

President's Message



Hello Neighbors!

If you have not already responded to my recent letter inviting you to renew your membership or become a new member of our Indian Beach Sapphire

Shores Neighborhood Association (IBSSA), I hope you will do so today! As a charitable organization (501c-4), we rely on your generosity for support. We are not a typical homeowners association (HOA), but rather a neighborhood association. Your voluntary membership dues and donations are the primary way that we pay for the enhancements everybody likes to see. Our main job as an association is to fill in the gaps where city services leave off and make this a better community.

Is our neighborhood nice? Yes! Could it be better? Yes! Every homeowner, and even folks who rent places in our neighborhood, have a vested interest in making IBSS a great place to live.

Your IBSSA board works hard to identify and respond to issues that could use improvement. We want as many people as possible to join our association and become a part of the effort. When IBSSA was founded in 1985 the cost to join was \$10. It is my understanding that this amount was chosen because it was an affordable cost that would allow the greatest number of people to join. I asked my good friend Google Assistant what the value of \$10 in 1985 would be in 2025 dollars. She told me about \$30. Wow! That just so happens to be the cost of our annual membership today! Thanks so much for your support!

Sincerely,

Henry Bausback, President, IBSSA

Thank you for your support at our Spring Social!



MYMAMMA



SUNNYSIDE
 ——— breakfast lunch dinner



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Transformation



A Laurel oak tree in my yard reached its life span and needed to be cut down before it fell. I've always liked seeing tree stump carvings, transforming a dead tree into something expressing life, whether whimsical, powerful, or just a statement.

This is a way to add charm and art to a garden after the loss of a beloved old tree. I had the tree removal company cut this tree down leaving a substantial length of trunk. Then, It took some searching, but I finally found an artist who was willing to carve something on that tall tree stump. Together we decided on a Florida panther. This artist turned out to be an extraordinary wood carver and I now have a beautifully realistic Florida panther crowning the old Laurel oak tree. As the artist carved, the panther became alive, crouching, with mouth open, about to spring.

This tree, and now carving, is in my back yard, but if anyone wants to see it, just let me know.

Natalie Firnhaber

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YOGA IN THE PARK (SUN CIRCLE PARK) WITH JOHN OLENSKI

MARCH 18 THRU JUNE 17	<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesdays</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:00-11:00 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach towel/mat • Water
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IBSSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Membership type: New Renewal **I would like to volunteer:**

Beautification/Greenspace Membership Picnic/Events

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter (secure ads/write articles)

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

2nd Name: _____

2nd Email: _____

2nd Phone: _____

IBSS Address: _____

Membership Year: _____

I give permission to IBSSA to email electronic neighborhood communications.

Yes No

If you have any questions about the status of your membership, please contact Matt Tilka, Treasurer, at treasurer@ibssa.ws

Annual Dues Payment -----\$30.00

Voluntary Contribution(s): Greenspace \$ _____

Doggie Bags \$ _____

Other \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Pay online: <https://www.ibssa.ws/join-ibssa/>

Checks payable to: IBSSA Mail to: PO Box 49673, Sarasota, FL 34230

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING IBSSA!

This newsletter is published four times a year for all residences in the Indian Beach Sapphire Shores neighborhood. Newsletter will be mailed approximately **mid-March, mid-June, mid-September, and mid-December.**

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS: Neighbors are encouraged to submit articles, pictures, or neighborhood news to be considered for inclusion in the newsletter. To submit items, place an advertisement, or for more information contact Kate Bloomquist, Editor at newsletter-editor@ibssa.ws.

ADVERTISEMENTS:

	Single issue	Four issues
Business Card (3.5" wide x 2" tall)	\$50.00	\$170.00
Quarter Page (3.5" wide x 4.25" tall)	\$125.00	\$425.00
Banner (7" wide x 2" tall)	\$150.00	\$510.00
Half Page (7" wide x 4.25" tall)	\$250.00	\$850.00
Back Page Half (7.5" wide x 4" tall)	\$362.00	

PAYMENTS: Make checks payable to IBSSA and mail to: IBSSA, P.O. Box 49673 Sarasota, FL 34230. Email treasurer for credit card payment options.

May 31: DEADLINE for June issue

Neighborhood Watch News

Crime decreased significantly within our Indian Beach Sapphire Shores neighborhood last year. (See end of year statistics for 2024 compared to 2023). This year, as of February 28th, there has been one residential burglary and numerous reports of suspicious persons, incidents and vehicles in the area. Several persons were also trespassed and detained for drug possession, open alcohol container and public intoxication when police responded to a noise disturbance report in the vicinity of Indian Beach Park after 11:00 pm.

