

Events Calendar

All Membership Meetings held at *Lido Beach Resort* 8th floor, **9:00 am** on the 3rd Saturday of the month:

NEXT MEETING: January 16th, 2027 9:00 AM at St. Armand Key Lutheran Church Kathy Kelly Ohlrich, Mayor of Sarasota

ANNUAL BREAKFAST MEETING: Saturday, February 13, 2027 9:00 AM at the Lido Beach Resort with Karie Friling, Sarasota City Manager tickets $30.00

MEET & GREET: December 8th 2nd Tuesday of the Month 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm: At Lido Key Resort, 8th floor lounge

LKRA'S 5TH ANNUAL BEACH PARTY: April 2, 2027 5:30 PM on the Beach at the Lido Beach

Presidents Letter

Dear Lido Key Residents Association Members,

Welcome back for the season! I hope everyone is enjoying the cooler weather here in Sarasota and on Lido Key. It is a pleasure to welcome returning friends and neighbors as we begin another season together.

Our meeting this past Saturday featuring the Florida Studio Theater presentation was well attended. The presentation was very interesting and informative and I want to thank everyone who joined us.

This fall newsletter includes articles on several important developments taking place on Lido Key. Among them is the undergrounding of our electric utilities, which is currently in the engineering and design phase with the City of Sarasota.

Another matter the city is working on is the establishment of a parks district for all city parks in Sarasota. This topic will be discussed at the City Commission meeting on December 7.

Our breakfast meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 13, and our guest speaker will be the new city manager, Karie Friling.

Lastly and most importantly, we are accepting donations for the Lido Key Scholarship Fund for Mote Marine. We would like to present these donations to Mote Marine at our breakfast meeting in February. We appreciate your generosity and support.

Our next meeting will be held in January 16th 9:00 am at St. Armand's Lutheran Church, featuring a presentation by our new city mayor, Kathy Olrich. We look forward to welcoming her and encourage everyone to attend.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, Seasons Greetings, a Happy New Year, and a safe holiday season.



I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings and enjoying a wonderful season together.

Warm regards,

Carl Shoffstall
President LKRA
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Kathy Kelley Ohlrich — Sarasota Mayor

City News

Last Friday, during a statutory meeting, the City Commission said farewell and a heartfelt thank you to Debbie Trice who opted not to run for re-election. Her professionalism and consistently thoughtful engagement in the community is to be emulated. Her State of the City address provided an outstanding video overview of the past year and is a must-watch.
You can see it at on YouTube.

Congratulations to Jen Ahearn-Koch on her re-election and to new Commissioner Flo Entler -- both will serve as At-Large Commissioners for a 4-year term. Thank you to my fellow Commissioners for unanimously selecting me to serve as Mayor for the next year. While the duties are mostly ceremonial and include presiding over City Commission meetings, it is an honor to be chosen for this role. Commissioner Ahearn-Koch was unanimously selected to serve as Vice Mayor.



L to R: Mayor Kathy Kelley Ohlrich, District 2 Commissioner Liz Alpert, Vice Mayor Jen Ahearn-Koch, At-Large Commissioner Flo Entler, District 1 Commissioner Kyle Battie

We have a lot of work to do, especially with the passage of Amendment 3. While our residents in the City of Sarasota overwhelmingly rejected Amendment 3, voters throughout Florida supported it enough that it will become a state constitutional amendment effective January 1, 2027. With a significant reduction in property tax revenue, we'll have to rethink how we deliver services.

We appreciate the professionalism and expertise of our City employees. Together we'll find new ways to do the people's work and make Sarasota the best city it can be.

I encourage the public to remain engaged. Your involvement strengthens our community. We've seen firsthand that healthy discourse often can lead to better outcomes.

We're all in this together. Let's move forward together... and let's get to work!



Regards,

Kathy Kelley Ohlrich

Mayor

Karie Friling — City Manager

City prepares for next steps with Amendment 3

Following Florida voters' approval of Amendment 3 in the general election, the City of Sarasota is preparing to evaluate the amendment's financial implications and develop a responsible approach to addressing potential impacts on municipal operations, services, and long-term financial planning.

The amendment changes Florida's property tax structure, creating significant financial considerations for cities and counties throughout the state, including Sarasota. The City estimates that when fully implemented, the impact will be an estimated loss of $5.6 million in revenue and will grow each year thereafter by the cost of inflation. Additionally, the approval now explicitly mandates a procedure for the Florida State Legislature to fully eliminate non-school property taxes, which is the primary funding source for city operations.

