

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Residents of Indian River Shores:

During conversations with many of you, two topics frequently surface. First, our Public Safety Department's presence on Highway A1A is often on the mind of our residents. Several years ago, I made the request for increased presence to the Department because I found that I could drive from the South border to the North border of Indian River Shores and not see one of our Public Safety officers. To me, that represented a weak or small Department, which is not true! Under the direction of Chief Bill Schauman, the restructuring of the Public Safety Department has resulted in increased efficiency and a definite presence along the main thoroughfare in our Town. Along with this comes a strong deterrent to criminal activity, with a significantly lower number of incidents than our neighboring communities. Your Public Safety Department is well-respected in the County. In February 2009, out of 400 total law enforcement agencies in the State, this PSD became one of 125 fully Accredited Departments. It took almost four years to establish procedures and to prove compliance in following them.



E. William Kenyon
Mayor

The second topic that everyone is curious about is the status of water and electric utilities service. With our long-term agreements with the City of Vero Beach approaching the renewal deadline, we are exploring our alternative options so that by October 2011, we may provide our five-year notification to renegotiate the contracts or our intent to discontinue service in 2016. The Town has also been participating in a Committee with the County and the City of Vero Beach since October 2009 to determine the feasibility of consolidating water, sewer and reuse water service.

Amidst economic turmoil everywhere, the Town's financial condition remains stable. The operating budget for FY09/10 is \$4,376,289, which represents a prudent decrease for the third year of over 1.815%. Also, for the third consecutive year we were able to maintain the millage rate of 1.3923 per thousand dollars of assessed value. Our current fiscal year property values in the Town of Indian River Shores decreased by \$57.5 million from \$2,582,984,861 to \$2,516,715,187. Last year the reduction was approximately \$50 million. However, our valuation is only about \$10 million under than that of the City of Vero Beach, whose Assessed Value for Operations was \$2,526,072,000. That is impressive for a town that is half of the land size and less than a third of the population of Vero Beach.

The Bureau of Economic & Business Research at the University of Florida estimates that the Town's population of year-round residents decreased by 25 to 3,804. We are very interested in the results of the U.S. Decennial Census, which are anticipated to be distributed in March 2011. Our response rate was 67% in 2000, and the 2010 participation rate in April was 78% - thank you!

We are pleased to offer the convenience of the Postal Center, the facilities of the Community Center, and the services of our Public Safety Department to our residents. When the atmosphere of the Town is accented with amenities such as these, it creates the type of environment that draws us here and compels us to stay in the Town of Indian River Shores. As Chairman of the Town Council, I thank all of our Town employees and volunteers for their continued loyalty and dedication. These individuals make our Town one of the premier communities in the State of Florida.