



## 2010 General Election



The 2010 General Election was successful on two major items, the re-election of Peter O'Bryan and the Tax Abatement proposals for Indian River County and the City of Vero Beach. Peter O'Bryan has been a consistent voice for managed residential growth and we look forward to working with him in the coming years.

The Tax Abatement proposal is a vital step in helping bring low impact/high tech industries to Indian River County and Vero Beach. It makes them competitive and this is another tool to be used to bring sustainable growth to our local economy.

A downside to the election was the failure of Amendment 4 to garner 60% of the statewide vote. Amendment 4 would have given the people the right to approve changes to their local land use plans. While this solution to a statewide problem was rejected, the problem remains. Our efforts locally are more important than ever and the IRNA remains concentrated on the integrity of local land use plans.

However, a new threat to managed growth in our State has emerged. There is a determination by some Tallahassee politicians allied with large, nationally based developers to pull the teeth out of the State's Department of Community Affairs (DCA) which has been the only state body regulating residential growth. Without the DCA's oversight the impacts from rampant over-development and urban sprawl may again threaten the quality of life in our own county.

In the face of a statewide effort to reduce controls on growth, the IRNA is the only voice in the county to prevent a return to the "good old days" where local officials moved the Urban Service Line seemingly at will.

The IRNA is following these developments in the state legislature through our relationships with other statewide groups. **The actions of the next Legislative session could lead to a complete reversal of Florida's landmark growth management legislation!**

You Need Us! We Need You!  
**We Need Each Other!**

Send your 2010 dues in the enclosed  
postage paid envelope today!

## It's That Time Again

If you have not already done so, it is time for your annual dues membership contribution. Our efforts in the recent elections have depleted our funds and we very much need your help. You can make your 2011 contribution in the enclosed envelope along with any additional donations to help us in our fight to preserve our quality of life. ***"We need you... You need us"*** Thank you!

## Happy Holidays!

### Gas Taxes - What is going on?

The IRNA has learned that the bulk of the funding for the county's long range transportation plan is projected to come from raising the local tax on gasoline to the maximum allowed by the State or an additional 6 cents per gallon.

The county's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) the agency responsible for planning and coordinating transportation included that projection while showing the expanded network of roadways required to accommodate anticipated growth in the county. The IRNA has no problem with the scope of these improvements.

However, the IRNA notes that while the population growth anticipated for our county was for an additional 55,000 people by 2035, impact fees for the housing of these new residents were flat and even projected to decline in the last 10 years of the plan!

Accordingly, you, the residents of our county, will have to dig in your own pockets to pay, in the form of increased gas taxes, to subsidize developers and keep their impact fees low!

The IRNA has been a consistent and vigorous voice before the Board of County Commissioners on this issue. We will hold our county commissioners accountable for any votes to raise gas taxes in order to subsidize residential growth.

### Reinvest in Success

Exciting News!! Earlier this year the IRNA's Board of Directors endorsed collaboration with the new, non-profit organization "Reinvest in Success" which is dedicated to providing resources to local people to assist them in entrepreneurship, and starting or expanding businesses. The inspiration of local attorney Jeff Pegler, this initiative will be staffed and participants mentored by IRNA members who enthusiastically replied to an email inquiring if there was interest in volunteering. The collaboration brings the IRNA into an active role to help grow a sustainable local economy.

The physical site is located at the Historic City Hall-Old School House in Sebastian and there will be a Grand Opening in January 2011. A Volunteer Orientation and Soft Opening will occur in December.

Many IRNA Members have already volunteered as mentors and supporters. If you feel you would like to help as a mentor in this very worthy effort or if you have any questions, please contact IRNA Executive Director, Brian Carman at 772-794-4762 or email at [exdir.irna@comcast.net](mailto:exdir.irna@comcast.net).

