

Quarterly CITY NEWS

Administrative
727/595-2517

Building/Planning & Zoning
727/517-0404

City Clerk
727/595-2517

Library
727/596-1822

Public Services
727/595-6889

Jul/Aug/Sep 2017

www.indian-rocks-beach.com

Gregg Mims, City Manager

IRB LIBRARY NEWS

Welcome to the Library's Summer Programs! We had a great response from the community for the "Food for Fines" program in May. Thanks to all who participated. The City of Indian Rocks Beach is pleased to have contributed to the Community Food Bank's mission.

Summer Reading for K - 12 students in partnership with the "Reading with the Rays" program

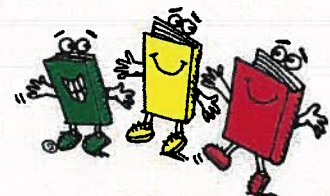
The rules of the game are simple. Pick up a "Reading with the Rays" card at the IRB Library. Choose your favorite books from the library or your favorite section of the Tampa Bay Times to read over the summer. As you read, track your hours by rounding the bases and collecting Rays prizes along the way. When you read enough hours to get on first base, ask your parent or guardian to initial your card and bring it to the IRB Library. The Librarian will sign your card, put a sticker on the base, and give you a reading reward. Round the bases by reading a total of 24 hours this summer and receive two tickets to a Rays game! **Offer ends 9/29/2017**

July kicks off the Library Summer Reading Program for ALL READERS with lots of great activities!

There will be reading logs available for ALL READERS to track your reading during June and July. Readers can turn in their reading logs at the end of July and receive fun prizes. Thursdays will be Adult Puzzle Day at the IRB Library in July. Drop by and cool off between 1 and 3 p.m. on Thursdays. Toddler Story Time for kiddos, ages 1 to 5, on Tuesdays. We will read a book, learn to sign new letters and words using American Sign Language, sing a song or do an art activity. Toddler Story Time will be on Tuesdays from 11 to 11:30 a.m. in July.



July 4	LIBRARY - CLOSED
July 5	FISH IN THE GULF
July 11	STARS IN THE SKY
July 18	COUNTING NUMBERS
July 25	FAMILIES
August 1	LETTERS OF THE ALPHABET



"Barks for Books" continues with our dog pal, Agape, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturdays, come and read!

The Library is looking to host a Writer's Group – if you think you have an unwritten story that needs telling, please drop by and sign up. The day and times for the group will be announced later in the summer.

Have any interest in playing Chess or Scrabble? Do you want to learn the ukulele? Please make a suggestion to the Librarian.

The IRB Library Friends and volunteers will be making reading recommendations, starting this summer, for new releases and best sellers, stop in and take advantage of their referrals! Be sure to take a look at the new triptych, entitled "Bridge to Paradise, IRB", painted by the IRB Plein Aire Cottage artists and donated by the Friends, behind the circulation desk. Celebrate summer in paradise right here in IRB!

The Library is open Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Need more information? Call Lee Miller, our Librarian, at 727/596-1822.



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THE ANNUAL BUDGET PROCESS

During the months of April through May of 2017, the City's Finance Department worked with the City Manager on the annual operating and capital budget. A budget is a city's financial and operating plan for a period called a "Fiscal Year" and is mandated by Florida Statutes. The City of Indian Rocks Beach's Fiscal Year begins October 1 and ends September 30. The upcoming Fiscal Year, beginning October 1, 2017, is referred to as "Fiscal Year 2017-18" or sometimes as FY18. The City Commission is required to adopt the budget on or before September 30 each year for the upcoming Fiscal Year.



The budget process is a year-round activity. The FY 2017-18 Budget is adopted and becomes effective October 1, 2017. The next fiscal year's budget preparation process intensifies after receipt of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), which occurred in April 2017. The audited figures in the CAFR serve as the basis for preparing the forthcoming fiscal year budget. The City Manager and staff develop a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for review with the City Commission and Finance & Budget Review Committee.

The City Charter requires that 90 days before the beginning of the next fiscal year, the City Manager and Finance Director submit the proposed new fiscal year Budget to the City Commission. During July, the City Commission establishes a maximum proposed property tax rate to be levied for the new fiscal year. This rate is included in the TRIM (Truth in Millage – Notice of Proposed Property Tax) notices mailed to all property owners in August by the Pinellas County Property Appraiser. During the month of July, the City Commission also reviews the budget during special work sessions which are open to the public.

