



VNA Welcomes New President & CEO Erik Kolacinski

VERO BEACH, Fla. - (Monday, January 15, 2017) — The Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) of the Treasure Coast is pleased to announce that it has selected Erik Kolacinski as its new president and CEO. Kolacinski, who most recently served as senior vice president for Care South Health System in Georgia, has extensive experience with physician-ordered home healthcare, private duty nursing and hospice, all core service lines offered by the VNA.

"I am very excited to be part of the VNA and their long-standing history," says Kolacinski. "From the short time I've been here, I've seen the incredible dedication the VNA staff has for our patients and the commitment the organization has to this community."

Kolacinski has over 15 years of experience in the healthcare industry with a strong emphasis on collaborating with healthcare providers to

improve patient outcomes and the quality of healthcare delivered to the community. He previously had direct oversight of field clinical operations and sales for a home health and hospice organization with revenues exceeding \$175 million. He brings to the VNA an expertise in operational efficiency and business development strategies.

"We could not be more excited to have Erik join the VNA as our new chief executive," adds Sue Tompkins, chairman of the VNA Treasure Coast board of directors. "In addition to his industry experience, Erik's energy, enthusiasm, and passion for our mission will help us drive healthcare solutions in the communities we serve."

The VNA is the only non-profit home care and hospice provider in Indian River County. For over 40 years, this community has trusted VNA nurses, therapists, home health aides and staff to care for them in their homes. Patients and families benefit from the VNA's unique ability of offering a continuum of care through the organization's main service lines of home healthcare, private care and hospice. The VNA also provides daily community wellness services through its no-cost blood pressure and blood sugar clinics, flu program and the VNA's "Health Care on Wheels" mobile health clinic.

For more information about the VNA, please visit www.vnatc.com.

About the VNA

The Visiting Nurse Association (VNA), a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, provides home healthcare services—including Medicare-reimbursed and private-duty nursing; home health aides; physical, speech, and occupational therapy; in-home companions; and personal transportation—throughout Indian River County. The agency is also the only licensed hospice provider in Indian River County, offering end-of-life care in patients' homes, local hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities, and the VNA Hospice House. The VNA also provides community wellness services such as flu vaccinations, no-cost blood pressure/blood sugar screenings, and speakers on health-related topics for local community groups.



Kirk Gibson, Dodger legend, visits Historic Dodgertown, reminisces about the 1988 World Series

Kirk Gibson, who started his Dodger career at Historic Dodgertown, Vero Beach, Florida 30 years ago in preparation for the 1988 season, returned to the iconic training site this weekend. Peter O'Malley, Historic Dodgertown Chairman, welcomed the 1988 National League MVP to the multi-sport training and conference center for a visit. Gibson's son, Cam, a professional baseball player in the Detroit Tigers organization joined him.

From stepping back on the Holman Stadium field to seeing his former clubhouse, and from eating in the dining room and taking a few swings at the batting cages, Gibson took it all in and shared stories at each turn, especially about his teammates and famous World Series Game 1 home run.

"Kirk Gibson holds a special place in Dodger history and all of us at Historic Dodgertown enjoyed welcoming him this weekend," said Historic Dodgertown Chairman Peter O'Malley. "Kirk has extraordinary memories of Vero Beach and Spring Training. Kirk's professionalism and commitment to winning has made a lasting impact on the Dodger organization."

"I have been thinking a lot lately about 1988, being the 30th anniversary of our World Championship," said Gibson. "Because I was in Florida, I took the invitation of Peter O'Malley to stop by and relive being part of the organization's great accomplishments that year. I was really overwhelmed with the positive atmosphere this special place brings to me."

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Dodgers winning the 1988 World Series. And of course, Gibson's pinch-hit World Series Game 1 home run.

Signed as a free agent by Dodger Executive Vice President, Player Personnel Fred Claire prior to the 1988 season, Gibson set the tone early for the Dodgers. During Spring Training, Gibson was the recipient of a clubhouse prank and made it clear to his teammates that he was here to win.

And win they did.