**The IRNA wishes all our members and their families the happiest of times in this Holiday Season!**

## Changes?

If you have changed your winter or summer addresses or Email address or contact telephone numbers, please let us know. You can send any changes to IRNA Executive Director Brian Carman at [exdir.irna@comcast.net](mailto:exdir.irna@comcast.net) or through the IRNA website [www.indianriverna.com](http://www.indianriverna.com). Thanks!

# WE NEED YOUR HELP!

## Actions in Tallahassee to impact our local Quality of Life; IRNA more vital than ever

The results of the general election, statewide, have given rise to a mood of throwing all caution to the wind and opening up the state to large developers so that they can build whatever they want, wherever that want and other ill considered ideas such as increased densities. Governor-elect Rick Scott has stated his desire to eliminate all restrictions on residential development in Florida, in an effort to re-build the economy. As a result, growth management controls at the state level may soon be dismantled because of a political effort to severely restrict the state's only governmental body which regulates residential growth, the Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

Without an effective or active DCA, regulations will be gutted and watered down significantly. Enforcement of land use changes on the county and municipal levels will be poorly supervised, violations unenforced, sprawl encouraged and impacts neglected. This is a recipe for disaster in Florida

Environmental safeguards are at the highest risk of being compromised. Lack of enforcement in our environmental regulations could lead to even more industrial pollution of our air and waterways. Our water supply, already threatened and in a drought stretch, will be under an unbelievable stress, affecting both the quantity and quality of our water.

Senate Bill 360, which earlier this year would have eliminated requirements for roads associated with new developments, has been declared unconstitutional by the Florida Supreme Court due to placing unfunded mandates on local governments. Sponsors state they will re-introduce it in the next Legislative session, worded to pass muster with the Supreme Court, but still allow developers and local governments to approve higher population densities without adequate infrastructure. This will lead to additional taxes for homeowners both in ad valorem and gas taxes, plus a

proliferation of fees and "use charges" to make up for lower impact fees and unregulated building.

**Make no mistake... this threat is real and imminent. When the above scenario becomes reality the IRNA is needed, more than ever, to monitor local efforts which threaten to degrade our environment, compromise our natural resources and allow our taxes to rise.**

We need the financial support of our members. Please... be as generous as you can, as generous as you have been, and keep the IRNA as an active and vigorous defender of our economy, our environment and our Quality of Life!

The enclosed, postage paid envelope is provided for your convenience, or you can make your donation online at [www.indianrivena.com](http://www.indianrivena.com).

**THANK YOU!**



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## Updates and Activities

**New Research and Development Park** - The Corrigan family and other property owners on land just west of the CVS distribution center recently received from the County Commission a change to the land use regulations to accommodate a future site such as a Research Park. The IRNA supported that change due to the sustainable economic growth that it could bring in an area with comparable land uses. The property owners provided 5000 acres north of the site for wetlands conservation. This land is currently being returned from grove and pasture lands to wetlands.

**New Planet Energy** - Ineos Bio/New Planet Energy has begun construction of its waste-to-ethanol plant at the old Ocean Spray property on Oslo Road. The IRNA has long supported New Planet Energy both in its ground-breaking technology which attracts world-wide attention and in its intent to bring both permanent and construction jobs to the county.

**Indian River Estates** - Over the objections of both the residents of Indian River Estates and the IRNA, the Board of County Commissioners voted on a zoning change to allow for the construction of a strip mall at the northwest corner of SR 60 and 74th Avenue. In addition to security matters, the Residents of this ACTS community remain concerned about noise coming from the new uses that this property will now allow.

**Palema Horse Training Facility** – Palema Stable and Stud Farm, headquartered in Sweden and considered one of the most prestigious standardbred horse racing stables in Europe, has built a state of the art racehorse training facility off 66th Avenue where they intend to train horses during the winter months. They received support from the IRNA at a recent County Commission meeting for a special exception use of their land to accommodate housing for the professional trainers and owners who will accompany these race horses.