

# City of Indian Rocks Beach

## Quarterly Neighbor Newsletter



### **A Letter From Our City Manager** Ryan Henderson

Dear Indian Rocks Beach Neighbors,

Welcome to our first electronic newsletter! Each quarter, you'll receive a newsletter in your inbox highlighting what's happening around Indian Rocks Beach. We're expanding the content to ensure you, our neighbors, are informed, engaged, and connected to our community.

I'd like to take a moment to formally introduce myself as your new City Manager. By the time you receive this newsletter, I will have been in the role for just over two months. It has been an incredible start spent learning about the organization, the community, and what matters most to you. I feel truly privileged to be here and to serve Indian Rocks Beach. Thank you to all the neighbors who have already introduced themselves and warmly welcomed me to this beautiful piece of paradise.

As I shared with staff on my second day, and what an amazing staff it is that serves Indian Rocks Beach, I arrived after the damaging storms of 2024 that so many of you experienced. While I did not live through those events, I have arrived at the tail end of a recovery that has showcased the extraordinary resilience of this community. I am in awe of the strength and compassion neighbors showed one another as you rebuilt together. I can say with confidence that Indian Rocks Beach is stronger today than ever, having forged through recovery and repair as one. The sun continues to shine here, and it's proof that no matter the challenge, Indian Rocks Beach will always be Indian Rocks Beach as long as the community remains at its heart.

I am a community builder at my core. More than anything, I value being out in the community, working alongside you, and listening to your perspectives. I've already had many of those opportunities, and there are many more to come. I also believe City Hall is your City Hall. My door is always open to neighbors who want to share a concern, ask a question, or offer ideas on how we can continue to make this an even better place to live.

Thank you again for welcoming me to Indian Rocks Beach. I look forward to serving you.

Warm regards,  
Ryan

## **Municipal Election Notice**

The City of Indian Rocks Beach will conduct its Municipal Election on Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

### **Polling Location and Hours**

City Hall  
1507 Bay Palm Boulevard  
Indian Rocks Beach, Florida

Polls will be open from **7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

### **Offices to Be Elected**

Voters will elect the following officials to serve two-year terms, from March 2026 through March 2028:

- **One (1) Mayor-Commissioner**
- **Two (2) City Commissioners**

### **Candidates**

#### **Mayor-Commissioner**

- **Denise Houseberg (Incumbent)**
- **Lan Vaughan**

#### **Commissioner (Vote for Two)**

- **Matthew Barrowclough**
- **Don House**
- **Michael Mirmanesh**
- **Kellee Watt**
- **Janet Wilson (Incumbent)**

### **Important Dates and Deadlines**

- **Voter Registration Deadline:** February 9, 2026
- **Mail Ballot Request Deadline:** February 26, 2026, by 5:00 p.m.

Mail ballot requests may be submitted online or by calling 727-464-VOTE (8683).

### **Mail Ballot Distribution**

- Military and overseas ballots mailed by January 24, 2026
- Domestic ballots mailed by February 5, 2026

### **Mail Ballot Return**

Completed mail ballots may be returned Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at any of the three offices of the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections.

***Please note: Early voting is not conducted for municipal elections.***

### **Election Night Results**

**Unofficial election results will be posted and updated throughout election night on the Supervisor of Elections website.**

**For additional information, visit [voteinellas.com](https://www.voteinellas.com) or call 727-464-VOTE (8683).**

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**Your participation is important. Please plan to make your voice heard on March 10, 2026.**

## Code Enforcement Department

Pinellas County property owners with homes not deemed substantially damaged who have started or completed unpermitted repairs will now have until June 30, 2026, to obtain after-the-fact permits without paying a penalty.

This penalty waiver applies to applications submitted by June 30, 2026, for properties in unincorporated Pinellas County and the communities of Belleair Beach, Belleair Shore, Indian Rocks Beach, Oldsmar, Kenneth City and Safety Harbor that were damaged in Hurricane Helene or Milton.