Thanks to the keen observation of our residents and their willingness to call the police to report crime and concerning situations, our neighborhood remains a wonderful place to live. Law abiders are welcome, law breakers...NOT!

Reminder: Be kind to your pet and considerate of others. Responsible dog owners do not allow their pets to run loose and roam the streets. Dogs should be on a leash at all times, and under the control of their owner at all times, whether on or off their property.

Debbie Muller

For more information about your Neighborhood Watch, call Debbie Muller at (941) 355-5743

See It! Hear It! Report It!

- Report all crime and suspicious activity..IMMEDIATELY!
- Call the Police **(941) 316-1199** or **(941) 316-1201** or **911**
- Inform your Watch Coordinators and Alert your neighbors

EMERGENCY? CALL 911

Please Don't Speed!

15 mph in school zones

25 mph throughout neighborhood

Note: The neighborhood statistics do not include crimes occurring at Tamiami Trail addresses.

IBSS Year end Crime Report	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	
(Approximate Totals)	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Burglary /Structure	3	11
Burglary/Vehicle	1	26
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	5
Robbery	0	1
<u>Citywide Crime Statistics</u>		
(Approximate totals)	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Burglary /Structure	145	146
Burglary/Vehicle	148	255
Motor Vehicle Theft	115	145
Robbery	51	75

HELPFUL NUMBERS

Sarasota Police Department:

- Non-Emergency.....(941) 316-1199 or (941) 316-1201
- SPD Front Desk.....(941) 263-6025
- Chief Rex Troche..... (941) 263-6001
rex.troche@sarasotaf1.gov
- Deputy Chief Scott Mayforth.....(941) 263-6006
scott.mayforth@sarasotaf1.gov
- SPD Directory of Personnel Divisions & Units (941) 263-6773
- SPD Website.....www.sarasotapd.org
- Crime Stoppers**.....(941) 366-TIPS (8477)
- Animal Services**.....(941) 861-9500
- Code Compliance**.....(941)954-4125

Neighborhood Watch Coordinators

- Sapphire I: (58th Street - 47th Street)**
Debbie Muller(941) 355-5743
- Sapphire II: (47th Street - Myrtle Street)**
Debbie Muller.....(941) 355-5743
- Sapphire III: (Myrtle Street - Indian Beach Drive)**
Lisa O'Hara.....(941) 302-1688
- Sapphire IV: (Indian Beach Drive - Whitaker Bayou)**
Yvonne Lacey.....(941) 365-7063
or Lacey.Yvonne@yahoo.com

Creative Combo: John and Laura

When John Olenski and wife Laura Campbell, tired of Connecticut winters, they sought Florida SUNSHINE about nine years ago. They selected Sarasota, in part, “because of the arts”. Laura is a photographer/graphic designer. John is a guitar player. And having been a yoga instructor for decades, he envisions offering a weekly yoga class here.



Certified originally as a teacher in Hatha Yoga in Connecticut, John taught at a health organization that featured “Yoga for Everybody”. “Mindfulness” is what yoga provides John. “Practicing yoga daily”, he said, “is a pathway to better health and well-being”. He taught in wellness programs as part of the Bridgeport (Connecticut) after school program for inner city youth. Most unusual was instructing inmates in a correctional facility.



While working in his father’s family grocery, he decided to put his analytical abilities to work at a “surface water treatment plant”. There, for 32 years, John became more important in that industry because of his increasing proficiency in computer science.

And those skills “earned” him a two-year stint as Treasurer of IBSSA where he modernized operations.

Their “blended” family includes his son and daughter and Laura’s two daughters. Serendipitously, three of their grown-up kids live in Texas. And they are about to visit there because they will celebrate a brand-new GRANDchild!

Meantime, Laura earned an art degree from Alfred University and a master’s degree in photography from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. Having practiced graphic design for decades, she now shows her photographs in various exhibitions.

Besides liking to attend several museums and galleries in our area, they are happy to hear “live music” anywhere from here to Tampa and St. Petersburg.

Biking around our neighborhoods, they also enjoy hiking our national parks out West. But Sarasota remains their “best”.

Mack Goode, Chippewa Place



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IBSSA Spring Social! Such Good Times!



Thank you to all the local businesses, restaurants and agencies!



**Thank you to all the local businesses,
restaurants and agencies!**



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1920

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The Value of Trees

I received an interesting call recently. A neighbor wanted to know if a tree she lost in a hurricane could be valued in dollars. "I certainly think so", I said, remembering the noted architect Carl Abbott walking properties with me and prospective clients, looking up into the tree canopy saying "That one's worth \$10,000! And that one's worth \$15,000!"

