

July, August, September, 2026

# City of Indian Rocks Beach

## Quarterly Neighbor Newsletter



### **Hurricane Preparedness Expo Brings Our Community Together**

The City of Indian Rocks Beach extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make our inaugural Hurricane Preparedness Expo an incredible success!

From the moment the doors opened, neighbors came together with one shared goal, to become better prepared before the next storm. The event welcomed hundreds of attendees who had the opportunity to connect with emergency response agencies, local businesses, nonprofit organizations, and community partners dedicated to helping our community stay safe and resilient.

Throughout the Expo, neighbors explored emergency preparedness exhibits, learned valuable hurricane safety tips, discovered resources available before, during, and after a storm, and spoke directly with experts who answered questions and shared practical advice. Families also enjoyed interactive activities, educational displays, giveaways, and opportunities to build their own emergency preparedness plans.

This event would not have been possible without the incredible support of our many participating vendors, volunteers, sponsors, and City team members. Their commitment to educating and serving our community truly demonstrated what Building Community is all about.

A special thank you goes to everyone who donated hurricane supplies, emergency kits, raffle prizes, refreshments, and educational materials. Your generosity helped ensure that neighbors left not only better informed, but better equipped to prepare for hurricane season.

The overwhelming response from the community confirmed that this Expo filled an important need. We are already looking forward to making next year's Hurricane Preparedness Expo even bigger and better, with more resources, more educational opportunities, and even more ways to help our neighbors prepare for whatever the season may bring.

Together, we are building a stronger, safer, and more resilient Indian Rocks Beach because preparedness starts long before the first storm appears on the horizon.





# Communication Builds Community

**STAY CONNECTED**

**STAY INFORMED**

**STAY PREPARED**

**TOGETHER, WE BUILD COMMUNITY**

**EMERGENCY WEATHER HOTLINE**  
*Feel Safe, Stay Ready*  
Call for important weather updates before, during, and after an emergency.  
*This is a recorded message.*  
**727-353-3921**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**  
Find the latest City news, events, resources, beach & parking info and more.  
**www.indian-rocks-beach.com**

**TEXTMYGOV**  
Get notified about important updates right to your phone!  
Text: **IRB**  
to: **91896**

**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK**  
Stay connected with your community on our official Facebook page.  
**facebook.com/CityofIndianRocksBeach**

**CITY HALL**  
Call us for general questions or assistance.  
**727-595-2517**

**Your Community. Your Connection. Your IRB!** | **BUILDING COMMUNITY**

## You're Not Alone—We're Here for You

At the City of Indian Rocks Beach, we know that staying informed brings peace of mind, especially during hurricane season and as our community continues to recover and rebuild. No matter what questions you have or information you need, you don't have to navigate it alone.

Whether you're looking for the latest updates, emergency information, City news, or simply need to reach us, we're here to help.

Stay connected through our Emergency Weather Hotline, City website, TextMyGov, Facebook page, or by calling City Hall. Every neighbor matters, and we're committed to keeping you informed, connected, and supported every step of the way.

**Building Community** means making sure no neighbor feels alone.

We are here for you, today, tomorrow, and whenever you need us. ❤️🌴

# City of IRB Partners with ForeRunner

We are excited to announce our partnership with Forerunner. Our new public website provides convenient access to property information and important documents, helping our community stay informed and reducing the need for in-person or phone requests.

You can use the website to...

1. Search for property information:

Every property within Indian Rocks Beach has a public profile that may include characteristics, available documents, and relevant requirements or notices. Search by address to learn more.

2. View important documents:

If documents such as permits, certificates, or reports are on file, you can search for them on the website and download them instantly.