We understand that completing required permit paperwork can feel overwhelming. The City of Indian Rocks Beach is here to help. If you need assistance with completing the required forms, please contact City Hall at (727) 595-2517 to schedule an appointment. Appointments allow us to provide more efficient and personalized service for both our neighbors and team members.

We appreciate and value our community, and together we will move forward—Working Together.

# WE'RE HERE



# TO HELP!

## Don't let illegal fireworks ruin your holidays!

New Year's Eve and the Fourth of July are times to celebrate with family and friends. No matter how great the party is, it is illegal to violate the City of Indian Rocks Beach City Code, Pinellas County regulations, and State law in the use of fireworks.

The City of Indian Rocks Beach would like to remind you of the following:

- There is a ban on retail sale, purchase, or use of fireworks that project into the air or explode
- Use of sparklers, fountains, snakes, and worms remains legal

### Firework Safety

Sparklers and fountains remain legal, but they can be dangerous, reaching temperatures of up to 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit. Only those over 12 years of age should handle sparklers of any type. Youth often get burned by sparklers every year, so responsible adult supervision is always necessary. Officials urge extreme caution and advise residents to follow basic safety recommendations:

- Read and understand all product warnings;
- Never place any body part directly over a device when lighting the fuse;
- Use sparklers only as intended outdoors;
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap;
- After using these devices, douse them with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding.

Neighbors who witness the use of illegal fireworks are asked to call the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office non-emergency telephone number (727) 582-6177. Neighbors should call 911 ONLY in the event of an emergency.



# Flood Information

## Public Works Department

Pinellas County and Indian Rocks Beach enforce specific building regulations in the Special Flood Hazard Area (all of Indian Rocks Beach is in the SFHA) to help protect people and buildings from flooding.

Here is some important information for you to consider:

- **Renovate Responsibly** - It is illegal to add plumbing or electrical or to convert the space below an elevated home into living space.

- **Be aware of substantial improvements/damage rules** - There are specific requirements if the cost of the improvement or damage repair is equal to or exceeds 50% of a building's market value prior to the improvement.

- **Plan for proper drainage and use low impact development (LID)** - Along with physical traditional facilities, practices such as rain gardens, pervious pavers, bioretention systems, green roofs, non-invasive vegetation on your property, and vegetative buffers can help reduce the impact of flooding.

- **Protect Natural Floodplain Functions** - Only Rain Down the Drain. It is illegal to dump anything into storm drains, waterways or waterbodies. Do not open manholes and allow water into the systems. This will overload the system and cause backups or overflows.

- **Do not remove sand from the beach or disturb dunes to fill sandbags** - Doing so will cause more harm to property owners. This message is very relevant to Pinellas County, which is home to some of the most popular beaches in the nation. Beaches and dunes provide a natural buffer from storm events to lessen flooding during coastal storms. In addition, removing sand from beaches or dunes may violate federal, state or local law.

# Library News

The Indian Rocks Beach Library will reopen on January 24th, 2026. There will be a festive grand opening event and ribbon cutting on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend!

Beginning January 26, 2026, the library will resume its normal operation, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Neighbors will see a fabulous new layout, children's area, computer workspace and second-hand bookstore. The children's area has been greatly enhanced thanks to a generous donation from the Rotary Club of IRB.

The Friends of the Library were the recipient of a grant for a new children's reading program. The \$10,000 grant from McDonald's Golden Grants will fund the new Florida Explorers Storytime series. The yearlong literacy and nature program will occur one Saturday per month. The first two will be held on Jan. 24 and Feb. 28 at 11 a.m. in Kolb Park across from the library. The full schedule will be posted on the Friends of the Library social media and in the City's official calendar.

The Friends of the Library are accepting donated books from neighbors, local or visiting. Most in-demand books are popular fiction and nonfiction, hardcover or paperback.

