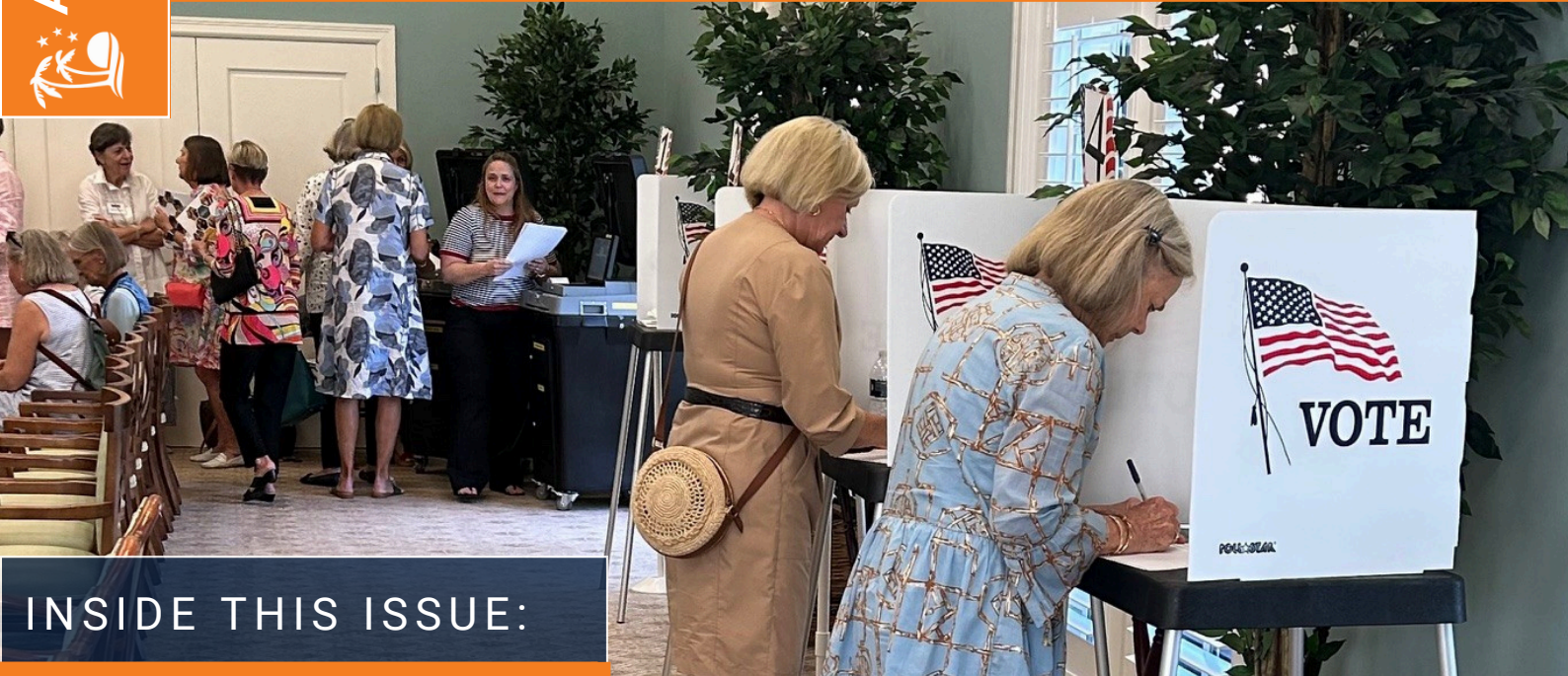




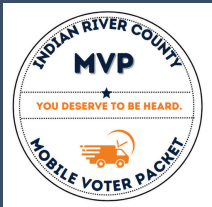
# SPRING '25 NEWSLETTER



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 **Message From Your Supervisor**



Elections Administration Coordinator Katie Otto oversees the processing of petitions at the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections office.

# Major changes ahead

## New bill tightens rules on citizen initiative petitions

### Leslie R. Swan

Florida’s legislative landscape is shifting yet again when it comes to citizen-led ballot initiatives.

House Bill 1205, signed into law during the 2025 legislative session, focuses on tightening the rules for initiative petitions – efforts by citizens to propose amendments to the Florida Constitution by gathering signatures to qualify the measure for the ballot. The bill imposes new requirements for how petition signatures are collected and reported, as well as new rules for who can participate in the process.

