

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT



Robert J. Bradshaw
Town Manager

Even with state-wide cutbacks and reduction in allowable ad valorem tax rates, the Town has maintained the excellent level of service that you have grown accustomed to as a resident. We kept the FY 07/08 static millage rate of 1.3923, and strive to make the most of your tax dollars by carefully monitoring how they are used. For instance, we have built a reserve for emergencies or disasters to a comfortable \$2.4 million, which is almost 55% of the Town's FY08/09 operating budget. This Designated Emergency Fund is segregated in the General Fund balance.

The Public Safety Department has nearly completed the preparations necessary to apply for state accreditation, which included the renovation of the facilities.



The Building Department has been diligently implementing standards that should result in an improved ISO rating. Part of this effort involved developing the FEMA Flood Insurance website page and mailing newsletters to each residential address. Current flood insurance rates for Town residents are discounted by five to ten percent, and next year may reach the 15% level.

Part of the State's-mandated growth management program for municipalities requires that the Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) of the Comprehensive Plan is amended every five years, with the Town's EAR due in 2010. We are in the preliminary stages of that effort.

A considerable effort was made by Town staff and elected officials during 2008 to protect the Home Rule authority of the municipalities in Indian River County. This proved to be successful in the August elections, when the majority of residents in Indian River County voted for county commissioners who were not in favor of the county operating under a charter form of government. The charter county government was promoted as a way to control rampant growth, which it proposed to do through allowing voters to control the very complicated process of Comprehensive Plan amendments. It would simply add an unnecessary layer of government over the municipalities, and potentially over-rule the Town's autonomy and authority. A sincere "thank you" is offered to our residents who supported us in the effort to maintain our independent municipal status for your sake.

In spring 2009, two of our elected officials, Mayor Tom Cadden and Councilman Dr. David Becker, will conclude their term of office. Both were elected in 2001, and due to term limits, they are not able to run immediately for reelection. Mayor Cadden served as the Town's mayor his entire eight-year tenure. He was an extremely involved proponent in the successful purchase for preservation of the Lost Tree Islands, and was recognized in 2003 by the Florida Senate with a Medallion of Excellence Award for this effort. He sat on the Board of Directors of the Florida League of Cities (December 2004 – November 2008), as well as for a one-year rotation as the Chairman of the Treasure Coast Council of Local Government's board. He was instrumental in implementing the 175/185 Supplemental Pension plan and the 20-year step plan for the Public Safety Department's labor contract. He was also active in the protection of home rule for the Town. Councilman Becker served as Vice Mayor from 2005 – 2007, and represented the Town on the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) board for eight years. Beginning in 2005, he was the key initiator and was heavily involved in the implementation of the Town's website.

The staff and I continue to work diligently to protect you, the Town and its atmosphere. As always, you are encouraged to stop in or contact us through <http://www.irshores.com> with your comments and ideas.


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