

Dedicated to Quality Growth

P.O. Box 643868 Vero Beach, FL 32964-3868
www.indianriverna.com

VITAL ISSUES

- * Mining
- * Our Water Supply
- * School Concurrency
- * Fellsmere Annexations
- * Impact Fees

JANUARY 2008



**Don't Let This
Happen to Us!**



WAKE UP! INDIAN RIVER COUNTY THE GAME IS ALMOST OVER!

It's been months since our last newsletter and the summer has been in between. Lots of decisions have been made and we're not winning many victories. We are very disappointed with County Commissioners Bowden and Flescher who we helped elect. Last Spring we had the great Charter Government fight with the hope of trying to stop Fellsmere from single-handedly destroying the County by making-out-of-control and selfish annexations. **Fellsmere's annexations have the potential of doubling the population in the County all by themselves.**

Charter was turned down by County Commissioners Bowden, Davis and Flescher after great pressure from the municipalities. The cities claimed they could police themselves and rejected too much county influence. **They decided the city councils could make better informed growth decisions than leaving it up to the electorate as would have been the case with Charter Government.** Instead, the "Interlocal Agreement" was to address the huge, 20,000 acre Fellsmere annexation and was to be the best way to control overexpansion in the county. These were to be the benefits of representative government, community cooperation and growth management planning at its best!

continued...

You Need Us! We Need You! We Need Each Other!
Send your 2008 contribution in the enclosed postage paid envelope today!

WAKE UP! *continued...*

“WE KNOW WE ARE THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY BUT IT’S STILL NOT A FAIR FIGHT!”

Guess what happened? If it wasn’t so tragic it would be funny. The meetings have been going on since April and we know of only three decisions-Fellsmere’s 20,000 acre annexation is not being challenged and now Fellsmere has announced a new annexation of almost 3,000 acres (four square miles). In addition, each city has ceded large areas outside their own boundaries for annexations of their own and “New Towns” outside the Urban Service Line are exempted from control. As the Press Journal editorial on Sunday October 28 entitled “**Broward County, Here we Come**” said “Instead (of controlling Fellsmere), local municipalities are joining the party, staking out tens of thousands of acres for possible expansion.” **Once again, it appears special interests are winning the battle and we-the-people are losing.**

Here’s the game. The Chamber of Commerce, Joe Palladin, other developers, builders and anyone else who promotes unlimited real estate expansion are on one team and the rest of the 135,000 Indian River County residents are on the other. They have unlimited resources and a 24/7 incentive and we have very little money and only our way of life at stake.

While we are outgunned there is something that can be done and it’s not too late if we act now. If each of us does just two things, costing little money, we can prevent Indian River County from becoming another Broward.

1. **Join the IRNA.**
2. **Join the Florida Home Town Democracy movement.**

WHY JOIN THE IRNA?

No individual can follow all the issues, go to all the meetings, speak up for the regular people and hope to accomplish anything. No one person has a chance against the well organized and financed special interests, it just can’t be done. **But together it can be and we need your help!**

The county and the cities have planning departments, planning and zoning boards, and commissioners and city councils. All are potential targets for developers and builders to lobby for special favors.

The IRNA is the only antidote. We operate

**You Need Us! We Need You! We Need Each Other!
Send your 2008 contribution in the enclosed postage paid envelope today!**

as a volunteer organization without paid staff and have as a single objective the preservation of Indian River County and its unique lifestyle and character. We acknowledge the fact that land development is inevitable but we believe it can be fairly and sensibly controlled to the low density and low rise character of Indian River County. We have no self interest, and no land ownership or profit motives. Our solitary purpose is to protect our community for the enjoyment of its citizens and the enjoyment of future generations.

If you agree with us and want to join us in protecting our way of life please send your contribution in the enclosed postage prepaid envelope.