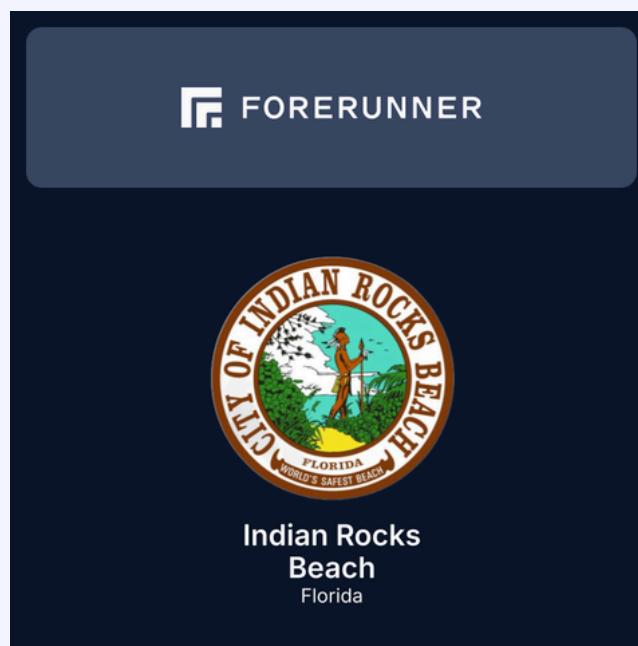
3. Understand applicable requirements:

The website may include details about any applicable local regulations, review thresholds, building requirements, or other considerations that apply to the property.

4. Request help:

If you can't find what you need, submit a request through the Get Help page. Enter the property address and include any details about your question and our staff will respond as soon as possible.

Over the next few weeks, our City website Hurricane Resource section will be updated with valuable information to help keep our neighbors ahead of the storm. We will keep you updated throughout the process. In the meantime, you can visit Forerunner through the following link: [indianrocksbeachfl.withforerunner.com](http://indianrocksbeachfl.withforerunner.com).



# Public Works Department

## FLOOD INFORMATION

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 rule** - 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)** Drainage features such as rain gardens, pervious pavers, bioretention systems, green roofs, non-invasive vegetation on your property, and vegetative buffers can help promote natural water flow. For more information and guidance visit [Pinellas.gov/stormwater-manual/](http://Pinellas.gov/stormwater-manual/)
- **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.



If you don't already have flood insurance to protect your building and its contents (renters, take note!), please consider purchasing a policy today! Call your insurance agent or (877)336-2627 to find an agent, and be sure your premium includes the discount, if applicable. Go to the website [FloodSmart.gov](http://FloodSmart.gov) for more information about flooding and flood insurance, and the City of Indian Rocks Beach website at [Indian-Rocks-Beach.com](http://Indian-Rocks-Beach.com) and click on "Neighborhood Information", then "Flood Hazard Information".

Purchase flood insurance for your home, business, or rental. Anywhere it rains it can flood, so flood insurance is recommended, even if it is not required by your lender.

# Code Enforcement Department

## SHORT TERM RENTALS COMMUNITY IMPACT

### UNPERMITTED RENTALS CAN:

- Disrupt neighborhood character and stability
- Create parking, noise, and trash issues
- Strain public safety and city services
- Reduce availability of long-term housing

By enforcing STR regulations, Indian Rocks Beach protects neighborhood integrity, preserves quality of life, and ensures fair treatment for compliant property owners.

### ENFORCEMENT:

#### 1. INVESTIGATION

Complaints may come from neighbors, online listings, or other sources. Code Enforcement Officers review listings, occupancy records, and property activity to confirm compliance.

#### 2. NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Once a non-compliant short-term rental (STR) advertises for rent and hosts occupants or visiting guests, the violation becomes irreparable and irreversible. The impact cannot be undone; a property cannot be “un-rented.” Additionally, if an STR has not undergone the required inspections, the City has no means of verifying that the property meets safety standards. This lack of compliance presents a potential risk to neighboring properties and the public. In either circumstance, the Code Enforcement Officer will issue a Notice to Appear in lieu of a Notice of Violation.

#### 3. FINES & PENALTIES

Fines increase with repeat violations Unpaid fines may result in liens.

#### 4. ONGOING MONITORING

Repeat violations may cause higher fines and ongoing observation.