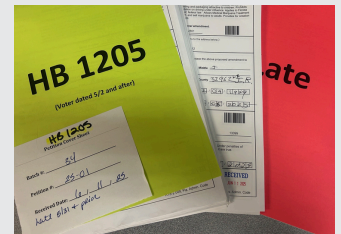
The new law requires paid petition circulators and volunteers to register with the Secretary of State and undergo circulator training. Those who sign petitions must attest that they are registered to vote in Florida and they must include a current and valid Florida driver license number, Florida ID card number, or the last four digits of their Social Security number on the petition form.

The bill prohibits prefilled petition forms and also copying or retention of voter information listed on the form. Petition forms must be submitted to the supervisor of elections in the county in which the voter resides within 10 days after the voter signs the form.

Supervisors of Elections must notify any voter

### By the numbers

The Indian River County Supervisor of Elections office is staying busy verifying initiative petitions this spring and summer. All petitions are checked and signatures verified by our elections staff. After many hours of



petition verification, the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections office processed 8,310 initiative petitions by July 1 for the 2026 Election Cycle.

whose petition is verified as valid. The purpose of the notification is to provide the voter the opportunity to dispute that they signed the initiative petition form. The notification must be sent by forwardable mail and include a postage, prepaid, preaddressed form to the Office of Election Crimes and Security.

Additionally, the bill addresses sponsor registration, provisions for petition circulators, financial impacts, the certification process involving constitutional amendments, public funding, and criminal penalties related to petition activities.

For complete details of the bill please visit <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1205>.

 **Community Outreach**

# Getting students election ready



Indian River County Supervisor of Elections staff members have been visiting county high schools to help students get registered to vote. Students can pre-register at age 16 and become eligible to vote when they turn 18 years old. Elections Specialist Lori Lansing is pictured here with Vero Beach High School senior Deonte Stinson during a visit to the school in May.

Sebastian River High School student Dublin Duffel gives a thumbs-up after registering to vote during a voter registration drive in May at the school. The Supervisor of Elections Office is dedicated to providing voter registration services and educational programs to students and adults. If you would like to schedule a Democracy Days Civics Presentation, facility tour or guest speaker, call 772-226-4700 for more information.



## REGISTERED VOTERS IN INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

(As of June 26, 2025)

- DEMOCRAT - 25,703**
- REPUBLICAN - 60,415**
- NPA - 24,198**
- OTHER - 4,284**
- TOTAL - 114,600**

## LET'S GET SOCIAL

Be sure to like and follow us on social media to receive frequent updates and accurate information from your trusted source of voting and election information in Indian River County.



**#VOTEINDIANRIVER**



### COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Impact 100 Indian River members cast votes for grant recipients at the nonprofit's 2025 annual meeting on April 16 at Oak Harbor. The Indian River County Supervisor of Elections Office provided the ballots and tabulating machines to count the votes. Story on Page 6.



# New staff additions at SOE office

## By Elections Staff

Paul James, Lori Lansing and Angela Harvey are welcome additions to the staff at the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections Office. Lansing and Harvey are part of the front office staff, working as Elections Specialists; James joined the Information Technology Department as an IT Specialist.

### Paul James

James joined the team in October 2024. He previously served the Supervisor of Elections Office for five years as an Election Systems and Software (ES&S) field service representative and as ES&S's national technical trainer for precinct and high-speed tabulators.

James holds a bachelor of science degree from Florida Institute of Technology and a master's degree from Liberty University. Paul and Joyce, married for 26 years, have four adult children and five dogs.

### Lori Lansing

Raised in upstate New York, Lansing moved to Indian River County in August 2024 with her husband, Richard, to be closer to their new grandson and escape the cold N.Y. weather.

Her career has always been in customer service.

"I have a passion for helping people," said Lansing, who holds a bachelor's degree in Information Technology from Capella University.

Lansing was hired as a temporary employee in Fall 2024 to help with the November General Election; she continued on a part-time basis in 2025, but was officially hired full-time in April.

