



INDIALANTIC

RECORD

MARCH, 1999

Message from Mayor Cochran

As many residents have certainly wondered, the transformation of the median on Fifth Avenue has finally begun. Hayslip Landscape of Ft. Pierce was awarded the bid to plant the median in accordance with our grant from the Florida Department of Transportation. The Public Works Department recently removed the existing grass and work to begin installing the irrigation system is scheduled to begin the first week in March. Once the irrigation system is in place, the planting can begin. We expect the project to be completed by April 15, 1999.

The beautification plan, which was developed by the Design Subcommittee in conjunction with our consultants, includes palm trees at the pedestrian crosswalks, trailing Lantana, spider lilies, native coontie and hairgrass. We can all look forward to enjoying this asset to the community - bringing some character to the main street of Town.

The Town is also working with FDOT to re-establish a southbound right turn lane from Fifth Avenue at Riverside Drive. The previous turn lane was eliminated when Fifth Avenue was resurfaced in 1997. We are currently working on approving the Joint Project Agreement (JPA) under which the state will reimburse the Town for the work done.

The search for a Town Manager continues. As a result of the last advertisement, the position was offered to two candidates, both of whom declined. Resumes, which have already begun coming in, will be accepted until April 1, 1999. The Town Council will then meet to determine a short list of candidates and set up a schedule for interviews.

Officer Tedd Baker of the Police Department was recently promoted to Sergeant - for the second time. Officer Baker began with the Indialantic Police Department in November, 1984 and left with the rank of sergeant in September, 1990. He returned in January, 1994 and was again tested and promoted to sergeant in February, 1999. Congratulations Sergeant Baker!!!

from **Les Barlow**

It was twenty years ago that I decided to retire after five years with the Town of Indialantic as Town Manager. Since retiring I have filled vacancies in that position five times. This time I have served from the end of September to the end of February, 1999.

The following is a quote from a Melbourne Times article written in 1994 on my retirement: "It takes a team to run the Town and a constant war between Councilmembers or the Council and the Administration will never work. We hear too often 'This is what the people want' from a few members of the community who frequent meetings complaining about matters and sometimes making suggestions." Sound familiar?

"Homeowners' associations have reared all over the country to monitor the city government's actions. Their goals are fine but in most cases they are duplicating what the elected officials are supposed to be doing."

That was back in 1979 - has anything changed? This Town is a great town and the present Council should start working together as much as they can. Then maybe we can do away with the hate letters in local papers. This is no way to run a railroad.

We would all like to extend our gratitude to Col. Les Barlow for once again stepping out of retirement and into the Town Manager's office. Mr. Barlow, always remaining active in local government, has been willing to offer his time, guidance and expertise to the staff and citizens of Indialantic.

TOWN SEATS NEW COUNCIL

Congratulations to Mayor Robert Cochran, Jr., Councilwoman Lisa Frazier and Councilman Michael Fischer. At the November 17, 1998 Town Council Meeting, Town Attorney Paul Gougelman administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected Councilmembers who will each serve two year terms. Ms. Frazier was also elected Deputy Mayor by her fellow Councilmembers.

Over 67% (1432) of the registered voters cast their ballots in the November election. The field of seven candidates waged vigorous campaigns and stirred public interest in the issues facing the Town.

The voters also approved the referendum for the purchase of a new fire truck and equipment by almost 75%. The paperwork has been finalized and delivery is expected in July

Ord. No. 99-1 - amends Sec. 17-128 increasing the maximum building height to 35 feet in the CH district

Ord. No. 99-2 - amends Ord. No. 89-15 to allow member contributions to the Police Officers' and Firefighters' pension plan be made on a pre-tax basis

Appointments - Re-appointments:

Board of Adjustment - Ray Disher, Vince Benevente, John Allen and Gus Carey

Budget & Finance - Karen Turja

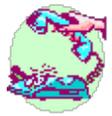
Code Enforcement Board - Ron Campbell and Ray Young

Parks/Recreation/Beautification - Barbara Coburn and Scott Vickers

Police/Fire Pension Board - Alan Coburn

Sunset Review Committee - Gus Carey

Zoning & Planning Board - Tom Kleving and Robert Doherty



CALL TOWN HALL

Town Manager	723-2242
Town Clerk	723-2533
Building Department	727-3377
Public Works Department	984-5224
Police Administration	723-7780
Fire Administration	723-0366
Police, Fire and Rescue Emergency	911

Building Department News

You may have noticed some new construction going on around Town. In the past several months, the Building Department has issued permits for four major projects in addition to the usual permits.

