



# BLUE RIBBON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

April 2018

Newsletter@indianriverfarmshoa.org

Hello Neighbors

The board of directors have had several resignations beginning with Matt Merciez in February followed by Tonya Anderson, Erick Kearns and Cindy Rauch in April.

These 4 positions were filled by appointment at the April HOA meeting.

Your current BOD is as follows:

<i>Donald Darcy</i>	<i>President</i>
<i>Diana Merciez</i>	<i>Vice President</i>
<i>Sun Betancourt</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Tina Sudduth</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>Jim Smith</i>	<i>Member at Large</i>

These new members will serve out the remainder of the officers term that they replaced.

To Matt, Tonya, Erick and Cindy, we thank you for serving on the IRF board and for all that you have done to support our neighborhood.

For anyone who is unfamiliar with our website or the community facebook page, I have listed below the contact information for each.

### **Our website address:**

*Indianriverfarmshoa.org*

This is the official page for our HOA. You will find our governing documents, rules and regulations, board meeting minutes, previous newsletters as well as other information.

### **Our Facebook Page, *The New Indian River Farms*,**

is open to anyone who lives or owns in IRF. To be accepted into the group simply go to our page on FB and click on the 2 heads at the top of the page. This will alert our administrator to accept your request. FB is not an official site for HOA information or business.

### **EMAIL Addresses:**

*boardofdirectors  
@indianriverfarmshoa.org*

*newsletter@indianriverfarmshoa.org*

Our manager / United Property Assoc.  
*mpyoung@unitedproperty.org*

## From the Editor

Remember, this is a COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER, meaning anyone can submit an article or an advertisement for your business. Articles can be submitted via email to [Newsletter@indianriverfarmshoa.org](mailto:Newsletter@indianriverfarmshoa.org)



The Board voted at the November HOA meeting to begin mailing the newsletter to all homes in IRF. This will be in black and white. A color copy can be found on the website

## 2018 HOA Meetings

MAY	8
JULY	10
AUGUST	14
SEPTEMBER (SATURDAY)	15
community day/annual meeting	
OCTOBER	9
NOVEMBER	13



Post card reminders will continue to be mailed out by UPA. If any changes to the date a meeting will be held you will be notified in advance.

We will continue to have topics of interest listed on the card and if able, will have the full agenda posted on the website.

Welcome to the board  
Mr. James Smith

Hi, I'm Jim and my wife Stacy and I have lived in IRF since 2006. We have 2 children, our son Nathan is in 6th grade and our daughter Natalie is completing 4th grade. We are originally from Canton, Ohio and as many before us, Virginia became our home courtesy of the U.S. Navy. I served active duty for 14 years before transitioning to the Navy Reserves as a Chief Petty Officer.

I have supported my community as a volunteer EMT with Station 16 on South Plaza Trail for 5 years. I currently am employed as a Security Manager at Norfolk Naval Station. Stacy is a Registered Nurse.

My desire to serve continues with this position on the BOD and I hope to assist my community and foster relationships with my neighbors.

Welcome to the BOD  
Mrs. Diana Merciez

Hello!

I have been a resident of IRF since 2003 having moved here from San Diego. My husband Matt and I have 4 adult children, 3 sons and a daughter and 3 grand-daughters. We also are owned by one very lively white German Shepherd, named JoJo.

I am self employed in our photography business. Prior to relocating to Virginia I spent 20 years as a Financial Advisor / Stockbroker for Merrill Lynch and UBS. In 2005 I became an independent insurance agent; a business which I sold in 2013 when Matt and I moved to Japan for his job with the Norfolk Naval Shipyard.

I hope my passion for bringing about resolution through communication will be utilized as a board member. I look forward to serving all of you.

## Looking Back

This is a new column in the newsletter that will “look back” at the most recent BOD meeting and report on items of interest that were discussed.

This is for 2 reasons:

1. Not everyone can attend board meetings but this doesn't lessen the interest in what is happening in our community.
2. While minutes of the meetings will cover this information and more, these can not be made public until they are approved by the board at the following meeting. This obviously presents a time delay.