The Friends of the Library will continue to work with the City of IRB to refresh its Free Libraries (Take a Book-Leave a Book) with new structures. An additional little library, donated by Greentown Kids, was installed at the Indian Rocks Beach Nature Preserve.





For more information about the library reopening, using the library or upcoming programs please contact the IRB Library at 727-596-1822 or email at [friendsofirblibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofirblibrary@gmail.com).

# 2026 FIRST QUARTER EVENTS

Mark your calendars and bring the good vibes—there's lots happening around town!

## JANUARY





### VFW Post 10094 – 58th Anniversary Celebration

 Sat., January 3 |  Begins at 8:00 a.m.  
 VFW Post 10094, 14450 Walsingham Rd.  
 Sponsored by Indian Rocks VFW Post 10094





### Monthly Mix & Mingle

 Thursday, January 15 |  6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
 Location TBD  
 Sponsored by IRB Home





### Gallery Reception

 Friday, January 16 |  6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
 Beach Art Center, 1515 Bay Palm Blvd  
 Sponsored by the Beach Art Center

### Library Grand Reopening





 Sat., January 24 |  10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
 IRB Library, 1507 Bay Palm Blvd  
 A collaboration of the City of IRB & Friends of the Library

### Florida Explorers Story Time





 Sat., January 24 |  11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
 Kolb Park, 1508 Bay Palm Blvd  
 City of IRB & Friends of the Library

## FEBRUARY





### Monthly Mix & Mingle

 Thurs., February 19 |  6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
 Location TBD  
 Sponsored by IRB Home

### Gallery Reception

 Friday, February 20 |  6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
 Beach Art Center, 1515 Bay Palm Blvd  
 Sponsored by the Beach Art Center

### Winterfest





 Sat., February 21 |  10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
 Calvary Episcopal Church, 1615 1st St  
 Sponsored by Calvary Episcopal Church

### Florida Explorers Story Time





 Sat., February 24 |  11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
 Kolb Park, 1508 Bay Palm Blvd  
 City of IRB & Friends of the Library

## MARCH





### Rotary Runs the Beach

 Sat., March 14 |  8:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
 17th Avenue Beach Access  
 Sponsored by Indian Rocks Beach Rotary


### Monthly Mix & Mingle

 Thursday, March 19 |  6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
 Location TBD  
 Sponsored by IRB Home





### Rotary Pancake Breakfast

 Sat., March 21 |  7:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
 Calvary Episcopal Church, 1615 1st St  
 Sponsored by Indian Rocks Beach Rotary





### Greenfest

 Sat., March 21 |  10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
 Church of the Isles, 24th Ave & 1st St  
 Sponsored by Church of the Isles

### Easter Egg Hunt

 Saturday, March 28 |  9:00 a.m.  
 Kolb Park, 1508 Bay Palm Blvd  
 Sponsored by IRB Home

### Florida Explorers Story Time

 Sat., March 28 |  11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
 Civic Auditorium, 1507 Bay Palm Blvd  
(Location changed due to Easter Egg Hunt)  
 City of IRB & Friends of the Library



# TEAM IRB



## “Working Together”

**Denise Houseberg**  
Mayor Commissioner  
[dhouseberg@irbcity.com](mailto:dhouseberg@irbcity.com)

**Janet Wilson**  
Vice-Mayor Commissioner  
[jwilson@irbcity.com](mailto:jwilson@irbcity.com)

**John Bigelow**  
Commissioner  
[jbigelow@irbcity.com](mailto:jbigelow@irbcity.com)

**Jude Bond**  
Commissioner  
[jbond@irbcity.com](mailto:jbond@irbcity.com)

**Hilary King**  
Commissioner  
[hking@irbcity.com](mailto:hking@irbcity.com)

**Ryan Henderson**  
City Manager  
[rhenderson@irbcity.com](mailto:rhenderson@irbcity.com)



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