In the month of September, two public hearings are held regarding the proposed property tax and budget for the new fiscal year with the City Commission voting on the tax rate and proposed budget at both public hearings. An appropriation ordinance is also passed by the City Commission at this time. On September 30 each year, the existing fiscal year budget closes and the new fiscal year then begins October 1st.

An appropriation is the legal approval given by the City Commission to the City Manager to operate the city. The budget also contains an estimate of revenues to be received by the city during the same time period. The legal authorization to collect revenues, such as property tax and user fees, is established by State Statutes and the City Charter and is enacted by the City Commission by ordinance. Also included in the budget is the estimate of monies remaining from the prior fiscal year, called unassigned fund balance, which can be appropriated in the next fiscal year. The City Charter and State law require that expenditures not exceed the combination of available fund balance and revenues. The City cannot borrow money to operate, as does the Federal government. The City can only borrow money for major capital projects such as land, major equipment, the construction of buildings or infrastructure. It is important to note the City of Indian Rocks Beach has no debt.



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ANNUAL BUDGET PROCESS (cont'd).

The budget may be amended in two ways: an informal budget transfer, requested by department heads and approved by the City Manager, that transfers dollars between line items within a department or from one department to another; and a budget amendment which increases expenditures, or the spending level of a fund, as requested by the City Manager and approved by the City Commission.

HOMEOWNER PERMITS, DEAL or DISASTER?



Many unsuspecting homeowners have fallen into the trap of obtaining a homeowner permit when assured by a contractor (usually unlicensed and uninsured) that they will be given a DEAL if they relieve the contractor of that task. A legitimate licensed and insured contractor will typically include the necessary permits and inspections as part of the contractual agreement. Other homeowners obtain permits to do their own work having little knowledge or experience related to the improvement they wish to undertake.

Homeowners do not consider the responsibility that goes along with pulling the permit and do not really think things through before doing so. Many jurisdictions have had such issues with homeowner permits that they have instituted an exam that homeowners must pass to demonstrate competency to perform the work they intend to do. If they are unable to successfully complete the exam, a licensed contractor must obtain the permit and perform the work.

Here are some things to consider when contemplating obtaining an "Owner/Builder" permit:

- 1) *You must personally supervise the work so you must have the knowledge and skills necessary to do so;*
- 2) *If you have unlicensed persons work under your permit, they are considered your "employees" and you must provide workers' compensation insurance, withhold federal income tax and social security contributions from their earnings;*
- 3) *If a "weekend" worker is hurt on your property, you are liable;*
- 4) *If your work causes damage to your neighbor's property, you are liable;*
- 5) *The one or two family dwelling that you wish to improve must be for your own use and occupancy;*
- 6) *You may not sell or offer for lease the improved dwelling for one year after completion of the improvement;*
- 7) *You are responsible to coordinate all subcontractors;*
- 8) *You are responsible for compliance with all codes, laws, ordinances, rules and regulations;*
- 9) *You are responsible to obtain all required inspections;*

Acting as your own contractor is an exemption guaranteed by F.S. 489.103 if you meet the qualifications and restrictions, but don't "dive in" until you consider all the liabilities and responsibilities.

2017 QUARTERLY MEETING CALENDAR

	<i>Tue</i>	<i>07/04</i>		<i>Independence Day - City Hall CLOSED</i>
	Tue	07/11	7:00p	City Commission Meeting
	Tue	07/18	7:00p	Board of Adjustments & Appeals
JUL	Wed	07/19	4:00p	Finance & Budget Review Committee
	Thu	07/20	6:00p	LPA/Planning & Zoning Board
	Tue	07/25	4:00-7:00p	City Commission Budget Work Session
	Tue	07/25	7:00p	City Commission Meeting
AUG	Tue	08/08	7:00p	City Commission Meeting
	Tue	08/15	7:00p	Board of Adjustments & Appeals
	Thu	08/17	6:00p	LPA/Planning & Zoning Board
	<i>Mon</i>	<i>09/04</i>		<i>Labor Day - City Hall CLOSED</i>
SEP	Tue	09/05	7:00p	City Commission Meeting
	Tue	09/12	7:00p	City Commission Meeting
	Tue	09/19	7:00p	City Commission Meeting
	Thu	09/21	6:00p	LPA/Planning & Zoning Board

2017 QUARTERLY EVENTS CALENDAR

Mon-Wed 08/07-08/09 Community Clean Up Citywide City of IRB