: The BBQ grill in the park is missing a grate. Have you seen it?

: The light to the sign at the front of the neighborhood has been malfunctioning due to a cord not being properly secured. This is being addressed.

: A bid from a landscaping company was accepted by the board to have the HOA owned portion of the BMP on KDD cleaned up.

## Volunteer Clean Up April 28 10am - 3pm

The weather is finally starting to get nice and spring is here! A few of us have come together and decided to have a community yard clean up day on April 28th. This is for anyone who wants to participate and get their yard and water banks cleaned up. If you do want assistance with getting your yard cleaned up, it is expected that you will be helping, too.

We will plan to work from 10am to 3pm. If you would like to join in, please visit the neighborhood facebook page and comment or contact Mark Young @ [mpyoung@unitedproperty.org](mailto:mpyoung@unitedproperty.org)



WE NEED YOU !!!

The Architectural Review Board (ARB) has an open slot and the board is looking for a volunteer who wishes to serve on this committee.

When certain exterior alterations are to be performed on a home, an application explaining the alteration is submitted to our Property Manager, Mr. Mark Young at United Property Associates. He in turn sends this to the members of the ARB to review to make sure it is within the architecture guidelines outlined in the rules and regulations portion of our governing documents.

Once per quarter a walk through of the common area is done and any issues are reported to the board of directors.

If you would like to serve on this committee the board invites you to contact Mark Young and let him know. You can email him at [mpyoung@unitedproperty.org](mailto:mpyoung@unitedproperty.org)

WE NEED MORE  
OF YOU !!!

As of this writing, IRF is without a Social Committee.

If you would like to serve on this committee please reach out to our HOA Manager, Mark Young and let him know of your interest.

The only qualification necessary to serve on this committee is a sincere desire to be part of planning the FUN that makes any neighborhood a great place to live.

We appreciate all who have served in the past as well as those who have pitched in to help.

You may mail mail your interest to :  
[mpyoung@unitedproperty.org](mailto:mpyoung@unitedproperty.org)





## Yard of the Month..... it's that time again!!!

Last year a group of judges made up of a members from the board, ARB and social committee selected a yard that met the criteria and the homeowner was awarded a gift certificate to Home Depot.

The judging criteria is as follows:

Visual Attractiveness - Yard must be visible from a public street or sidewalk.

- Beautification - Yard must improve look of the home and neighborhood.
- Overall Maintenance - Well maintained grass, hedges, flower beds, etc.
- Winners may win only one time per calendar year  
1 yard will be chosen during the following time periods: April/May, June/July, August/September
- The winner will receive a sign they can display in their yard.
- The winner will be featured on FB as well as in the Newsletter.

The judges will change each time period.

## KUDO'S TO THE KIDS



Our spotlight on kids is shining bright on 17 year old Shannon Wilms. Shannon is the daughter of Aron and Janet Wilms and is a Senior at Tallwood High in the Global Studies and World Language Academy.

Being in this program requires the completion of a senior project that identifies a global issue and make that the main theme of their project.

Shannon chose to focus on Neurodiversity and chose art as the medium to showcase this issue.

Neurodiversity is a concept where neurological differences in people are recognized and respected. These differences can include Dyspraxia, Dyslexia, ADD and ADHD, Autistic Spectrum, Tourette Syndrome, as well as many others.

The project needed to include at least 9 hours of work to complete, a minimum of 25 people involved, the set up of a website and a 10 minute presentation after which the panel of judges conduct a Q and A session.

Shannon didn't think small when she began conceptualizing her idea almost a year ago. Under the guidance of 2 instructors at TWHS, Vicki Turner and Tricia Campbell and outside advisor Sam Welty, she designed a mural that takes up 2 entire walls of the building that houses the company Aermore LLC. The building located at 207 Business Park Dr. in Virginia Beach was donated by owner Penny Morgan, who also is a resident of IRF. The mural illustrates what Shannon sees as a global issue where individuals who are part of the neurodiversity population are seen as less than those individuals who are neurotypical.