"I'm extremely thankful to be working with such a great team of people here at the Elections Office,



Paul James



Lori Lansing



Angela Harvey

**"The election process has always intrigued me, so I decided to volunteer as a poll worker for the Primary Election of 2024."**

– Angela Harvey, Elections Specialist

learning more about the elections process, and helping my new community," she said.

In her free time, Lansing loves spending time with family, including two grown children and three grandchildren; taking walks with the dogs, going to car shows, and sitting on the lanai enjoying the Florida weather.

### Angela Harvey

Harvey and her son, A.J., moved to Vero Beach in 2021 from Ely, a small mining town in northern Nevada.

While living in Nevada, Harvey managed a historical general store with an original soda fountain from the 1940s. She also worked part-time at a local spa as an esthetician.

"Although we loved Ely very much, I wanted to be closer to my family after the uncertainties of COVID, so we packed up and moved to Florida," said Harvey. "When I arrived, I quickly got a job at Quail Valley Country Club, where I met my future husband, Von. We were married in a beautiful beach ceremony in July 2023."

Harvey started at the Elections Office in mid-2024 as a volunteer elections worker.

"The election process has always intrigued me, so I decided to volunteer as a poll worker for the Primary Election of 2024," she said. "When a full-time position opened up, I jumped at the opportunity to start a new career that I am so passionate about."

"The past several months I have enjoyed learning the ins and outs of the daily office procedures," said Harvey. "I never realized the extent of the elections process and I am so impressed with how well the day-to-day duties are implemented and managed so that it all flows with precision. I am truly blessed for the opportunities I have been given here."



# SOE earns 'Clearies' award

Mobile Voter Program recognized by U.S. Election Assistance Commission, earns Clearinghouse Award for Communications

**By Elections Staff**

The Indian River County Supervisor of Elections was recognized on April 16 for excellence in election administration with a national Clearinghouse Award for Communications: Distinguished Voter Education and Communications Initiatives.

Also known as the "Clearies," the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) presents the awards program annually to celebrate the hard work of election offices across the country.

Now in its ninth year, this year's Clearie Awards honored programs that took place during the 2024 presidential election year.

The Indian River County Supervisor of Election's Mobile Voter Program was one of 53 programs that was recognized with a Clearie Award. The program was a collaboration with the Senior Resource Association of Indian River County to deliver election information and increase civic engagement to those who may be homebound or have limited mobility.

"Reaching eligible voters is crucial, but often many individuals face barriers to accessing voting information. By partnering with the Senior Resource Association, the Supervisor of Elections team was able to personally engage those served by the Association.

"The Clearies recognize impactful election programs across the nation and the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections team is truly honored to receive this distinguished award," said Supervisor of Elections Leslie Rossway Swan.



Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan, right, and Logistics & Equipment Manager Joe Crowley deliver Mobile Voter Packets to the Senior Resource Association's Meals On Wheels Distribution Center in early January 2024. More information on the Clearies and each awardee is available on [eac.gov](http://eac.gov).

The Clearies play an essential role in fulfilling the EAC's mission to serve as a clearinghouse for election administration information under the Help America Vote Act.

The EAC is an independent, bipartisan federal agency solely focused on election administration. Submissions were judged on innovation, sustainability, outreach, cost-effectiveness, replicability, and the generation of positive results.

EAC Chairman Donald Palmer, Vice Chair Thomas Hicks, and Commissioners Christy McCormick and Ben Hovland praised the 2024 Clearie winners in a joint statement:

"This year's Clearinghouse Award-winning programs truly shined amid the high voter turnout in 2024. They are examples of the outstanding work election officials did to support tens of millions of voters during the presidential election. After nearly a decade, the Clearinghouse Awards continue to grow with a record number of entries received this year. These programs show how state and local election offices are the incubators of innovation. We are pleased to lift their ideas up and celebrate them on a national stage.





# Impact 100 awards 7 grants

SOE provides ballots, tabulating machines to count votes

**By Elections Staff**

The Indian River County Supervisor of Elections was honored to assist Impact 100 Indian River tally votes during the nonprofit's 2025 Annual Meeting & Grant Awards Celebration held April 16 at Oak Harbor.

Impact 100 Indian River awarded \$466,000 to seven nonprofits at its 17<sup>th</sup> annual meeting.