In the regular season, Gibson hit 25 home runs and had 76 RBI to lead the Dodgers. He won a National League (NL) Silver Slugger award as an outfielder and was second in the NL in runs scored with 106. That year he was awarded the NL MVP.

In the 1988 World Series against Oakland, no one thought Gibson was able to participate because of leg injuries. He was hobbling around and barely able to walk, let alone run.

But, in Game 1, Dodger manager Tommy Lasorda thought Gibson could take one at-bat to help the team. It turned out that is all the Dodgers needed. With the Dodgers trailing, 4-3, Gibson miraculously pinch-hit in the bottom of the ninth inning and hit a two-out, two-run, full count, walk-off home run against Hall of Fame relief pitcher Dennis Eckersley, which turned the tables on the A's and propelled the Dodgers to a 5-4 victory. The Dodgers won the 1988 World Championship in five games, capturing the title in Oakland on Oct. 20.

Gibson's incredible home run was voted the "Greatest Moment in Los Angeles Sports History" by the LA Sports Council and is one of Major League Baseball's all-time great and dramatic home runs.

While touring Historic Dodgertown this weekend, Gibson saw memorabilia from 60 years of Dodgers history displayed in Championship Hall, the Jackie Robinson Room, Roy Campanella Room and Campy's Bullpen, the Bruce Froemming Umpire Room and more.

In Championship Hall's 1988 Room, his autographed jersey is framed below Vin Scully's famous quote: "In a season of the improbable, the impossible has happened."

Gibson addressed students at the Minor League Baseball Umpire Academy and recalled "discussions" with umpires, and surprised campers from the Baseball Factory, Softball Factory and The Coaching Camp. His advice: stay positive and don't let adversity discourage you from being better prepared the next time.

Gibson added, "Most of all, it was an honor to be able to share Historic Dodgertown with so many people today who love our great game."

Always remembered as a hero in Dodger lore, Gibson played three seasons in Los Angeles (1988-90).

To view this article on the web please click [here](#).

FPL to apply federal tax savings toward \$1.3 billion cost of Hurricane Irma to prevent increase in customer rates

- Because of federal tax savings beginning in 2018, FPL will not need to raise rates to pay for the unprecedented Hurricane Irma restoration – saving each of FPL's 4.9 million customers an average of \$250
- Already among the lowest in the nation, FPL's typical 1,000-kWh customer bill also will drop to nearly 30 percent below the latest national average with a decrease of \$3.35 a month that will take effect March 1 with the completion of Hurricane Matthew recovery
- Tax savings in future years may enable FPL to continue the current rate agreement and avoid a general base rate increase potentially through the end of 2022

JUNO BEACH, Fla. – Florida Power & Light Company today announced that customers will not pay a surcharge for Hurricane Irma restoration as previously expected. Instead, FPL plans to apply federal tax savings toward the \$1.3 billion cost of Hurricane Irma restoration, which will save each of FPL's 4.9 million customers an average of approximately \$250.

In addition, FPL may be able to use future federal tax savings to continue operating under the current base rate agreement beyond the initial term, which covers through 2020, for up to two additional years.

"The timing of federal tax reform, coming on the heels of the most expensive hurricane in Florida history, created an unusual and unprecedented opportunity. We believe the plan we've outlined is the fastest way to begin passing tax savings along to our customers and the most appropriate approach to keeping rates low and stable for years to come," said Eric Silagy, president and CEO of FPL.

Hurricane Irma was one of the largest, most powerful storms to ever hit Florida, and FPL's response was unprecedented both in scale and the speed of power restoration. The company had previously announced its intention to begin recovering the \$1.3 billion restoration cost by implementing a surcharge on customer bills through 2020.

The ability to leverage the federal tax savings in this way is afforded by FPL's current base rate agreement, which was negotiated with the Office of Public Counsel and other customer groups and approved unanimously by the Florida Public Service Commission in 2016. The agreement set parameters for base rates and storm surcharges from 2017 through at least 2020.

"Our current rate agreement provides the ability to use federal tax savings to entirely offset Hurricane Irma restoration costs, which delivers an immediate benefit to customers, and also the potential opportunity to avoid a general base rate increase for up to an additional two years," Silagy said.