Shannon showcased this issue using the autism speaks ribbon since it is the most recognizable symbol among the various neurodiversity diagnosis. She also used the images of butterflies due to their beauty once they complete their metamorphous. So many times we dismiss individuals without looking to see their true beauty or realizing their capability.

To put this into practice she had volunteers from TWHS AP Art class, Special Education and Global Studies come out and work together to paint the mural. By pairing the kids that wouldn't typically gravitate towards each other she was able to break barriers and the social stigma that kids and adults face on a daily basis.

With donations of paint and supplies from Sherwin Williams and other businesses as well as a very generous discount from Sunbelt Rentals for the boom, Shannon was ready to get her project off the ground! (pun intended)

At sunset on March 22nd she projected the image onto the walls and then traced the outline. On Friday the students arrived and the painting began



Reporters from both Channel 3 and 10 came out and conducted interviews for an evening news segment. Upon seeing the news several individuals and families were inspired to come out and volunteer to paint or to simply offer verbal support. Many friends of Shannon's and her family as well as employees of Aermore got in on the fun, too. By Sunday the mural was complete and I feel I can speak for everybody when I say we were in awe of the finished project.

Even though the official presentation to the TWHS judges hasn't happened yet she has presented her project to a panel at United Healthcare for which her project was chosen out of all the

presenters to receive an award of \$500. Shannon chose to donate these monies to the Tidewater Chapter of Autism Society of America.

Shannon is also active outside of her studies as a softball player for Tallwood HS as well as for the Vipers which is a travel softball team. She is also currently taking part in a 12 week internship at the Virginia Beach Museum of Modern Art.

Shannon has a dual enrollment which means in addition to high school she is also taking college level classes in Psychology and English at TCC.

She will begin her college career at Longwood University in the fall. She will be majoring in Neuro-Psychology with a concentration in art. Her goal is to earn a doctorate and work as a neuro-psychologist or she may pursue a medical degree in neuro-surgery.

One thing I am sure of is that she will succeed at whatever she decides to pursue.

If you would like to see more photo's of her mural please visit:

[www.merciezphotography.com](http://www.merciezphotography.com)  
click on the Portfolio Tab

You can also check out her website @  
[Shannonwilms.weebly.com](http://Shannonwilms.weebly.com)



## Kickin' It In The Kitchen

submitted by: Theresa Bell

### KANSAS CITY BBQ SAUCE

32 oz ketchup  
1 c. dark brown sugar  
1/2 c. cider vinegar  
2 T yellow mustard  
2 T Worcestershire sauce  
1 T liquid smoke  
2 T chili powder  
1 tsp fine ground black pepper  
2 tsp ground ginger  
1 tsp dry mustard  
1 tsp allspice  
1 tsp cayenne (or to taste)

Combine all ingredients in sauce pan over medium high heat. Bring to a boil and reduce heat. Stirring and blending as the sauce heats. Simmer 30 minutes on low heat.  
Cool and refrigerate.

Yields approximately 6 cups

## Board Meeting Conduct

**We realize that sometimes our emotions and passion run high when discussing various topics. This is a good thing because it means individuals care and are engaged in what is happening.**

**Unfortunately this has led to displays of uncivilized behavior toward board members as well as other homeowners who were present at bod meetings.**

**Going forward, yelling, speaking in a rude or belligerent manner will not be tolerated. Any person(s) engaging in this type of conduct will be asked to leave the meeting.**

# ROBERT'S RULES Of Order

Per the IRF bylaws we are to be using Robert's Rules of Order to conduct our board meetings. Outlined below is the order of how the meetings will be conducted.

*Call to Order*

*Welcome and Introductions*

*Approval of minutes*

*Homeowner Forum*

*Management Report*

*Treasurer Report*

*Committees Report*

*Old business*

*New business*

*Comments / Announcements*

*Adjournment*

If you are unable to attend a meeting but have a comment or question for the board, you may email these to:

[boardofdirectors@indianriverfarmshoa.org](mailto:boardofdirectors@indianriverfarmshoa.org)

Here are some key objectives for all meetings.

