



FEBRUARY 2008
LIDOKEYRA@GMAIL.COM

LIDO KEY MATTERS

PRESIDENTS NEWS



We are thrilled that we are, once again, back in business with our newsletter, *Lido Key Matters*. We are very fortunate to have a new Lido resident and new LKRA member, Nigel Mould, step forward and offer to lead the effort to create and distribute a newsletter to our residents. Nigel has an incredible background and numerous talents that will help us provide an excellent newsletter for our members. Nigel has accepted the challenge with much enthusiasm and positive outlook. Thank you, Nigel!

We hope you enjoy our new format. The focus of our newsletter will be on providing timely news in an easy to read format. Your comments are welcome. This communication is flexible and evolving. So....sit back and enjoy the news!

Sandy

Sandy Bower
President

WHAT MATTERS?

Hey, we have a “new” newsletter....so what should we put in it? That’s a good question. There is little point in re-hashing news that everyone already read in the Herald Tribune or saw on SNN. We would like to make sure that “Lido Key Matters” contains news and information, that is relevant to our island. We have the ambition to issue the newsletter on a more frequent basis, possibly monthly. We plan to send the news by e-mail first and follow up by post to those of you without e-mail; this saves money and is better for the environment, it also means non-residents will be able to stay up to date on island news.

Now, you all have information to share and we would love to hear from you. Please send comments, letters, ideas and questions to LidoKeyRA@gmail.com...

DATES TO REMEMBER

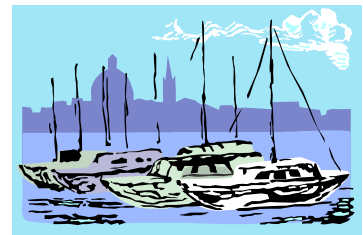
FEB 27TH SUNSET COCKTAILS



Get to know your island neighbors at the LKRA “Sunset Cocktails on Lido Beach” at 5.00pm on Feb 27th (rain date 28th). Location is the Sun and Surf Colony Beach Club, bring your own beverages and chairs, everything else is provided. RSVP to Debbie Comer at 388-9813.

MARCH 25TH ANNUAL DINNER

Please note the date for our LKRA Annual Dinner at the Sarasota Yacht Club – March 25th....details to follow!



CHANGES TO NORTH LIDO BEACH PARK



North Lido Beach Park was purchased by the City of Sarasota in 1977. The park contains an upland area with 49 acres of Australian pine woods, grassy savannas and walking trails, plus 22.5 acres of beach and mangroves. Until recently the park was largely overgrown and, quite honestly, had developed a less than salubrious reputation. All that has been changing.....

After years of individuals trying to “clean up” the park, Sarasota County has finally been making concerted efforts to remove many of the Australian pines and Brazilian peppers and has been restocking the park with native plant species. In addition, there has been a general clearing of overgrown areas and detritus and many of the Racoons have been relocated off the island. Many of the native birds have been returning and a nesting Bald Eagle has already been spotted....

All this change has made the park much more family friendly, hopefully the park will continue to develop a new reputation!



SARASOTA MARATHON

Don't plan on getting off the island on Sunday morning, March 2nd! The Sarasota Marathon course runs around both Lido Key and St.Armands, so get up early and come out to cheer on and support the runners. Check out details at www.sarasotamarathon.com where they are also looking for volunteers to help hand out water etc.



There is a proposal to ban smoking on Lido beach? What do you think? Let us know whether you are for it or against it at LidoKeyRA@gmail.com

THANK YOU – A huge thank you to all who contributed to the food bank collection at our annual breakfast. We collected 160 pounds of food and \$25 in cash; enough to feed 140 people less fortunate than ourselves.

LKRA PRIORITIES 2008/9

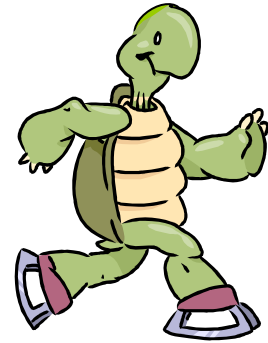
Designating priorities helps focus on those issues that are most important to our residents. With so many issues and such limited resources, prioritizing is a necessity for the LKRA Board. Members have approved these priorities in the past and are welcome to contribute in the future as the Board works to evolve their priorities based on changing needs on the island. For now, LKRA is focussed on: Managing Growth and Development, Beach Renourishment, Traffic & Safety, Landscaping and Beautification, Parks, Beaches and Natural Lands.

