

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT



**William "Bill" Schauman**  
Director, Public Safety Department

The Department's mission statement is: building pride through involvement. The Town of Indian River Shores Public Safety Department places a priority on communication, community needs, safety and education. Public Safety is unique in that almost all of its 21 officers are triple-certified with State licenses and certifications as a police officer, firefighter, and paramedic or emergency medical technician. The certifications and cross-training enables the officers to function in any of these three capacities, depending on the type of Public Safety services required, at any time.

Consistent with the Department's goal to provide Indian River Shores' residents with the highest level of service, the Department will soon culminate three years of preparation effort with application to the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement for Accreditation. Successful accreditation requires that the Department examine each aspect of its structure, operations, and responsibilities (39 components in all), and confirm that policies and procedures exist to handle each of 239 assessment

standards. These components include organizational structure, training, patrol duties, investigations, hiring, promotions, the volunteer program, public information, and fiscal activities. Importantly for Town residents, accreditation means that the Department has been subjected to a professional scrutiny of its operations, personnel practices, and training policies to ensure that the very highest standards relating to these activities are being met.

Training is also a critical component of the Department's commitment to service, and in 2008 the Department's officers successfully completed over 4,000 hours of training. Curriculums included vehicle extrication, felony stops, self-defense, CPR/first aid, HazMat, pre-fire planning, driving tactics, and EMT/paramedic re-certification.



The Department updated its website ([www.irspsd.org](http://www.irspsd.org)), which now includes the option to receive real-time ALERTS that are activated on-line and transmitted via cell phone or e-mail to a list of approximately 1,000 subscribers. An alert is sent whenever there is a suspicious incident, hurricane alert, or public health threat to the Town. The Department also continues to offer its free-of-charge health programs to residents, specifically File of Life, Are You OK?, and No Loves Lost, as well as its Vacation House Watch, crime prevention, fire prevention, and community liaison programs.

In 2008, statistics show that the average EMS response time was under four minutes, and a minimum of two firefighter paramedics were on duty at all times. The Department responded to 1,489 calls for service, with 883 (59%) police-related, 149 (10%) fire-related, and 457 (31%) medical assistance requests. The calls for service in 2008 increased approximately 3% from the previous year. Of great value to the Town and staff are the 18 citizen volunteers who contributed over 3,000 hours to such activities as accreditation management, office administration, courier/transport, and public information.

## PLANNING, ZONING AND VARIANCE BOARD

The Planning, Zoning and Variance Board (PZV) works closely with the Building Official and planners to apply the Land Development Code and Town ordinances provisions relating to: • aesthetics, harmony and compatibility of architecture and design; • landscaping; • vehicular and pedestrian traffic within building projects; • ensure technical aspects of the Town Building code are in place; and • determine recommendation to the Town Council to approve or deny requests for relief from compliance with the Building Code due to special circumstances or hardship. Monthly meetings are open to all residents in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

The PZ & V Board also sits as the Local Planning Agency when needed to provide recommendations on Comprehensive Plan changes to the Town Council.



**William "Bill" Beardslee**  
Chairman, PZV Board