The four \$100,000 grant recipients were:

- Indian River Soccer Academy – Fellsmere Player Development Program: Expanding soccer training opportunities for underserved youth in Fellsmere, promoting teamwork, discipline, and community engagement.
- Treasure Coast Community Health Inc. (TCCH) – Oslo Pediatric Dental Equipment: Improving pediatric dental care access by equipping the Oslo facility with state-of-the-art dental technology.
- United Against Poverty of Indian River County – Generating Impact: Powering Disaster Relief in Indian River County: Enhancing local disaster response capabilities by providing resources and infrastructure for emergency relief efforts.
- Youth Guidance of Indian River County – The Culinary Academy: Offering hands-on culinary training to at-risk youth, equipping them with valuable life skills and career opportunities.

In addition, three nonprofits each received \$22,000 Merit Awards:

- Hibiscus Children's Center - Supporting Families in Crisis: Providing crucial support services to families in crisis to prevent child abuse and neglect while strengthening family stability.
- The New Port Club – Transformational Change: Building a Better Day Open House Project: Creating a dedicated space to support individuals in recovery, offering resources for long-term wellness and sobriety.
- Tykes and Teens – Family Peer Support: Empowering families through peer support programs that address youth mental health challenges and strengthen family resilience.

At the annual meeting, Impact 100 members listened to presentations from each finalist before casting their votes to determine the grant recipients. For the 10<sup>th</sup> year, the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections Office provided the ballots and tabulating machines to count the votes.

Impact 100 Indian River is a women's collective giving organization dedicated to empowering nonprofits through high-impact grants.



Impact 100 Indian River members listened to presentations from each finalist before casting their votes to determine the grant recipients at the nonprofit's 2025 Annual Meeting & Grant Awards Celebration held April 16 at Oak Harbor. The Indian River County Supervisor of Elections Office provided the ballots and tabulating machines to count the votes.



At left: Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan explains the voting process to members of Impact 100 before the vote was taken to award grants to seven nonprofit agencies. At right: SOE Elections Administration Coordinator Katie Otto helps an Impact 100 member cast her ballot.



Each member contributes \$1,100 annually, pooling resources to fund transformational projects that address the most critical needs in Indian River County.

Since its inception, Impact 100 Indian River has awarded over \$6.6 million in funding, changing lives and strengthening nonprofits across the county.

# Creative minds

## SOE staff prepare decorations for 2025 Employee Health Fair

By Elections Staff

Candidate Coordinator Anita Wheeler tapped into her creative side this year when she joined the planning committee for the 2025 Indian River County Employee Health Fair. Her job: Design the decorations.

Working with the theme, “A Century of Health in Paradise,” Wheeler crafted a plan to create palm trees, palm fronds, tropical flowers and other decorations to use to depict the theme. She recruited the help of her coworkers to take the plan from paper and pencil to fruition.

She attended committee meetings every other Thursday from January until the day of the event, June 12.

Between meetings she scoured the internet for ideas on how to make the palm trees, videos on how to cut palm fronds from craft paper and tropical flowers from tissue paper. Coworkers Angela Harvey, Lori Lansing, Katherine Bauman, Jenny Obergfell and others brought the ideas to life.

Swimming pool noodles were bound together and covered with brown packing paper to make the palm trees. The fronds were cut from tissue paper and coconuts made from styrofoam balls.

The Employee Health Fair, held in Building A of the County Administration Complex, is a great opportunity for county staff to take proactive steps toward a healthier lifestyle and to learn more about resources available to them. The services offered included an AngioScreen, Biometric Screening and Mammogram Imaging Bus. There also were health and wellness vendors, raffle prizes, giveaways and food and beverage trucks.



At left: Anita Wheeler carries a palm tree into Building A of the Indian River County Administration Complex. Below: SOE staff members Lori Lansing, left, Jenny Obergfell and Angela Harvey prepare to hang decorations on June 11 at County Administration Building A.



At left: Anita Wheeler looks over the hanging of the county banner.

 **SOE Election News**

# SOE staff prepare decorations for 2025 Employee Health Fair



SOE staff members started in January designing and creating decorations to depict the theme of the 2025 Indian River County Employee Health Fair, "A Century of Health in Paradise." County Administration Building A was decorated on June 11 for the June 12 health fair. SOE employees pictured here include Jenny Obergfell, carrying a palm tree; Angela Harvey, holding the prizes she won at the fair; Katherine Bauman, Maureen Houssell and Daisy Zamora, in front of the "Century in Paradise" photo screen; and Zamora and Obergfell hanging decorations.