IRNA NEIGHBORHOOD LIST

Arbor Trace	Laurelwood	River Oak Estates
Baytree	Marbrisa	Riverside at Island Club
Bent Pine	Mill Creek	Riverwind
Bermuda Bay	Moorings	Robles del mar
Cache Cay	Oak Chase	Roseland
Carlton	Oak Harbor	The Sanctuary
Castaway Cove	Ocean Colony	Sawyer Park
Central Beach	Ocean Pearl	Seaforest
Citrus Springs	Old Orchid	Seagrove Oceanside
Cypress Lake	Old Savannah	Seagrove West
Diamond Lakes	Old Sugar Mill Estates	Sea Oaks
Dixie Heights	Orange Heights	Sea Watch
Estuary	Orchid Island	Sebastian Highlands
Fairlane Harbour	Palm Island	Smugglers Cove
Forest Lake	Plantation	Stonebridge Sub
Fountains	Park Shores	The Crossings
Grand Harbor	Pebble Bay	The Shores
Grove Isles	Pebble Beach Villas	Timber Ridge
Hammock Lakes	Pelican Pointe of Sebastian	Vero Isles
Indian Oak	Peppertree	Vero Lake Estates
Indian River Club	Pointe West	Vero Shores
Indian Trails	Regency Park	Victoria
Island Club	Riomar	Village Green
John's Island	Riomar Sands	
Kenwood Village		
Laurels		

WHY FLORIDA HOMETOWN DEMOCRACY?

They are doing the right thing, and the IRNA fully supports them. It is a statewide grass roots initiative to put growth decisions directly into the hands of voters rather than developers and special interests. **The organizers have only two weeks to go to qualify to be placed on the ballot in 2008.** The petition states that “Public participation in local government comprehensive land use planning benefits the conservation and protection of Florida’s natural resources and scenic beauty, and the long-term quality of life of Floridians.” It is consistent with the goals of the Urban Service Line referendum in Indian River County which was approved by 71% of the county voters and strongly endorsed by the IRNA. **To quote Vero’s own Carl Hiaasen “All over the state, Floridians are disgusted by the failure of their elected officials to do restrained, responsible planning. That’s why the Hometown Democracy petition has momentum.”**

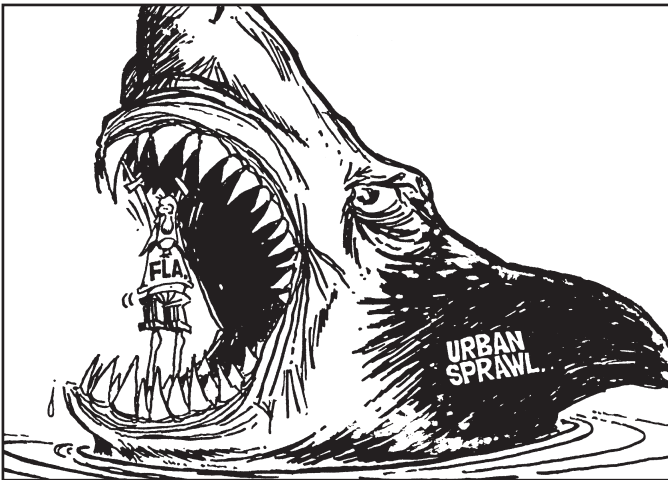
Sign the enclosed petition and enclose it in the contribution envelop. We will forward it to the Florida Hometown Democracy Headquarters.

**You Need Us! We Need You! We Need Each Other!
Send your 2008 contribution in the enclosed postage paid envelope today!**


**INDIAN RIVER
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION, INC.**
dedicated to quality growth

P. O. Box 643868
Vero Beach, Fl 32964-3868

PRESORTED
STANDARD MAIL
U S POSTAGE PAID
VERO BEACH, FL
PERMIT NO. 36



IRNA Website: A Must Read!

www.IndianRiverNA.com

Did you know that you can read the local paper anytime, just by clicking on our website and clicking - Read the Press Journal?

The Left navigation bar includes the titles of several timely items:

ABOUT US: Defines the reasons for our existence and perseverance.

NEWSLETTERS: Features all previous issues, beginning with July 2004.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Contains articles impacting Vero Beach and Indian River County.

THE OFFICIALS WATCH: Keeping you informed about actions of your elected officials.

POLITICAL COMMITTEE: Explains how you can make contributions to our political action committee, by check or online.

MEMBERSHIP: Shows the different categories, payable by check or online.

ELECTED OFFICIALS: State, county and city officials explain who they are and how to contact them.

REGISTER TO VOTE: Tells the process and gives absentee ballot information.

SEE THE EDITORIAL ON THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BY CHAIRMAN HIGGS AND PETER SEED.