- Ocean Crest, on 11th Avenue between Wavecrest and A-1-A, is a 12 unit condominium. The permit fee for this project is \$3,310.
- Cato Construction is building a 3 unit condo on A-1-A. Permit fee - \$950.

- The Eastminster Presbyterian Church is constructing a new fellowship hall on their present site. Permit fee - \$4,842
- Seven single unit condominiums are under construction at Miami Avenue and A-1-A. Certified Building Corporation will pay a permit fee of \$820 per unit.

Brevard County Lifeguards will be manning the two beach towers from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm according to the following schedule:



Spring Break	March 27 - April 4
Memorial Day Weekend	May 29-31
Weekend coverage	June 5 & 6
Summer coverage	June 12 - August 6
Weekends	through September 6

There will also be two roving patrols covering the beach between Nance Park and Eighth Avenue.

County supervisors caution swimmers to be wary of ocean tides. Dangerous undertows can occur in our area where there are drastic drop-offs 10 to 20 feet off shore. Please remember to swim near a lifeguard, never swim alone and check with the lifeguards for ocean conditions.

RECYCLE PHONE BOOKS!!!

Phone books can be recycled from April 5-23 only at the dropoff bin to be located in the employee parking lot just west of the Fire Department on Fourth Ave. Phone books will not be accepted in your recycling bin.

The article represented here are the views of individuals and not necessarily that of the Town.

Letter from Councilman Rondinone

I would have liked the opportunity to make this letter public, prior to our last Council Meeting. This was not possible because of a confidential agreement I made with Mr. Cotton. Mr. Cotton was the second candidate interviewed for the position of Town Manager.

Mr. Cotton was offered, and refused, the position of Town Manager. Deputy Mayor Frazier then promptly went to Florida Today and accused me of wrongfully causing Mr. Cotton's refusal and demanded my censure.

Now that the Cochran group, (Council Member Fischer, Deputy Mayor

Frazier, and Mayor Cochran) have publicly used Mr. Cotton's refusal for their political ends, I am at liberty of discussing completely all of the facts having a bearing on this incident.

The conduct forming the basis of Deputy Mayor Frazier's attack was merely that I contacted Mr. Cotton. That is the full and complete substance of her accusation.

My contact of Mr. Cotton was not unusual or inappropriate for Indialantic. When John Lynch was hired, Todd Deratany, then a Councilman, contacted each of the candidates personally.

At no time has there been any rule or procedure for Council about dealing with a Town Manager candidate, as is appropriate. The respective and equal obligation of each Council Member is to the voters and the laws of the State of Florida. This obligation is one of political independence. The Cochran group has demonstrated its opposition to that principle.

Even though their accusation lacked truth or validity, the Cochran group proceeded on their chosen course. That was to use the public process for a personal attack. The Cochran group's attack was made knowing, or having reason to know, their asserted facts were wrong or were not true.

The Cochran group, proceeding with a purely political motive, was dead set on publicly denouncing a wrong, where none existed.

All the Cochran group accomplished was a waste of Council's time, while preventing Council from its immediate task of hiring a Town Manager. Now that Deputy Mayor Frazier has continued her public denunciation in Florida Today, it is likely that any self respecting Town Manager candidate will think twice before becoming involved with Indialantic. This problem is directly attributable to Deputy Mayor Frazier's actions.

With Deputy Mayor Frazier's public airing of part of this story, I can tell the rest of the story. The people have a right to know.

Nothing that I did caused Mr. Cotton's rejection of the Town Manager position. It was none other than Mayor Cochran who was the significant contributor to Mr. Cotton's rejection of Indialantic.

I observed Mr. Cotton's shock and disappointment with the behavior of Mayor Cochran. In particular, it was the Mayor's failure to act with the dignity and professionalism required in his position. I believe that was enough to convince Mr. Cotton he was better situated out of the reach of Mayor Cochran.

It might have been otherwise, had Mayor Cochran restrained himself during the interview.

When Mayor Cochran asked Mr. Cotton if he knew why our previous Town Manager resigned, Mr. Cotton replied affirmatively. This was the second time Mayor Cochran asked that same question of a candidate.