1. During Homeowner Forum all comments will be addressed to the board. No other homeowner should comment unless called upon by the speaker to clarify. Homeowners will remain respectful at all times.
2. Homeowner Forum will be limited to 3 minutes per speaker. Those who request speaking time are asked to sign up prior to the meeting's call to order. A sheet will be provided.
3. Upon closing of Homeowner Forum all further discussion will take place by the board members. They may call on a homeowner for input however at no other time should homeowners interrupt or interject. If a homeowner has something to add that is pertinent they are asked to raise their hand and wait to be acknowledged by the board president.
4. Board members during discussions shall each have an opportunity to weigh in. Each board member shall be given the opportunity to speak when discussing a topic. Board members shall remain respectful to others in attendance at all times. If needed, a second round of discussions will take place once everyone has the chance to weigh in.

**INDIAN RIVER FARMS OWNER'S ASSOCIATION**  
**APPLICATION FOR ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW**

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**PLEASE MAIL OR DELIVER TO:**

INDIAN RIVER FARMS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION  
525 South Independence Blvd., Suite 200  
Virginia Beach, VA 23452  
Phone No: (757) 497-5752      FAX No: (757) 497-9133

**WARNING:** Exterior alterations commenced without prior approval of the Architectural Review Board (ARB) are in violation of the covenants and at the applicant's own risk. (Read your Indian River Farms documents thoroughly. Please review all the Conditions, Restrictions, Easements, Charges, and Liens.)

**FROM:**      (Please print in ink or type.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Ph: \_\_\_\_\_      Work Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION FOR:**      (Check appropriate work.)

- |  |   |                                       |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping/Grading   | <input type="checkbox"/> Patio          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fence                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Shed           | _____                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deck                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Pool           | _____                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Repair or Replace     | <input type="checkbox"/> Satellite Dish | _____                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exterior Finish/Color | <input type="checkbox"/> Hot Tub        |                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Play Structure        | <input type="checkbox"/> Driveways      |                                       |

**DESCRIPTION OF ALTERATION:** Supplemental sheets, sketches, plats, all city and state permits, and architectural drawings, fully describing the proposed alteration, must be attached before the ARB will review the application. In case of an exterior color change, a sample of the new color, along with a description of the existing color, must be submitted. **Please submit written explanation of alteration when necessary, on separate sheet.**

**NOTE:** The ARB has thirty (30) days from the date a complete application package (including required signatures, plats showing location of alteration, pictures, and/or sketches of alterations, etc.) is received to approve, deny, or respond in reference to each application. By signing below, you acknowledge that if the modification(s), as constructed, differ in any way from those described herein, your approval will not extend to such modification(s).

Applications are to be received in the Association Office no later than the twentieth (20) of the month in order to be reviewed at the next ARB meeting, which is one week prior to the Board meeting. Any application received after the twentieth will be reviewed at the next subsequent meeting.

OWNER'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

# Business Advertisements

## Merciez Photography

Designing custom portrait sessions to capture your story and retell it in beautiful and timeless works of art.

[merciezphotography.com](http://merciezphotography.com)

**Maternity - Newborn  
Family - H.S. Seniors**

**757-515-2404**



*Need help in planning that family Vacation, Weekend Get-A-Way or that Bucket List Adventure? I'm here to help and right in the neighborhood. Call and together we can make it happen.*

*Mike Bongiorno*

*Travel Consultant*

*757-217-7428*

*[bungie@time4vacation.com](mailto:bungie@time4vacation.com)*

Let us make your holiday meals the easiest ever !!

**Cherry wood Smoked Turkey and Ham**

2016 World Champion Female Pitmaster Finalist

**Champion BBQ at Backyard Price**

**Bigdogbbqva.com 757-619-0704**

**Theresa@bigdogbbqva.com**