Give your input to Sandy Bower at 388-3703 or write to Lido Key Matters at LidoKeyRA@gmail.com

MORE OF LIDO KEY MATTERS.....

MORE RUNNING?!

Get fit and help our neighbors at Mote Marine by taking part in the 22nd Annual 5K Run for the Turtles on Siesta Key Beach, April 5th. Can't run? No excuses, there is also a 1 mile "walk" for those of us who are not as fit anymore. Details from www.active.com or www.mote.org or call 388-4441 ext 257. All proceeds benefit Mote Marine Laboratory's Sea Turtle Research and Conservation Program.



SOUNDING OFF

Opinion Corner

So the tax amendment passed and now we finally have our profligate Commissioners working under some limits. Catastrophe was prophesized but never happened, instead all our leaders seem to be busy asking what we want to cut and how they should deal with the situation....Strange, I thought our tax dollars were paying them to do their jobs and take responsibility to make the decisions.

In any case, the tax amendment seems like curing the symptoms not the disease, although at least the new amendment treats our non-residents a little more fairly and it should help the ailing housing market. Let's hope the politicians actually get their act together and create a more equitable state tax regime for the future. Hope, but don't hold your breath.....

Nathalie de Vazeille, Polk Dr N.

Views expressed here do not necessarily reflect the views of the LKRA, its Officers, Board or the newsletter Editor.

SOMETHING TO SAY?

Want to get something off your chest? Sound off in circa 150 words to the Editor at LidoKeyRA@gmail.com and get your letter printed in an upcoming newsletter. Please try and keep it relevant to Lido Key, residents and property owners.

Editor reserves the right to shorten submissions as necessary and, in case of multiple submissions, the Editor will make a final decision on which letter(s) to print.

SAFETY ON LIDO

Year-end crime statistics showed that Lido Key is a very safe neighborhood in which to live. Most crime is opportunistic so one of the easiest "fixes" to prevent crime, is to lock your car and your home doors and windows. The beach and park parking lots are especially vulnerable to theft.

WELCOME SIGNS

Our "Welcome to Lido" neighborhood sign on South Presidents Boulevard has been damaged by vandals and is currently being repaired by City Public Works. This is very disappointing as the sign was recently renovated and repainted. Three months ago, the "Welcome to Lido" sign at Polk and Ringling was also vandalized, and then repaired. Our thanks to the Sarasota Public Works Department for quickly responding and restoring our neighborhood signs. If anyone would like to organize a neighborhood crime watch, please let us know, and we'll put you in touch with the appropriate individuals.

LIDO BEACH POOL

Many residents and visitors are unaware that Lido Beach Park is home to a beautiful, heated pool, with handicap access in the pool. We have requested that the City install signage near the pool noting the pool facilities. We hope this will help increase attendance as it is one of the most under utilized swimming pools in the County. This is a great time to visit the heated pool with the Gulf water temperatures at about 66 degrees.

MORE OF LIDO KEY MATTERS.....

LKRA JANUARY BREAKFAST

Breakfast was enjoyed by 130 members and an additional 30 members joined us after breakfast to hear our keynote speaker, Robert Bartolotta, City Manager of Sarasota. County Commissioner Nora Patterson provided background on the upcoming property tax referendum vote. Fire Chief Brian Gorski provided a status report on the St.Armands Fire House. The fire personnel and equipment are being housed at the Lido Pavilion during the reconstruction of Fire House #3 on St.Armands.

The Lido Citizen of the Year award was presented to Lt. Jeff Karr, Central District Commander, Sarasota Police Department. Jeff was recognized for his long-term commitment to enhancing the quality of life on Lido Key through his safety and environmental efforts. He was commended for his ongoing education efforts with the general public attending our parks, as well as his work with school children who come to Lido to help plant native plants that replace the non-native trees and plants that are being removed. Lt. Karr has helped maintain and enhance the environmental health of the public lands on Lido, and has improved park safety and access for all residents and visitors.

2008 MEMBERSHIP DUES AND NEW MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Annual membership dues are payable by February 29, 2008. Don't forget the Membership Drive contest that is still ongoing. Register the most new members and be eligible to win a \$100 gift certificate to the Lido Beach Resort. If you need membership-drive applications and rules, please call Beth Dilworth at 388-2865.

LIDO KEY
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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