I asked Mr. Cotton what he had learned from the previous Town Manager. It was a good opportunity to learn what, if any, ideas he had about our Town. More importantly, it was an excellent opportunity to observe how he responded to a sensitive question in front of Council.

It was then, Mayor Cochran, in an outburst of temper, shouted out the question will not be answered. Mayor Cochran's performance received instant approval of the Cochran group. The interview ended on that note.

I decided to drop my question rather than give Mayor Cochran another opportunity to continue his embarrassing performance.

Notwithstanding Mayor Cochran's outburst of temper, Mr. Cotton had other reasons for refusing the position. Mr. Cotton had just experienced an improvement in his present position and in his family's situation. He decided now was not the right time for a change.

That is not all that the Cochran group did to disrupt our hiring process. The Cochran group took the right of negotiation from the Council and placed it exclusively in the hands of Mayor Cochran. He then acted in bad faith negotiating with the Council's first candidate. That first candidate, a woman, rejected Mayor Cochran and his style of negotiation.

Our second woman candidate was the only candidate on the short list with Town Manager experience. While acceptable to a majority of Council, she was dismissed out of hand by Mayor Cochran. The Cochran group, following his lead, joined in lockstep.

Under these circumstances, with Mayor Cochran negotiating for the Council, can we reasonably expect to have a woman Town Manager? If not, that effectively removes from Council's consideration a number of viable candidates.

Getting back to Deputy Mayor Frazier, not content with abusing the process of our Council, she called on her Usual Cast Of Characters to join her in a stone throwing contest. We know these people as the Board of the Indialantic Homeowner's Association (IHA) and their sycophants.

It was this same group that agitated 1) for the 5th Ave. Median, 2) for a community redevelopment association (CRA) and 3) for a Main Street grant to revitalize our "historic and blighted" downtown. ("historic" and "blighted" are not my words but the word required for the grant)

It was this same group (IHA Board), which instigated the return of a \$76,000 grant for the Causeway and Riverside Park.

It is this same group (IHA Board) that now wants Town funds set aside and used for the same project, currently identified as the Causeway and Riverside Park Master Plan.

It was this group, in the person of Adela Gonzales, Carol Andren, and a few others, responding to Ms. Frazier's call for "outrage," that made me aware of how effectively I have served the best interest of Indialantic.

When elected, I pledged to terminate the Redevelopment Committee, stop the Main Street Program and to give the voters the right by Referendum to determine the future of the 5th Ave. Median. As I was reminded by Adela Gonzales, I have successfully worked with Council to accomplished 2 of these 3 goals.

I intend to continue to serve our Town, as I have in the past. My goals remain the same. That is to prevent the kind of disruptive redevelopment which eventually will turn our Town into a Cocoa Beach type tourist attraction and high rise neighborhood. I will continue to work to keep Council operating in an honest, open, and civil manner.

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LETTER FROM DEPUTY MAYOR FRAZIER

Dear Citizens of Indialantic;

Thanks again for your overwhelming show of support during the last election. The new Council has been able to move forward by establishing five short term goals, selected by 4 of the 5 Council members, as a means of

working together for the benefit of the Community. The goals as outlined are not in any ranked order:

1. Find and secure a new Town Manager
2. Plant and beautify the median
3. Master plan improvements to 4th and 6th Avenues
4. Follow through with the conceptual plans for beautification and improvements to the Causeway and Riverfront parks.
5. Improve communication through a monthly newsletter or e-mail notice.

We have been successful in approving the landscape/design plans for the median and preliminary work schedules have been set for planting to begin early March. Unfortunately, we have not been successful in securing a new Town Manager. We will begin the selection process again in order to ensure that the manager selected is our top choice and not just the available choice.

I know through my campaigning efforts that the **overwhelming majority** of Indialantic voters want to see beautification and planning efforts continue throughout the Town. However, the input from rational, positive, cooperative individuals is still necessary in order to see these projects through to fruition. Every project is an opportunity for community enhancement and cooperation. Working together we find answers. Therefore, if you want to see these projects happen we need to hear from you at the soon to be scheduled workshops. We need to hear from you at Town meetings or via correspondence. Please keep an eye out for upcoming community events!

Sincerely,

Deputy Mayor Lisa Frazier

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POLICE BEAT

I would like to begin by wishing everyone a safe and Happy New Year. Unfortunately, the increase in criminal activity that began in December has continued into the new

year. Since December 1998, the Police Department has handled 592 calls for service which included 24 burglaries and 4 sexual assaults.

