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Ring...Ring...

Rutherford B. Hayes was the first president with a telephone. After it was installed, he spoke with Alexander Graham Bell who was 13 miles away. Hayes immediately banished wine and liquor from the White House because he wanted to be a good example for the citizens. White House guests were not appreciative. He was ridiculed and his wife was called "Lemonade Lucy" since she refused to serve anything stronger than lemonade.

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN VOTING PROGRAM

Every spring, the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections office joins with local elementary and middle schools to conduct elections for the Sunshine State Young Reader's Award Program (SSYRA). The SSYRA is a statewide reading motivation program for students in grades 3 thru 8.

The SSYRA provides a master list of book titles for the school year, one for grades 3-5 and one for grades 6-8. A student must read at least 3 books on the list to participate in the balloting. Students cast their votes on the AVC Edge touch screen voting machine.

Statewide, the authors receiving the highest number of votes in each grade category will be de-



clared the winners of the Sunshine State Young Reader's Award contest for the current year.

books are invited to the annual conference of the Florida Association for Media in Education to receive award recognition.

Our office contacts all Indian River County Schools both public and private to participate in this program

Student voting will begin on March 28th and continue through April 28th. This program encourages reading and citizenship through voting.

If you know a child that is participating in this program, ask them which book they liked the best.

VOLUME V ISSUE II

SPRING 2011



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
POLL WORKER POST

A Message from Your Supervisor

On March 7th I received a telephone call from Governor Rick Scott announcing my appointment as Indian River County's new Supervisor of Elections. I am truly honored and humbled to receive this appointment from Florida's Governor. I will work diligently to ensure the integrity and transparency of the election process here in Indian River County.

Recently, I have taken on the project of creating a Municipal Elections Contract which spells out the responsibilities of the Supervisor of Elections office and the responsibilities of each municipality. Florida Statute does not mandate that

the Supervisor of Elections must conduct municipal elections. It is up to each municipality if they would like the SOE to conduct their respective elections.

Indian River County has only had to print a one-card ballot for every past election. Municipalities have been charged a set fee per registered voter, without stipulation of ballot space requirements. Lengthy ballot referendums could result in the Supervisor of Elections incurring additional expenses for multi-card ballots. Our new Municipal Election Contract sets elections fees including fees for additional ballot cards. With

the results of the 2010 Census forthcoming, it has yet to be determined if Indian River County will be required to print ballots in a second language, thus adding to the size of the ballot, and the possibility of additional ballot cards.

And the work continues.....



IMPORTANT ABSENTEE BALLOT INFORMATION

Don't forget to submit your absentee ballot request for 2011 and 2012.

As a result of the MOVE Act, an absentee ballot request is no longer valid through two federal general election cycles. Absentee ballot requests are now valid through only one federal general election cycle. If you requested absentee ballots in 2010 and wish to vote by absen-

tee ballot in the upcoming elections please submit a new absentee ballot request. You may make an absentee ballot request for a specific election or you may make a request for all absentee ballots through the next regularly scheduled general election. If you make a request for all elections you will receive all absentee ballots in which you are

eligible for during 2011 and 2012. When submitting your absentee ballot request please make sure that we have your correct mailing address, Per Florida law absentee ballots are not forwardable by the post office. You may request an absentee ballot by calling our office at 772-226-3440 or go to our website: voteindianriver.com then click on Vote By Mail Information.

Reapportionment: The allocation of congressional seats among several states.

The U.S. Constitution requires states to periodically redraw electoral districts to account for population shifts. The U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 2 establishes that apportionment of the House of Representatives is based on a national census. The 2010 United States Census reported 308,745,538 people living in our country.

“Apportionment” or “reapportionment” refers to the allocation of seats among units, such as the allocation of congressional seats among the states or legislative seats among counties.

“Redistricting” is the process of adjusting electoral district boundaries. District boundaries determine which voters can take part in electing a representative. Redistricting ensures that citizens have equal representation in the U.S. House of Representa-

tatives, State Senate, and State House. Redistricting also ensures equal opportunity to elect representatives who citizens choose. The purpose of redistricting is to divide all voting districts up to be as close to one person, one vote as possible.