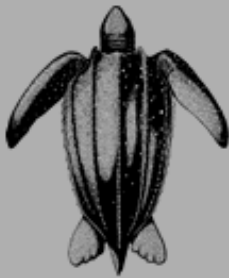
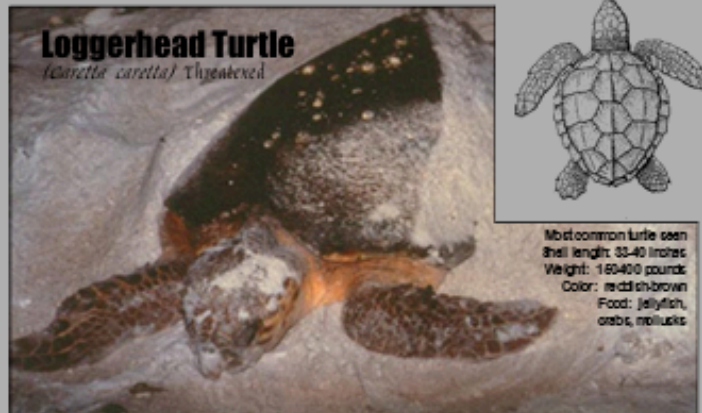
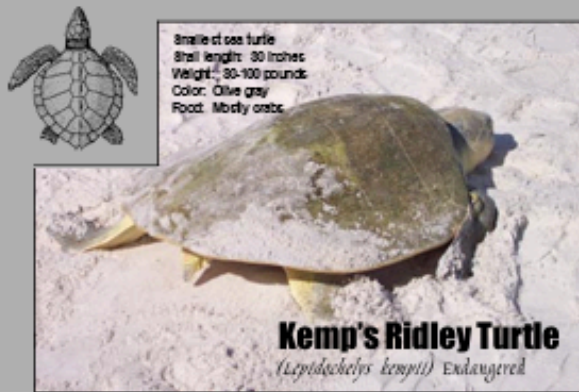
# RESPECT THE LOCALS

Marine turtle nesting and hatching occur each year from May 1st through October 31st.

The City of Indian Rocks Beach would like to remind you that a few simple gestures can help you do your part:

- Leave Only Your Footprints
- No Flashlights
- Fill in Any Holes
- Pick Up Beach Furniture
- Knock Over Sand Castles
- Don't Touch

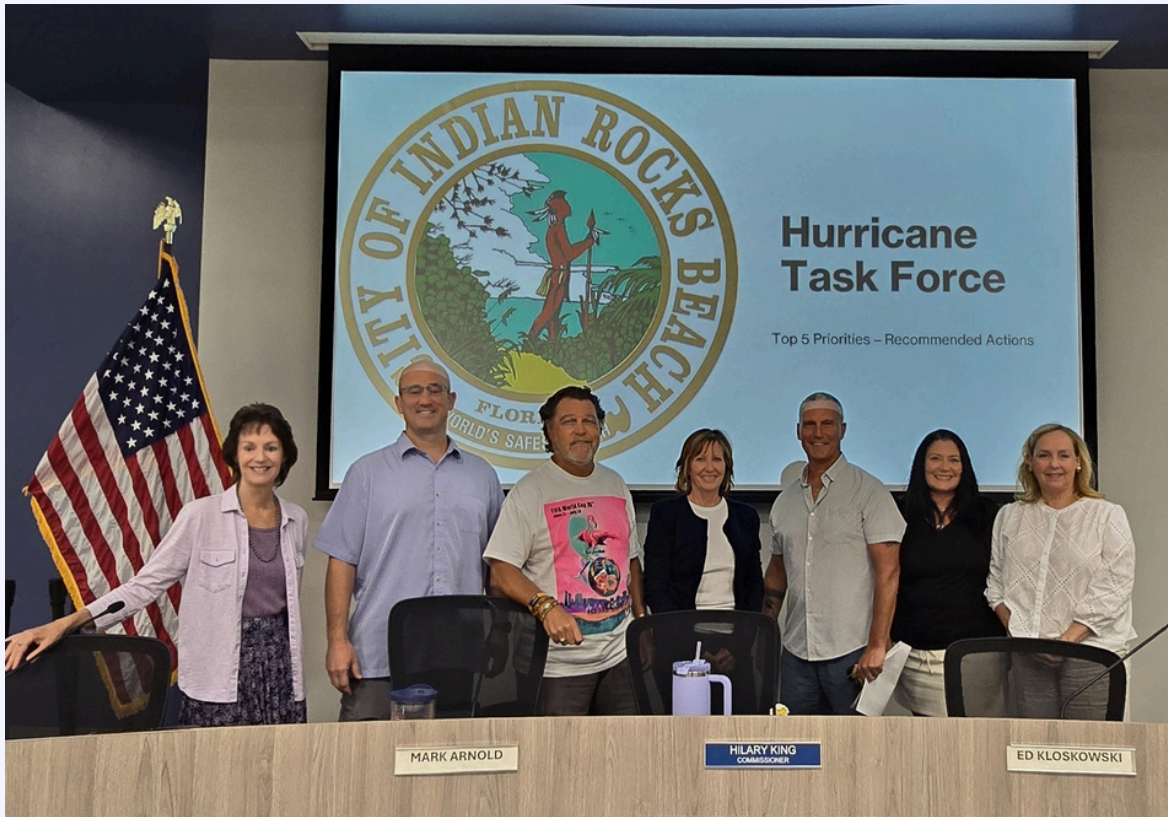
## Turtles That May Be Found on Florida Beaches



