

From: Laura Aldrich <townclerk@irshores.com>
Sent: Monday, October 1, 2018 4:53 PM
To: Laura Aldrich
Subject: News Alert from the Town of Indian River Shores

Dear Residents and Interested Parties,

There are a few items worthy of mentioning.

- Today, twenty one new laws that passed during the 2018 legislative session will take effect here in Florida. Briefly, they are:
 - SB 376: **Workers' Compensation Benefits for First Responders** will expand workers' compensation insurance benefits for firefighters, police officers, paramedics and emergency-medical technicians *who suffer from PTSD*. Under the new law, first responders who have witnessed the death of a minor or witnessed a death that involved "grievous bodily harm of a nature that shocks the conscience" can file workers' compensation claims for lost wages.
 - SB 1576: **Animal Welfare** The new law, named "Ponce's Law" after a 9-month old Labrador retriever puppy that was beaten to death in Volusia County last year, will *allow judges to bar people convicted of animal cruelty from owning pets*. The legislation also increases the severity ranking of animal-abuse related crimes. In addition to dealing with animal cruelty, the new law also creates policies and procedures for animal shelters to use following natural disasters, such as hurricanes, to return lost pets to their owners.
 - SB: 220 **Bankruptcy Matters in Foreclosure Proceedings** authorizes lienholders to *use certain documents as an admission* in an action to foreclose a mortgage, providing that the defendant has waived any defenses to the foreclosure.
 - HB 55: **Sale of Firearms** will allow people buying guns to *use credit cards to pay for background checks*. They have been required in the past to pay with personal checks, money orders or cashier's checks.
 - HB 135: **Motor Vehicle Registration Applications** requires that motor vehicle *registration applications must include language that will allow deaf people to voluntarily identify themselves as hearing-impaired*. The idea, which came from a Tallahassee police officer whose son is deaf, is intended to prevent communication issues with deaf drivers that could inadvertently lead to confrontations.
 - HB 523: **Trespass on Airport Property** increases penalties to a *third-degree felony* for people who trespass on airport property to injure other people, damage property or impede the operations of an aircraft.
 - HB 961: **Beverage Law** allows businesses such as bars to *receive up to 10 cases of branded glassware* (24 glasses per container) per year from brewers or importers to use for on-premises consumption.
 - HB 491: **Theft** increases the fine for *theft of a commercially farmed animal or bee colony*.
 - HB 581: **Subpoenas in Investigations of Sexual Offenses** authorizes law enforcement agencies to issue and serve subpoenas in investigation of specified sexual offenses.
 - HB 617: **Covenants and Restrictions** authorizes certain *parcel owners of a community, not subject to HOA*, to use specified procedures to revive certain covenants.
 - HB 1065: **Expunction of Criminal History Records** revises the circumstances under which *the Department of Law Enforcement must issue* a certificate of eligibility for the sealing of a criminal history record.
 - HB 1337: **Nursing** defines the term "advanced practice registered nurse" and provides for certain application requirements for nurses desiring to be licensed APRN.
- In order to vote in the **November elections**, the **last day to register to vote** in the County is **Tuesday, October 9**. If you have a Florida Driver's License, you can register to vote online at www.registertovoteflorida.gov . If not, you must take or mail a completed form to the [Supervisor of Elections Office](#). A **sample ballot** for the November election as Town Residents would see it is available here.
- The Board of County Commissioners is proclaiming **Saturday, October 13** as Breast Cancer Awareness/**Wear Pink Day**, so you may notice people in pink as you drive around the area!
- Work has begun on rebuilding the **Community Center**. Site prep is in process, and onsite temporary electric was requested from the City of Vero Beach.

- Staying aware of **tropical weather** is still important, with TS Leslie expected to kick up rip currents. **Red tide** was confirmed in Palm Beach County and **is suspected** on Treasure Coast beaches, so please be cautious if you see dead fish on the shores.

Thank you for your continued interest!

Respectfully yours,

Laura

Laura Aldrich, MMC

Town Clerk, Indian River Shores

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IMPORTANT NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from municipal officials are public records and are available to the public and media upon request. *Your e-mail communications may be subject to public disclosure as part of a public records request.* If you do not want the potential for your e-mail address to be released, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact us by phone or in writing.-- F.S. 668.606