 **Community Outreach**

## 2025 Community Career Fair



The Indian River County Elections Office participated in the School District of Indian River County's Community Career Fair on May 2 at the Gifford Youth Achievement Center. Attendees were able to register to vote, update their voting record, learn about the 2025-26 elections cycle and renew vote-by-mail requests. Elections Specialist Angela Harvey staffs the booth at the Career Fair.



### Summer conference in Orlando

Supervisor Leslie Swan, left, and Chief Deputy Maureen Houssell attended the Florida Supervisors of Elections Summer Conference in Orlando from May 18-21. Talks about best practices, voter outreach ideas and a reflection on the 2024 election cycle took place.

# PRECINCT MAPS AVAILABLE

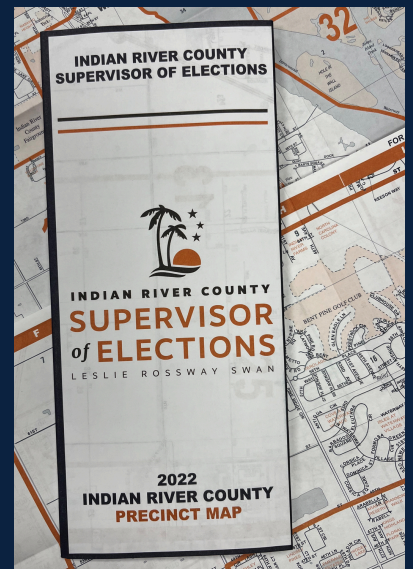
Hot 🔥 off the Press!

Indian River County's voting precincts were redrawn in 2022 based off 2020 Census data.

Maps depicting the new precinct boundary lines are now available online and in print.

An interactive digital Dolph Map is online: [voteindianriver.gov](http://voteindianriver.gov).

Printed precinct maps are available at our office from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The first map is free; additional maps are \$5 each.





Vote By Mail Coordinator Daisy Zamora, right, and Elections Specialist Angela Harvey, left, visit Rosewood Magnet School in March to conduct the Sunshine State Young Readers Award program.

# Young readers take part in SSYRA

By Elections Staff

With the help of the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections, 1,063 students from five district schools got the opportunity to vote for their favorite Sunshine State Young Readers Award book. SSYRA was conducted Feb. 12 to April 3.

“Every year our office facilitates voting for Indian River County schools in the Sunshine State Young Readers Award,” said Daisy Zamora, SSYRA coordinator for the SOE office.

SSYRA is a program that encourages children in grades K-8 to read independently for pleasure and to read books that they believe will improve their reading fluency. The students then get to vote on their favorite book from their school’s reading list.

The Elections Office facilitates voting through DoubleClick Democracy, an online ballot that allows students to vote for their favorite book.

The ballot, programmed by the Elections Office, uses the book title and a picture of the book cover to allow students to identify their favorite book. Students receive a certificate for their participation in the election. The results are emailed to each school.

The program is a great way to encourage reading and introduce students to the electoral process. It is never too early to educate students on the importance of voting.

“We look forward to the SSYRA elections in 2026,” said Zamora.



Above: Pelican Island Elementary School students receive certificates for participating in the 2025 Sunshine State Young Readers Award program. Below: Vote By Mail Coordinator Daisy Zamora, standing center, talks to students at Pelican Island Elementary about SSYRA.





# 'Future voters' tour SOE office in May

By Elections Staff

Preschool children and staff from the Early Education Center of First Methodist Church, Vero Beach, visited the Supervisor of Elections Office in mid-May.

Anita Wheeler, Candidate Coordinator at the Elections Office, prepared a fun and creative experience that had the children learning about the voting process, from voter registration to casting ballots.

The children also toured the building, learning about voting by mail from Daisy Zamora, Vote By Mail Coordinator; the petition process from Katie Otto, Elections Administration Coordinator; election worker training from Angela Harvey, Elections Specialist; warehouse operations from Paul James, IT Specialist; and information technology from David Cruz, IT manager.

The Elections Office strives to ensure all county residents - from the very youngest to the oldest - are informed about the voting process and to learn every voice matters.