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

<p><b>JULY</b></p> <p><b>Special Magistrate Hearing</b> Thursday, July 9 1:30 PM IRB Civic Auditorium</p> <p><b>IRB Library Florida Explorers</b> Saturday, July 11 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM IRB Civic Auditorium</p> <p><b>Commission Workshop/Budget Discussion</b> Tuesday, July 14 5:00 PM-6:00 PM IRB Civic Auditorium</p>	<p><b>City Commission Meeting</b> Tuesday, July 14 6:00 PM IRB Civic Auditorium</p> <p><b>Special Magistrate Hearing</b> Monday, July 20 2:30 PM IRB Civic Auditorium</p> <p><b>Coffee with Neighbors</b> Friday, July 24 8:30 AM-9:30 PM IRB Civic Auditorium</p>
<p><b>AUGUST</b></p> <p><b>Community Clean Up</b> Hosted by: City of IRB August 3-5 (Mon-Weds)</p> <p><b>Primary Election</b> Tuesday, August 18 7:00 AM-7:00 PM Civic Auditorium</p> <p><b>City Commission Meeting</b> Tuesday, August 18 6:00 pm Holiday Inn Harborside-Key West Center</p>	<p><b>IRB Library Florida Explorers</b> Saturday, August 22 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM Civic Auditorium</p> <p><b>Special Magistrate Hearings</b> Thursday, August 13 &amp; Wednesday, August 26 1:30 pm IRB Civic Auditorium</p> <p><b>Coffee with Neighbors</b> Friday, August 28 8:30 AM-9:30 PM IRB Civic Auditorium</p>
<p><b>SEPTEMBER</b></p> <p><b>Special Magistrate Hearing</b> Wednesday, September 9 &amp; 23, 1:30 pm IRB Civic Auditorium</p> <p><b>City Commission Meeting</b> Tuesday, September 8 6:00 PM IRB Civic Auditorium</p> <p><b>Florida Explorers Story Time</b> Sat., September 19 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Civic Auditorium</p>	<p><b>COTI Summer Block Party</b> Saturday, September 12, 4 PM-8 PM</p> <p><b>Coffee with Neighbors</b> Friday, September 25 8:30 AM-9:30 PM IRB Civic Auditorium</p> <p><b>GTK Beach Clean Up</b> Sunday, September 27, 2026 5:30 PM-7:00 PM IRB County Beach Access</p>

# IRB HURRICANE TASK FORCE



## “Building Community”

**Lan Vaughan**  
Mayor Commissioner  
lvaughan@irbcity.com

**Janet Wilson**  
Vice Mayor-Commissioner  
jwilson@irbcity.com

**John Bigelow**  
Commissioner  
jbigelow@irbcity.com



**Hilary King**  
Commissioner  
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**Kellee Watt**  
Commissioner  
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**Ryan Henderson**  
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