



City of Indian Rocks Beach

May/June 2014

www.indian-rocks-beach.com

City Commission

R. B. Johnson	Mayor
Jim Labadie	Vice Mayor
Terry Hamilton-Wollin	Commissioner
Phil Hanna	Commissioner
Cookie Kennedy	Commissioner

Administration

City Manager	Brently Gregg Mims
City Attorney	Maura Kiefer
City Clerk	Deanne B. O'Reilly

1507 Bay Palm Boulevard
727/595-2517

2014 CALENDAR

Tue	May 13	7:00p	City Commission Meeting
Thu	May 15	6:00p	Planning & Zoning Board
Mon	May 26		Memorial Day - City Hall CLOSED
Wed	May 28	6:00p	Finance & Budget Review Comm.
* * *			
Tue	Jun 3	7:00p	Board of Adjustments & Appeals
Tue	Jun 10	4:00p - 6:00p	5 Year Service & Capital Plan Worksession
Tue	Jun 10	7:00p	City Commission Meeting
Fri	Jun 13	Noon	Flag Retirement Ceremony
Thu	Jun 19	6:00p	Planning & Zoning Board

FLOOD HAZARD INFORMATION

Flood Hazard Area

The location of Indian Rocks Beach between the Gulf of Mexico and the Intracoastal Waterway, or "Narrows", and Clearwater Harbor, together with the low elevations, makes the City highly vulnerable to the dangers of flooding. Indian Rocks Beach is affected by two types of flooding: coastal flooding primarily due to storm surge from tropical depressions, and flooding from rainfall in sufficient quantities to overcome natural and man-made drainage provisions. Many areas flood with only a high tide and west wind. With most properties developed prior to the adoption of local storm water management facility requirements, flooding during heavy rainfall occurs in many areas of the city. When there is a high tide and/or heavy rains, the city's drainage system will rapidly fill up from storm water run-off and tidal waters causing flood conditions on our lawns and in streets and swale areas. Consequently, rainwater can back up into homes from the streets. Most often, flooding occurs in conjunction with severe tropical storms and hurricanes.

(Continued from previous column)

Because of the high shoaling factor (shallow water and gradual slope of the Gulf bottom) off the coast of our city, we will receive higher surges than those indicated in the generalized Saffir/Simpson Hurricane Scale. The entire city is designated as a Coastal High Flood Hazard Area and lies in the "A" or "V" Flood Zones as designated by FEMA. For more information concerning Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) determination, you may call the Indian Rocks Beach Building Department at **727/517-0404**.

Flood Warning

Flood Warnings will be given through local television and radio. Tune into these media for instructions during times of possible flooding. You should keep a battery operated weather alert radio, with plenty of back-up batteries available in case of a power outage. Sign up for emergency notification through cell phone text message by calling 1-888-689-8905 or for email emergency alerts by visiting the Pinellas County website at:

www.pinellascounty.org/emergency

(Continued from previous column)

The entire City of Indian Rocks Beach is located in a flood zone and in an Evacuation Level A Zone which is the first level ordered to evacuate. Because the Tampa Bay Region could require as long as 26 hours to evacuate, be prepared ahead of time. If possible, valuables and building contents should be moved to the highest levels possible and have an evacuation essentials bag packed and ready ahead of time.

Flood Insurance

Homeowners' insurance policies do not cover losses due to flooding. Indian Rocks Beach participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, which makes flood insurance available to everyone in the city. Don't wait for the next flood warning to buy insurance protection. There is a 30-day waiting period after purchase of a flood insurance policy before coverage goes into effect. Property owners can insure their buildings and contents, and renters can insure their possessions. Call your insurance agent now so that you will be fully prepared for future events.



City of Indian Rocks Beach

May/June 2014

www.indian-rocks-beach.com

Property Protection

Moving valuable items and furniture to higher floors will minimize loss, as will placing sandbags or plastic sheeting in front of doorways and other low entry points to help slow down flood waters from reaching your possessions. Retrofitting, grading a yard so that water will drain away from the foundation wall and correcting drainage problems are additional ways to minimize loss prior to floods occurring. Retrofitting involves building low flood walls, elevating a structure, etc. It is important to install storm shutters and reinforce garage doors to protect against wind damage. FEMA provides flood mitigation assistance funds to assist states, communities and residents to implement measures to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage. Information on retrofitting is available at www.FEMA.gov. The City of Indian Rocks Beach Building Department can provide information about your property regarding floor elevations and historical flooding, how to select a contractor and The Building Department can also provide assistance on how to protect your property from flood drainage problems, including on-site visits, and can be reached at **727/517-0404**.

Permits

All development (new construction, repair/replacement work, additions, fences, etc.) in Indian Rocks Beach requires a permit. To report any non-permitted work, or if you need additional information, please contact the IRB Building Department at **727/517-0404**.

Substantial Improvement/Damage Requirements

A **substantial improvement** is defined as:
“any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition

or other improvement to a structure, the total cost of which equals or exceeds 50% of the **market value** of the structure before the start of construction of the improvement”.

Substantially improved buildings must be at or above the base flood elevation, however, some exceptions may apply for lateral additions only. A damaged building requiring repairs that cost more than 50% of the building's market value before the damage occurred is considered **substantially damaged** and must be elevated to the base flood elevation.

Drainage System Maintenance

The city has a system of drainage channels and ditches for storm water management purposes which are inspected on a regular basis by our Public Services Department. These ditches are of vital importance since the water flowing through them drains **floodwaters FROM** our streets. The City of Indian Rocks Beach Code of Ordinances states that no pollutants, including yard debris, automotive fluids, gravel or paint, can be allowed to enter the surface waters, the drainage systems, or even be disposed of in the right-of-way as roads drain to storm drains. Violations should be reported to the Indian Rocks Beach Public Services Department at **727/595-6889**.

Natural + Beneficial Functions of the Floodplain

In our city natural floodplain areas provide an excellent habitat for diverse wildlife and enhance water quality, as vegetation and soils found within the floodplain serve as water filters, intercepting surface water runoff before reaching the bays and Gulf. Because there are areas of wetlands in the city,

(Continued from previous column) there is native vegetation and wildlife which must be protected. The undeveloped floodplain areas lessen the effects of storm and flood waters by providing natural storage areas for flood waters and by buffering the coastal areas from storm surges, thus protecting human life and property from flood damage.

Further Information

For information on the flood hazard at your property, to view the elevation certificate for your property or for further information on any of the above subjects, please contact the Indian Rocks Beach Building Department at **727/517-0404**, or visit the city's website www.indian-rocks-beach.com. The City of Indian Rocks Beach Library, located at 1507 Bay Palm Boulevard, provides flood protection information and maintains copies of the Indian Rocks Beach Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM).

Flood Safety

Being aware of what steps to take to minimize your loss prior to a flood is the first step to your safety.

>Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else.

>Heed warnings from officials; evacuate when orders are given; turn off electricity and gas.

>Have an evacuation & shelter route planned before an evacuation order is issued.

>Have a small bag with essentials prepared for evacuation.

>Be cautious at night, being aware of downed power lines & wires.

>Have flashlights & weather alert radios in working condition & have extra batteries available.