



IRB CITY TIMES



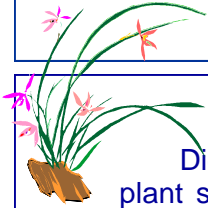
May/June 2011

www.indian-rocks-beach.com

Second Edition/ Volume 3

2011 EVENTS

Tue	May 3	7:00 p	Board of Adj & Appeals
Tue	May 10	7:00 p	City Commission Meeting
Sat	May 14		Household Chemical Cleanup
	May 16-18		Community Cleanup
Thu	May 19	7:00p	Planning & Zoning Board
Tue	May 24	7:00p	City Commission
Mon	May 30		Memorial Day (CLOSED)
Tue	Jun 7	7:00p	Board of Adj & Appeals
Tue	Jun 14	Noon	Flag Retirement Ceremony
Thu	Jun 16	7:00p	Planning & Zoning Board
Tue	Jun 28	7:00p	City Commission Meeting



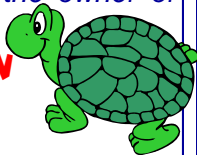
BEACH VEGETATION

Did you know that Sea Oats and other plant species that grow on our beaches protect our shoreline from erosion by trapping sand from tidal flow and winds. Ever so slowly this process continues until a dune develops. Year after year root systems of these plants become deeper and deeper imbedded within the dune holding the dune more and more stable. This process continues in a never ending cycle which nature has developed to try and protect ocean and gulf shorelines.

Florida Statutes 161.242, Harvesting of Sea Oats and Sea Grapes Prohibited, states that:

(2) It is unlawful for any purpose to cut, harvest, remove, or eradicate any of the grass commonly known as sea oats or Uniola Paniculata and Coccolobis Uvifera, commonly known as sea grapes, from any public land or from any private land without consent of the owner of such land.

TURTLE NESTING SEASON IS UPON US!



Turtle Nesting Season begins May 1 and extends to October 31. During this time, all gulf-front owners are asked to extinguish all unnecessary beachfront lighting and shield interior lighting by closing blinds and curtains.

Tree Removal Permits

Do I really need a permit to remove a tree? The answer is **YES!** A permit **IS** required for the removal of **ALL** trees in Indian Rocks Beach, but the good news is that the permits are **FREE**. This regulation is in City Code Section 106-33.

The definition of a tree is any self-supporting woody plant which normally grows to an overall height of at least 15 feet in Pinellas County. All mangroves, regardless of size, shall also be considered trees.

The reason for the requirement of a permit is that the removal of a tree has widely differing regulations and replacement criteria depending on the type and size of the tree to be removed. Some trees are considered nuisance trees and follow-up requirements are negligible; however, most of our trees are considered as assets and their replacement, or relocation, is mandatory. Please stop by, or call, City Hall to discuss your tree situation **BEFORE** starting a tree removal project.



City of Indian Rocks Beach

1507 Bay Palm Boulevard 727/595-2517

City Commission

Mayor R. B. Johnson

Vice Mayor Phil Hanna

Commissioner Joanne Kennedy

Commissioner Daniel Torres

Commissioner Terry Hamilton Wollin



Website: www.indian-rocks-beach.com



IRB HISTORICAL MUSEUM SET TO EXPAND !!

In January 2011, the IRB City Commission unanimously approved the schematic level design for the Historic Museum Expansion Project and authorized staff to proceed with the final design and bid process.

The long awaited project has two purposes and will encompass enlarging the Museum's exhibit and storage space areas by approximately 850 square feet, along with the installation of **TWO** public restrooms in Chic-A-Si Park.

The Indian Rocks Historical Society was formed as a not-for-profit organization for the purpose of promoting the history of the Indian Rocks area through public education on matters of historical and/or architectural significance with respect to properties, structures and artifacts in and about the Indian Rocks area.

Groundbreaking for the project is tentatively scheduled for early Summer 2011.

The project is being cooperatively funded by the Indian Rocks Area Historical Society and the City of Indian Rocks Beach.



View from 2nd Street looking west



N.P.D.E.S.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), through regulations adopted in 1990 under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), requires large, medium and small municipalities (including Indian Rocks Beach) to obtain permits for the operation and maintenance of their storm sewer systems where those systems discharge storm water to the waters of the United States.

The regulations require municipalities to demonstrate adequate legal authority to prohibit illicit discharges to our storm sewer systems, provide maps of our storm sewers and outfalls, provide monitoring data showing the quality of runoff from local areas of various land use types, propose a management program that includes control measures to reduce pollutants in runoff, provide a program to detect and remove illicit discharges to our system, provide a program for monitoring compliance and the success of our programs, and provide an accounting of our fiscal resources available for carrying out this program.

In April 1994, the City of Indian Rocks Beach participated, along with other cities in Pinellas County, in jointly applying for our N.P.D.E.S. permit through Pinellas County. The cities, FDOT and Pinellas County desire to continue to protect and promote the public health, safety and general welfare through the management of storm water runoff, and to continue the existing relationships and responsibilities for the control of discharge to municipal storm sewer systems (MS4) as outlined in 40 C.F.R., Section 122.26.

The City of Indian Rocks Beach made a conscious decision to utilize existing staff, rather than creating new jobs, to track and investigate illicit discharges to our storm sewer system as part of their normal work. ***This is where YOU, as a resident, can help.***

WHY ARE WE INSPECTING FOR ILLICIT DISCHARGES?

