It is therefore extremely critical that you request an absentee ballot now.

Enclosed is a request form for an absentee ballot. You will need to return one for each member of your family who will be voting, so copy the enclosed form.

This year, you will be voting for three County Commissioners out of five Commission seats from three

separate Districts. At the present time there are two Republicans and one Independent running for office from District 1. District 3 has three Republicans and no Democrats running, and District 5 has five Republicans and one Democrat.

CROSSOVER VOTING

The notion of crossover voting usually raises red flags. The Democratic party doesn't like it and the Republican party doesn't like it. There is a time, however, when crossover voting becomes vital, and that is when a non-partisan issue in a local community becomes so critical that crossover voting is needed to insure that candidates of vision, integrity, and a strong sense of stewardship become elected.

The Republican primary candidates present clear choices for us; some are controlled growth minded, while some are clearly not. If a Republican all out growth-oriented candidate wins in the primary, it will be exceedingly difficult to defeat that candidate in the general election. We need to use our voting firepower to assure that a controlled growth can-

didate wins. Accordingly, Democrats and Independents need to register as Republicans, just long enough to vote in the Republican primary, to assure that the Republican winner in the primaries supports our goals.

If you are now registered as a Democrat, or an Independent, please use the enclosed form to register (temporarily for the primary only) as a Republican. On Line 13 you need to check **Republican Party**.

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

IRNA has a separate Political Committee that could make the difference whether or not our endorsed candidates get elected. Send in your check to P.O. Box 643868, Vero Beach, FL 32964-3868 for up to \$500 per person (\$1,000 per couple), made out to IRNA PC. Anyone contributing \$500, will automatically become a member of the IRNA COMMISSIONERS CLUB. PC funds will be used to advertise our endorsed candidates and to communicate our endorsements to our membership in writing. IRNA dues cannot be used for these purposes.



WHAT WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT

This is a very special place where we live. You can't be here for very long without *feeling* the quality of life and noting how different it is from the rest of Florida. It's an emotional thing and it transcends socioeconomic lines. There is no other place like this special patch of paradise in the entire state. It is time, therefore, to take a stand, to fight to preserve the essence of what makes Indian River County special.

Developers are like commercial fishermen, who will keep fishing until the fisheries have been ruined and lie fallow. Fishermen are not inherently evil people. Fishing is what fishermen do, it is their means of making a living. It is only when controls have been instituted to regulate the harvesting of the fisheries that fishermen change their way of fishing. Developers will continue to develop property in order to maximize profits without regard for the impact the development has on the infrastructure, the environment, and the quality of life. That is what developers do. The huge migration here from South Florida, and the boomers on the cusp

of retirement coming in from the North, guarantees enormous growth here; but the old plan for growth, with our system of controls, is outmoded and archaic. It is broke. This is obvious to anyone who has driven around the county recently. The best way to see what we all are concerned about is to take a drive west of town. You can almost hear the quality of life slowly hissing out of the County like air out of a balloon.

We need a new direction, a new set of creative zoning requirements that will accommodate the needs of people from all socioeconomic classes. We need new impact fees, and fees to support the purchase of land for public use and conservation. But most of all, we need the eye of the artist and the passion of the poet to see that the future of our community retains the sense of scale and artistry that is what brought most of us to this place to begin with.

A major change in direction will require a regime change. Incumbent politicians have failed all of us, including local developers and tradesmen, who will be squeezed out

Is this the future you want to see for the County?

—photo by S. Rankin

of future growth in the County by the major developers from out of town who don't hire locally.

IRNA will rigorously interview candidates for seats as County Commissioners to see if they are sensitive to the uniqueness of our community, have clear-headed visions of where the County should go, that are compatible with our Mission Statement, and understand what kind of changes are necessary to see that we get there. Most importantly, we need to know that they have the backbone to stand up to the enormous pressures to develop the County in a reckless fashion.

Your role, as a member of IRNA, is vital. We need you to participate in the political process by voting for IRNA endorsed candidates and by contributing to the Indian River Political Committee (IRNA PC).

Working together, we can, and will ensure that our unique quality of life in Indian River County is preserved for future generations.

COMMUNICATIONS

It is A MUST that you stay in touch over the summer if you are out of town. There are several ways to do this:

- Log onto the IRNA website at www.IndianRiverNA.com
- Be sure we have your e-mail address and summer address.
- Enclosed is an IRNA application form. If we do not have all of the information requested on this

form, please fill it in and return it to us, even if you are already a member. Otherwise please pass it on to a friend or neighbor.

- Log onto the *Press Journal* website at www.pressjournal.com
- Subscribe to the Wednesday and Sunday edition of the *Press Journal* and have it sent to your summer address.

History from page 1

River County, a group organized by neighbors in the Bermuda Bay area to solicit membership from communities all over the County. The combined organization was renamed the *Indian River Neighborhood Association* and now has a combined membership of nearly 3000 from 34 different neighborhoods throughout the entire County. Membership is increasing every day.