Keeping customer bills low

While the prices of almost all products and services have risen in recent years, FPL's typical 1,000-kWh residential customer bill has remained very low. In fact, FPL's typical bill is lower today than it was more than 10 years ago.

Already among the lowest in the nation, FPL's typical 1,000-kWh customer bill will drop to nearly 30 percent below the latest national average with a decrease of \$3.35 a month that will take effect March 1 with the completion of the recovery of costs for Hurricane Matthew.

FPL's Typical 1,000-kWh Customer Bill

2006	Current	March 1, 2018
\$108.61	\$102.72	\$99.37

As of March 1, FPL's typical bill will be approximately 15% lower than the state average and 29% lower than the U.S. average, according to the latest available data.

Sources: State average (\$116.61) reflects November 2017 bills reported by 42 Florida electric utilities; U.S. average (\$139.86) is based on Summer 2017 bills from 175 utilities, published by the Edison Electric Institute



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- Social security cards or itins for you, your spouse and any children
- W-2 forms from all jobs worked in 2017
- Form 1095 - A, B, C (if applicable)
- A blank, voided check for direct deposit
- Disabled dependent expenses
- Childcare expenses, including the provider's address and federal id#
- Mortgage company statements
- Alimony paid or received
- Any notices received from the IRS
- Property tax bills
- College tuition and student loan interest statements
- Gambling/lottery winnings



Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

FREE Tax Preparation

If you made \$55,000 or less



Call 211 for a VITA site
near you

February & April: WALK-INS ONLY. Appointments in March only.

United Way of Indian River County
1836 14th Ave. Vero Beach
Mondays 4-7pm, Fridays 9am-3pm
Saturdays 10am-3pm

Fellsmere Location
21 S. Cypress Street
Thursdays 4-7pm

Chamber of Commerce
700 Main St., Sebastian
Tuesdays 4-7pm

Community Center
8586 64th Drive, Wabasso
Mondays 5-7pm

Questions about VITA in Indian River County? Call 772-203-5766



United Way of
Indian River County



Morgan • Jacoby • Thurn • Boyle &
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Upcoming Events

**LIVE
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HIP HOP

**“AN EVENING OF LOVE”
DANCE FOR PAWS**

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Seeking Donations for Young Burn Victim

Woody's is seeking donations to help a precious young girl, 14 year old Ft. Pierce local Layne Chesney. As many of you may know, Layne sustained 3rd Degree burns over 95% of her body New Year's Eve at a friend's bon fire as they were roasting marshmallows. All of her body, but the bottoms of her feet, was burned. Layne is a 9th grader at Lincoln Park Academy and plays shortstop for the Varsity Softball team. Please consider donating to help Layne and her family with ongoing yearlong medical expenses. 100% of ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO LAYNE'S FAMILY THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 12th by TEAM WOODY'S SEBASTIAN FOR LAYNE. You may donate in person at the restaurant or call 772-581-5767 to make arrangements to pick up your donation. Every penny will make an impact in her recovery finances.

Link to FB Page: <https://www.facebook.com/woodysbarbqsebastian/posts/1985510694795693>

Regularly Scheduled Networking Events

Every Wednesday: Exchange Club of Sebastian meets at noon at Capt. Hiram's

2nd Thursday of each month: Sebastian Area Women in Business meets at 8am at Captain Hiram's. Breakfast is available for purchase. All business women are welcome to join us. Meet other women in business and enjoy interesting presentations and lively conversations!

The Rotary Club of Sebastian meets every Thursday at 12:15 p.m. at Vic's Pizzeria & Italian Restaurant. The 1st Thursday is our business meeting and the rest of the months meetings have speakers. Guest are welcome to see what Rotary is all about and listen to a speaker. Lunch is \$15 if you choose to eat. Come join us if you are interested in joining the club. We have many projects and fund-raisers for members to help our community. <http://www.sebastianrotary.com/> 772-581-3199

Employment Opportunities

Is your organization seeking employees? Send your information to info@sebastianchamber.com and we'll post it on our jobs board. To see all job listings [click here](#)