As always, I am encouraging all residents to report any suspicious activity to the Police Department. I would also ask that residents gather their neighbors together and call on us to conduct crime watch programs in their homes. Allow us the opportunity to tell you how to make yourself, your homes and your property less of a target for criminal activity. We will share information with you about criminal activity in the Town and we will gladly answer any questions that you may have.

During 1998, the Police Department responded to 3,417 calls for service. Please remember that although we are a small and beautiful community, crimes do occur here. We need your help in reducing criminal activity and in solving crimes that have already occurred. I urge you to call us at 723-7788 and check our web site at www.indialantic.com for more information about your Police Department and the services we provide. Thank You.

Chief Jesse Geiger

FIRE FACTS

Dear Citizens of Indialantic:



Do you have at least one fire detector in your home?

If the answer is NO, please call your Fire Department at 723-0366. We can help make your home safer.

*Thanks to our State Fire Marshal, Radio Shack and the Eveready Battery Company, we are able to provide you with a smoke detector and the battery **free of charge**.*

We have received a limited number of units for our community. Fire department personnel will install them in your homes at no cost. Just call and make an appointment for a time convenient to you. It could save a life.

Also, we have recently initiated a memorabilia display at the firehouse. Our cabinet showcases some historical fire fighting equipment and we have room for more. If you come across any suitable items while rummaging through your attics or closets, please consider contributing or loaning them to teach and delight us all. And come by anytime to view our display.

Tom Barker, Fire Chief

A THANK YOU LETTER

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to our Fund Drive this year. Your support is greatly appreciated and helps us to upgrade and maintain our equipment and training.

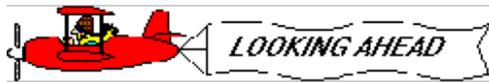
Please beware! We have been advised that some organizations are soliciting in the name of the Indialantic Fire Department. We want you to know that we do not benefit from this solicitation. If you would like to donate anything to your fire department contact us at 723-0366 or mail your donation, made out to the Indialantic Fire Department Volunteers, to 216 Fourth Avenue, Indialantic. We never solicit over the phone and only have one fund drive a year.

We are still collecting aluminum and encourage you to drop your cans off at the Fire Station. Every little bit helps.

Again we thank you for your steadfast support.

Jesse V. Geiger, Sr.

President, IFDV



A **FLEA MARKET and CRAFT SHOW** to benefit the Indialantic Volunteer Firefighters will be held Saturday, March 13, 1999 from 9 am to 4 pm at the Fire Station, 216 4th Ave. The fund raiser will feature lots of great bargains, crafts, prize raffles, delicious food and tours of the Fire Station. Phone 723-0366 to reserve a table or for more information. Support your volunteers!!!

*The **Above and Beyond Extreme Teams** from Boca Raton will be putting on an athletic demonstration Saturday, March 13 at Nance Park from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. Their program includes gymnastics, karate, drama, mime, rollerblading and slam dunk*

basketball. These team members have performed for the Miami Heat and the Orlando Magic at halftimes and should provide us with quite a show.



And here comes Peter Cottontail - hopping down that bunny trail and straight to Orlando Park. Once again, the Parks/Recreation/Beautification Committee will host their **Annual Easter Egg Hunt** on Saturday, March 27, beginning at 10:00 AM.

Boys and girls (large and small) are invited to share in the prizes and surprises as they search for hundreds of eggs hidden by the bunny and his helpers. See you there!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MARCH

- 9 10:00 AM Parks/Recreation
- 16 **7:00 PM Town Council**
- 23 5:30 PM Zoning and Planning

APRIL

- 13 10:00 AM Parks/Recreation
- 20 **7:00 PM Town Council**
- 27 5:30 PM Zoning and Planning

MAY

- 11 10:00 AM Parks/Recreation
- 18 **7:00 PM Town Council**
- 25 5:30 PM Zoning and Planning

The Sunset Review Committee meets every Tuesday at 3:00 PM at Town Hall.

The Volunteer Fire Department meets every Tuesday at 7:00 PM at the Fire Department, 216 Fourth Ave.

Upcoming openings on Boards and Committees for March and April: Budget and Finance Committee, Civil Service Board, Code Enforcement Board, Sunset Review Committee and Zoning and Planning Board. The Parks/Recreation/Beautification Committee accepts new members throughout the year. Applications are available at Town Hall and on our web site - www.indialantic.com