Carl, a key contributor to what we now call The Sarasota School of Architecture, was adamant about the value of trees. In his book "IN/FORMED BY THE LAND" his project descriptions contain phrases like, "...after studying existing tree location and the changing light patterns...." and "...to experience the full beauty of the trees..." and "...nestled in the trees...". I could go on, but you get the idea. Even the title of his book confirms his belief in site specific work & design theories. He will preserve trees at almost any cost.

It didn't take much online research to realize there are several theories and calculations to determine the value of a tree in a residential yard. The Arbor Day Foundation suggests mature trees can add between 3% and 15% to property value. Davey Tree reports 5% - 8% and possibly up to 15%.

Other sources like Realtor.com say "tree canopy" is a highly sought after neighborhood amenity and adds value.

The reasons are obvious to those of us in Indian Beach/Sapphire Shores. Trees are beautiful, they cool our homes, create visual interest and habitat for birds & pollinators.

But we have learned location and species are very important. The City of Sarasota understands this, too, based on how they promote and manage The Neighborhood Tree Canopy Program. This is a "species specific" financial incentive encouraging homeowners to plant and maintain canopy trees, contributing to the city's urban forest and sustainability efforts.

Go to www.Sarasotafl.gov and search for Neighborhood Tree Canopy Program for details.

Even if you aren't planning to file an insurance claim for a lost tree, you may still recognize the value of a well-placed tree in your yard.

David Jennings



Real Estate December 1-February 28, 2025

Status	Address	Heated Area	Current Price	Beds	Baths	1/2 Baths	Year Built
ACT	966 32ND ST	830	\$249,000.00	3	2	0	1925
ACT	974 32ND ST	732	\$249,000.00	2	1	0	1940
ACT	839 40TH ST	831	\$420,000.00	2	1	0	1951
ACT	3524 CHAPEL DR	1,350	\$449,000.00	3	2	0	1969
ACT	1044 VIRGINIA DR	936	\$479,000.00	2	1	1	1941
ACT	4817 SARASOTA AVE	1,352	\$479,000.00	3	2	1	1961
ACT	671 41ST ST	2,224	\$499,000.00	5	2	0	1945
ACT	847 MYRTLE ST	1,716	\$549,000.00	4	3	0	1948
ACT	767 40TH ST	1,007	\$569,000.00	2	2	0	1966
ACT	671 47TH ST	1,455	\$585,000.00	2	2	0	1954
ACT	4820 REMINGTON DR	1,424	\$599,000.00	2	2	0	1955
ACT	780 INDIAN BEACH CIR	2,208	\$614,900.00	2	2	1	1957
ACT	626 46TH ST	1,351	\$639,000.00	2	2	0	1973
ACT	5221 STEVENS DR	1,369	\$675,000.00	2	2	0	1954
ACT	728 41ST ST ST	1,435	\$745,000.00	2	2	0	1954
ACT	2207 HICKORY AVE	1,723	\$799,999.00	3	2	0	1958
ACT	875 INDIAN BEACH DR	2,861	\$925,000.00	4	3	1	1925
ACT	426 S SHORE DR	1,858	\$980,000.00	3	2	0	1955
ACT	4810 BAY SHORE RD	2,073	\$1,295,000.00	3	2	1	1951
ACT	4946 BRYWILL CIR	2,534	\$1,950,000.00	3	3	0	2004
ACT	333 N SHORE DR	1,980	\$2,750,000.00	2	2	1	1963
ACT	4521 BAY SHORE RD	3,801	\$3,500,000.00	4	4	1	1929
ACT	4014 BAY SHORE RD	3,410	\$3,750,000.00	4	4	1	2025
ACT	3301 BAY SHORE RD	2,703	\$4,250,000.00	3	3	0	1914
ACT	320 S SHORE DR	2,978	\$4,725,000.00	4	3	0	1966
ACT	5035 BAY SHORE RD	5,712	\$4,895,000.00	5	6	1	2016
ACT	4311 BAY SHORE RD	5,033	\$6,600,000.00	4	5	1	1925
ACT	309 RINGLING POINT DR	6,918	\$6,799,000.00	5	3	2	1999
ACT	4511 BAY SHORE RD	6,500	\$7,650,000.00	6	6	2	1928
PND	996 VIRGINIA DR	1,260	\$399,000.00	2	1	1	1975
PND	836 32ND ST	931	\$419,900.00	2	2	0	1971
PND	4956 STEVENS DR	1,326	\$549,000.00	2	2	0	1957
PND	730 40TH ST	1,603	\$685,000.00	4	2	0	1954
PND	5246 BAY SHORE RD	2,005	\$1,235,000.00	3	3	0	1960
PND	360 N SHORE DR	2,240	\$1,700,000.00	3	2	1	1957
PND	653 40TH ST	3,200	\$3,195,000.00	4	3	0	2021
SLD	3430 CHAPEL DRIVE	1,363	\$280,000.00	3	2	0	1972
SLD	795 40TH ST	1,479	\$423,240.00	3	2	0	1962
SLD	3510 IROQUOIS AVE	1,905	\$565,500.00	3	2	0	1956
SLD	2325 IXORA AVE	1,635	\$615,000.00	3	3	0	1925
SLD	4530 GUAVA CT	1,770	\$622,000.00	3	2	0	1981
SLD	3913 CHAPEL DR	2,094	\$630,000.00	3	3	0	1951
SLD	659 45TH ST	1,395	\$680,000.00	2	2	0	1981
SLD	4510 45TH CT	2,202	\$742,000.00	4	3	0	1981
SLD	470 ACACIA DR	2,188	\$1,000,000.00	3	3	0	1956
SLD	883 VIRGINIA DR	2,629	\$1,053,407.00	3	3	0	1956
SLD	4844 BRYWILL CIR	2,331	\$1,625,000.00	3	3	0	1957
SLD	4526 BAY SHORE RD	3,838	\$3,300,000.00	4	4	1	2023
SLD	925 ALAMEDA WAY	2,312	\$3,400,000.00	3	3	0	1957