The City of Indian Rocks Beach is basically responsible for ensuring that our storm water discharges do not pollute the waters of the United States. To do this, we have to be able to keep pollutants from being put into our storm sewers. The regulations require that we adopt an ordinance to prohibit illicit discharges. In May 1994, the City of Indian Rocks Beach enacted Ordinance 545 specifically dealing with storm water sewers. Any discharge to the City's storm sewer system not in compliance with that ordinance is considered an illicit discharge.

WHO WILL DO THE INSPECTING AND INVESTIGATING?

The EPA regulations require that we submit our proposed program for managing our storm sewer system. This program was to include our procedures to be followed to locate and investigate potential illicit discharges and to enforce our ordinance. As mentioned above, we made a decision to utilize existing staff to keep an eye out for illicit discharges while in the field conducting their normal work. However, the City has far too many streets and storm drain inlets for staff to be in all places at one time which is why we are asking residents for assistance in notifying us when there is a possible illicit discharge suspected. Once a potential problem has been reported, City staff will conduct an investigation and make an informed determination of the next step.

SHOULD YOU COLLECT SAMPLES OR OTHER PHYSICAL EVIDENCE?

By all means, you should ***NOT*** attempt to collect samples as there is some possibility that an illicit discharge may be toxic or otherwise hazardous. The City of Indian Rocks Beach does not want its residents taking risks with their health.

Also, there is an art to collecting evidence that will hold up in court, and people trained to collect samples for evidence should do the sampling. If you attempt to do it, you might end up contaminating either the samples or the site. If you see an illicit discharge, report the problem and let trained people take it from there.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FIND A SUSPECTED DISCHARGE?

You should report it to the City of Indian Rocks Beach Public Services Department, at 727/595-6889, or the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, at 727/582-6200, who will then decide whether to report it further and to whom. They will also decide, based on your observation, if it is an emergency that needs to be stopped right away.

HOW SOON DO I NEED TO REPORT IT?

The best approach is to report the illicit discharge right away, particularly if it appears to be in progress, in order that the proper personnel can respond before it is too late.



WHAT IS AN ILLICIT DISCHARGE? – HOW DO I RECOGNIZE ONE?

Basically, an illicit discharge consists of allowing any contaminant to enter the City of Indian Rocks Beach storm sewer system. The storm sewer system was designed to handle water, to prevent flooding, and not as a place to dump or discharge waste.

DELIBERATELY DUMPING ILLICIT DISCHARGES

- This kind of discharge is sporadic; often occurring at night or on weekends, when the person involved believes he is not being observed.
- This kind of discharge is not predictable, and as a result, is hard to sample for gathering evidence.
- This kind of discharge could be toxic since it is often done by businesses trying to get rid of waste without having to do it properly. As a result, you really need to avoid coming in contact with it, or even breathing fumes if it is volatile.

Often we need to make a quick decision to respond to this kind of event. If you see an actual occurrence, it needs to be reported immediately so proper action can be taken. Contacting authorities after the discharge has already occurred may be too late as the damage may have already been done.

It is unlikely you will observe this directly because people who are deliberately discharging try to do it when they will not be seen. This is not always the case, however, as some people are unaware that the storm sewer carries water to lakes and the bay – they think it goes to the treatment plant.

Dumping may not always consist of a person emptying a bucket or a drum of waste. An illicit discharge might be a tank truck draining its contents through a hose into a manhole. Sometimes this is a legal, septic tank cleaning procedure where businesses may have a permit allowing them to discharge to the sanitary sewer system through a manhole.

IF I SEE DELIBERATE DUMPING SHOULD I TELL THEM TO STOP?

People deliberately dumping are breaking the law, and sometimes they know it but do it anyway. You should not take chances by confronting these people. Report it to the identified contact immediately, and if it needs to be stopped, a Sheriff's Deputy or other law enforcement officer can take steps to stop the discharge.

LEGAL DISCHARGES

The following discharges **ARE** considered **LEGAL** under the City of Indian Rocks Beach's Ordinance:

- ◆ Flows from firefighting
- ◆ Landscape irrigation and lawn watering
- ◆ Irrigation water
- ◆ Diverted stream flows
- ◆ Rising ground waters
- ◆ Water line flushing and other contributions from potable water sources
- ◆ Untaminated pumped groundwater
- ◆ Foundation and footing drains
- ◆ Water from crawl space pumps
- ◆ Untaminated air conditioning condensation
- ◆ Individual residential car washings
- ◆ Springs
- ◆ Flows from riparian habitats and wetlands
- ◆ Swimming pools direct infiltration of ground water to the separate storm sewer system

NOTE: Not **ALL** of these are considered good practices. It is not a good idea to backwash your swimming pool filter directly into the storm sewer; the chlorine that you put into your pool to kill bacteria will also kill aquatic life.

A good idea is to wash your car over your lawn so the soapy water can be absorbed by the lawn and not run down the street into the storm sewer system.

These activities, while not all good things to do, are exempt from the City of Indian Rocks Beach ordinance unless we are able to show that such a discharge is really causing significant harm to water quality or aquatic life. It simply was not the intent of the City of Indian Rocks Beach to use the ordinance to try to make people stop washing their cars, etc. The ordinance was intended to deal with large-scale polluters and people committing illicit discharges to the storm sewer system.

WHAT KINDS OF THINGS SHOULD YOU REPORT?

Location ■ What you observed ■ Any identifying marks ■ Photographs

Through a concerted effort by City staff and residents alike, the Illicit Discharge program will assist in the improvement of water quality as well as preserving and enhancing the environmental quality of receiving waters of the United States.

The City of Indian Rocks Beach appreciates everyone's efforts in this *MOST* important issue.