"Florida voters have spoken, and we respect their decision," said City Manager Karie Friling. "We recognize that property tax relief is important to many residents, particularly as families continue to face rising costs. At the same time, local government must now address the financial realities associated with these changes, while continuing to provide the essential services our community expects and deserves."

The Florida Legislature now must establish a process to implement Amendment 3 and City staff will work closely with the City's elected state delegation to ensure its position is represented.

The City has already been navigating substantial financial pressures associated with hurricane recover, infrastructure needs, rising operational costs and increasing demands for municipal services. In anticipation of potential revenue challenges, the City previously implemented a hiring freeze on certain General Fund positions and has been evaluating opportunities to improve operational efficiency and reduce expenditures.

"Over the past several years, Sarasota has faced extraordinary challenges, and our employees have continued to deliver essential services under difficult circumstances," Friling said. "We must be thoughtful about how we move forward, recognizing both our financial responsibilities and the importance of maintaining the services that contribute to Sarasota's quality of life. City staff will continue analyzing the amendment's implementation requirements, projected revenue impacts, and potential effects on future operating budgets. This analysis will help inform recommendations to the City Commission regarding financial priorities, service delivery, organizational efficiencies, and long-term fiscal sustainability.

Friling emphasized that it would be premature to speculate about specific service reductions or organizational changes before a comprehensive financial analysis is completed. "Our responsibility is not simply to react to this decision, but to plan responsibly for the future," Friling said. "We will evaluate our options carefully, engage with our City Commission in the decision-making process, and communicate transparently with our employees and the community.



The approval of Amendment 3 further reinforces the importance of the City's upcoming strategic planning process. "Now, more than ever, we need a clear, shared vision for Sarasota's future that identifies our community's priorities and aligns our limited financial resources with the services and investments that matter most. Our new strategic plan must be more than a document. It must serve as a roadmap for making informed decisions, establishing measurable goals, and evaluating how we deliver core services. This process will involve our City Commission, employees, residents, businesses, and community partners. In a changing financial environment, we must be intentional about where we invest our resources and what we want our community to look like for generations to come."

Despite the challenges ahead, Friling expressed confidence in the City's ability to adapt. "Sarasota is an extraordinary community, and extraordinary challenges require thoughtful leadership, collaboration, and a willingness to do things differently. We have an opportunity to rethink how we deliver services, strengthen our organization and position Sarasota for long-term success. Our commitment to the people we serve remains unchanged."

The City will provide additional information as its financial analysis progresses and the State of Florida's implementation requirements of Amendment 3 become clearer.

City eyes cuts ahead of potential voter approval of property tax change

Click to Link

Amendment 3: What It Means for Sarasota and Our City Budget

Florida voters approved Amendment 3 in the November 3 election, bringing significant changes to Florida's property tax system. While the amendment provides substantial property tax relief for homeowners with homestead exemptions, it also creates financial challenges for cities and counties throughout Florida, including Sarasota.

What Does Amendment 3 Do?

Beginning January 1, 2027, the homestead exemption for non-school property taxes will increase to $150,000. In 2028, it will increase to $250,000, with future adjustments for inflation. The amendment also establishes a process through which cities and counties could eventually eliminate non-school property taxes on homesteaded properties. For homeowners who qualify, this means meaningful reductions in property taxes. However, school property taxes and non-ad valorem assessments, such as those for solid waste and stormwater, will remain.

What Does This Mean for Lido Key Property Owners?

The distinction between homesteaded and non-homesteaded properties is particularly important for our barrier-island community, where many properties are second homes, seasonal residences, or investment properties. Owners who claim a Florida homestead exemption on their Lido Key property will benefit from the expanded exemption. However, second homes and investment properties that do not qualify for homestead exemptions will not receive that same benefit. There is some relief for non-homesteaded properties as well. Amendment 3 reduces the annual cap on increases in assessed value for qualifying non-homestead properties from 10% to 5%. This may help limit future increases in taxable assessments, although it does not guarantee that property tax bills will decrease.

The Impact on Sarasota's Budget

The City of Sarasota estimates that Amendment 3 will reduce annual revenue by approximately $5.6 million once fully implemented, with the loss increasing in subsequent years. To put this in perspective, property taxes currently provide approximately 51% of the City's General Fund revenue. The General Fund pays for many of the services residents rely upon every day, including police protection, street and sidewalk maintenance, parks and recreation, and other essential municipal operations. Unlike the federal government, the City must adopt a balanced budget each year. When a significant source of revenue is reduced, we must find ways to reduce expenditures, generate alternative revenue, or both.