Real Estate Summary

Years ago, I heard a neighbor describe himself as “hyper local”. He was born here. His parents still lived here. His kids went to Bay Haven Elementary just like he did. His work was on the north side.

I really liked the phrase “hyper local”. It describes a lot of us in Indian Beach/ Sapphire Shores. We support North Trail restaurants & businesses, we get involved with nearby institutions as volunteers and employees, we care passionately about our history, culture and bay water quality. In fact, I’ve made a bit of career on being “hyper local” when it comes to Real Estate. And, if all we were concerned about was our own neighborhood, things look “pretty OK”.

In our December newsletter we reported 34 Active Listings. As I write this in March we have 29. In December we had 5 Pended properties. Today there are 7. In December we recorded 17 Sales in 3 months. Today we have 13 in just over 3 months. This “hyper local” market seems rather steady. But outside our idyllic and bucolic arena things are quite different.

There are currently 4,672 homes for sale in Sarasota County. That’s 25% more than January of 2024. And over 200% more than January 2023. The number of houses getting sold remains somewhat steady but as the number of Listings grow, this “absorption rate”

reads as a lower and lower percentage of total properties. This is a Buyer’s Market.

Someone described trying to sell a home today as an extreme “beauty contest”. How can you get attention in a crowd this big? Typically, this requires aggressive pricing since quality is an expectation.

So, outside our neighborhood things are quite challenging. This influences our “hyper local” market in several ways. Prospective buyers have much to choose from so before they give one of us our “asking price” they will see what else it buys in the two-county area. And they will expect a level of quality which challenges many of our older/old homeowners (double entendre intended).

The more expensive the property, the larger region buyers are searching. We recently showed a property to someone who was also shopping St. Pete, Cape Coral and Naples. Our “hyper local” data remains steady but outside things are getting intense.

A parting thought...I have long said, someone chooses our neighborhood and then we find them a home. It rarely happens the other way around. Ask yourself, is this how you got here? This will continue to be our story.

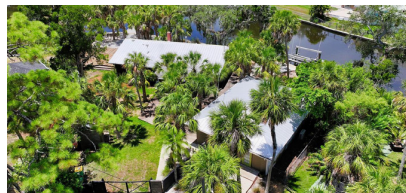
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

[IBSSA Board Meetings 7:00 PM](#)

April 3, 2025

May 1, 2025

June 5, 2025

@ The Light of the World Church

SUBMISSION DEADLINE for June issue:

May 31, 2025

To join IBSSA: Use the form on page 3 of this newsletter or scan this QR code:

www.ibssa.ws/join-ibssa/



#1 SALES TEAM in IBSS



309 Ringling Point - \$6,799,000



3301 Bay Shore Rd - \$4,250,000



4946 Brywill Circle - \$1,950,000



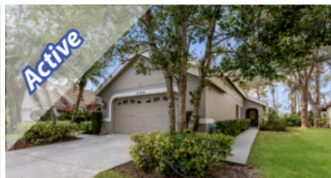
426 S Shore Dr - \$980,000



1155 Tahiti Pkwy - \$899,000



671 47th Street - \$585,000



4768 Tivoli Ave - \$475,000



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