For more information or to schedule a tour, contact the Elections Office at 772-226-4700.



Preschool children and staff from the First Methodist Church Early Education Center listen to Vote By Mail Coordinator Daisy Zamora during a tour of the Elections Office in May.



Above: Anita Wheeler, left, and Katie Otto, stand for a group photo with the preschool children from First Methodist Church's Early Education Center. At left: IT Manager David Cruz talks to the preschool children about voting and ballot tabulation.



Candidate Coordinator Anita Wheeler talks to preschool children from the Early Education Center of First Methodist Church.





## Captured on Camera



## New addition

Leslie and Michael Swan's daughter and son-in-law Courtney and Pablo Alvarez welcomed to the world Pablo Aramis Alvarez III at 4:47 a.m. June 21, weighing in at 8 lbs., 9 ounces and 20.25 inches long.



Pablo Aramis Alvarez III

## Watch for SOE videos!

Be sure to like and follow the Indian River County SOE on social media as we launch "Fun Fact Fridays." The goal is to debunk election myths and misinformation.



## Scholarship winner

Riley Kesterson, right, of Indian River County, recently received the Joe Oldmixon Scholarship from Supervisor Leslie Swan, left, as one of three \$1,200 scholarships awarded in 2025 by the Florida Supervisors of Elections. Kesterson is a rising Senior attending Florida State University.

## Good job, IRC SOE!

During the Florida Supervisors of Elections Conference in May, Commissioner Donald Palmer, chairman of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, recognized Supervisor Leslie Swan and the Indian River SOE office for receiving a



Clearie Award for the Mobile Voter Program. This innovative program was born out of the office's mission to connect with those traditionally harder to reach Indian River County residents.



# Vote by Mail Renewal Notice

*Aviso de renovación de voto por correo*

**Your Vote by Mail request has expired!**

*¡Su solicitud de votar por correo se ha vencido!*

## Ways to Renew your Request:

*Formas de Renovar su Solicitud:*

- 1** Scan the QR Code to request online  
*Escanea el código QR para solicitar en línea*



- 2** [Click for fillable Statewide Vote-by-Mail Request form](#)

*[Haga clic para un formulario de solicitud de voto por correo estatal](#)*

- 3** Call 772-226-4700  
*Llame al 772-226-4700*



Clip and Save

## INDIAN RIVER COUNTY POLLING LOCATIONS

Precinct(s)	Polling Place	Address	City	Zip
1, 12, 13	Lakewood Village Clubhouse	1455 90th Ave	Vero Beach	32966
2, 3	Fellsmere Community Bible Church	12 N. Hickory St	Fellsmere	32948
4, 9	North County Public Library	1001 Sebastian Blvd	Sebastian	32958
5, 6	Sebastian Community Center	1805 N Central Ave	Sebastian	32958
7	Sebastian Church of God	281 Delaware Avenue	Sebastian	32958
8	Sebastian Elks Lodge No. 2714	731 South Fleming St	Sebastian	32958
10, 11	Sebastian Christian Church	190 Day Dr	Sebastian	32958
14, 16	School District of Indian River County	6500 57th St	Vero Beach	32967
15, 17	Realtors Association IRC	3250 67th St	Vero Beach	32967
18	Gifford Community Center	4855 43rd Ave	Vero Beach	32967
19	Central Assembly of God	6767 20th St	Vero Beach	32966
20	Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall	1590 27th Ave	Vero Beach	32960
21, 22, 24	Our Savior Lutheran Church	1850 6th Ave	Vero Beach	32960
23	Unity Church of Vero Beach	950 43rd Ave	Vero Beach	32960
25	Vero Beach Moose Lodge #1822	226 43rd Ave	Vero Beach	32968
26	Morning Star Church	698 Timber Ridge Trail SW	Vero Beach	32962
27	Royal Palm Clubhouse Vista Royale	400 Woodland Dr	Vero Beach	32962
28	Intergenerational Recreation Center	1590 9th St SW	Vero Beach	32962
29, 30, 31, 32	Indian River Shores Community Center	6001 Hwy A1A	Indian River Shores	32963
33	Christ By The Sea UMC	3755 Hwy A1A	Vero Beach	32963
34	Holy Cross Catholic Church	500 Iris Ln	Vero Beach	32963