In Florida, different areas experience different rates of population growth. Areas that grow faster than the state average are entitled to more representation. Conversely, areas that grow slower than the state average lose representation. Districts that gained population will shrink, while districts that lost population will grow in size. Even where a district’s population grows at the same rate as state average, district boundaries may change. As a result of the 2010 Census, Florida gained an additional two seats in the U.S. House of Representatives

for a total of twenty-seven state-wide.

It is our job, at the Supervisor of Elections office, to work with our county commission and school district, along with the Senate and House Reapportionment Committees to map out the voting precincts in Indian River County. During the months of January through March of 2012, these plans will be submitted to the state legislature to be adopted by joint resolution. Next the Attorney General petitions the Supreme Court for judgment. If no objections, new districts take effect within 60 days. Redistricting may merit precinct changes for some voters in Indian River County.

Redistricting:
The formation of new district boundaries

Sheriff’s BBQ



Staff members Cathy Boyle, Tricia Verdugo and Supervisor Leslie Swan had a great time when they attended the Sheriff’s BBQ.

Citizens were offered a chance to register to vote or update their existing registration. The EViD was used to look up voters to obtain their information on record.

It seems we always see some

of our poll workers either attending the event or working the event.

The hard work of the Sheriff’s Office and participation of the community resulted in a \$40,000 donation to the Florida Sheriff’s Youth Ranch.

We hope to see you again next year and thanks for participating in such a worthy cause. Good Job!!

MOTOR VOTER REGISTRATION

Congress enacted the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) of 1993, widely known as the motor voter law, to make it easier for eligible applicants to register to vote and to increase registration rates. The NVRA requires states to provide citizens with an opportunity to submit voter-registration applications by registering to vote at the same time that they apply for, or seek to renew, a driver’s license (hence the name “motor voter”).

Budget cuts have forced the state of Florida to close all branches of the Department of Motor Vehicles. With all motor vehicle branches in Indian River County shutting down, residents will have to go to a different place to serve their needs. The county tax offices are taking over - offering driving tests, learner’s permits, and even processing suspended licenses.

On Wednesday, January 26th, 2011, several employees from the Supervisor of Elections office visited the Tax Collector’s main office in Vero Beach to observe the voter registration procedure and discuss innovative

ideas to ensure an accurate and efficient registration process.

Leslie Swan and staff members, Kathy Crockett and Anne Kroh, met with Carole Jean Jordan, Indian River County Tax Collector, and several of her staff to gain a better understanding about how the motor/voter process is executed at the Tax Collector’s office.

Citizens may register to vote at the same time that they apply for, or seek to renew, a driver’s license. The examiner asks the applicant if they would like to apply for voter registration, change an address or party affiliation, or update their signature. Anyone who registers to vote or makes any changes to their voter registration record will have their information electronically transmitted to the Supervisor of Elections office.

The Supervisor of Elections office has provided all three local tax collector offices with a printed notice to distribute to each voter, informing them to contact the Supervisor of Elections office if they do not receive

correspondence from the Supervisor of Elections within 30 days. The Tax Collector’s office will also forward a hard copy of the applicant’s registration form to the Supervisor of Elections office on a weekly basis so that elections staff can verify that the electronic copy has been accurately transmitted to the Supervisor of Elections data base. The Supervisor of Elections office wants to make every effort to ensure that everyone who registers to vote at the Tax Collector’s office is placed on the official election rolls.

Supervisor of Elections staff members will be presenting seminars to staff at the Tax Collector’s office with helpful information regarding book closing dates, the importance of updating voter’s signatures, and handling voter questions.

The Supervisor of Elections and Tax Collector encourage all citizens to take advantage of this easy, accessible process to register or make changes to voter records while applying or renewing their driver’s license.

Scheduled Elections for 2011

November 8, 2011

For the Cities of Fellsmere, Sebastian and Vero Beach