What Could This Mean for City Services and Lido Key?

The City has already begun examining its operations to identify efficiencies and opportunities to reduce costs. A hiring freeze has been implemented for certain General Fund positions, and departments are reviewing expenditures. For Lido Key residents, maintaining public safety, beach access, infrastructure, and the services that support our barrier-island community will remain important considerations.

The financial challenges will not be limited to the City of Sarasota. Sarasota County will also experience reductions in property tax revenue, which could affect county-provided services and programs that benefit city and barrier-island residents. As we prepare future budgets, we will have to evaluate our priorities carefully. Potential impacts could include reduced staffing, adjustments to municipal programs and services, postponement of certain projects, and consideration of additional fees. No final decisions have been made regarding specific service reductions. Those decisions will require careful analysis and discussion by the City Commission.

What Happens Next?

The financial effects will be phased in over the next two budget cycles, beginning with the City's 2027–2028 fiscal year. The Florida Legislature must also establish procedures to implement certain provisions of the amendment, so some questions remain unanswered. For Sarasota, the challenge will be to adjust to this new financial reality while continuing to provide the services and maintain the quality of life that residents expect.

As we move through the upcoming budget process, I believe it is important that residents understand both the benefits of property tax relief and the financial challenges facing local government. I will continue to keep you informed as we evaluate our options and make decisions about Sarasota's future.



Recent Space X launch 'jellyfish' effect

Florida dengue cases hit record 252 as outbreak accelerates

Florida reported 62 new locally acquired cases of dengue fever — sometimes called breakbone fever — in one week, according to the latest update from the Florida Department of Health. That brings the statewide total to 252 for the year as of Sept. 26, surpassing the previous highest number of cases in recent memory, which was 199 in 2023. In 2025, Florida reported 62 cases for the year. One death was confirmed in Hillsborough County. The Tampa Bay Times identified the victim as 80-year-old Gay Small, who died of "dengue infection" along with septic shock and multi-organ failure, according to a death certificate. Hillsborough County continues to lead the state with 223 confirmed cases, while other locally acquired cases have been reported in six other counties.

West Nile virus and chikungunya — which are also transmitted by mosquitoes — have also been reported in Florida this year, but in far fewer numbers than dengue. One human case of West Nile was reported in Alachua County in the period of Sept. 20-26, bringing the state total to six for the year. No new chikungunya cases were reported.



All Florida residents could take precautions to avoid mosquito-borne illnesses

"Residents throughout the state should continue to take precautions from mosquito-borne illnesses by appropriately applying bug spray, avoiding areas with high mosquito populations, and wearing long pants and shirts when possible — especially during sunrise and sunset when mosquitos are most active," said Isabella White, FDOH press secretary via email Sept. 23. White said FDOH "continues to coordinate with local mosquito control partners to support surveillance and targeted response efforts in affected areas. These efforts help reduce mosquito populations, limit the risk of disease transmission, and protect residents across Florida."

What are symptoms of dengue, breakbone fever?

"Dengue fever can be a painful, debilitating disease but is rarely fatal," the Florida Department of Health said. Symptoms appear three to 14 days after the bite of an infected mosquito and include: sudden onset of fever, severe headache, eye pain, muscle and joint pain (giving the disease the nickname "breakbone fever"), bleeding. Gastrointestinal symptoms like vomiting and diarrhea may also be present in some cases. "Dengue fever symptoms usually last four to seven days. The disease is often diagnosed incorrectly because the symptoms are similar to influenza and other viruses," the CDC said. "Around one out of every 20 people infected by a dengue virus develops severe dengue, a life-threatening medical emergency that requires immediate medical attention," according to Yale Medicine.

Is dengue contagious?

Dengue is spread by mosquitoes. Mosquitoes become infected with dengue after biting a person with the virus. Those infected mosquitoes then spread the virus to other people through bites. The Centers for Disease Control said a woman infected with the dengue virus during pregnancy could pass the virus to her fetus, causing death to the fetus, low birth weight, or premature birth.

What are the best mosquito repellents to use?

According to the Florida Department of Health, repellents with the following active ingredients provide the best protection: DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, Oil of lemon eucalyptus, Para-menthane-diol, 2-undecanone, a plant-derived ingredient.

Cover

If you must be outside when mosquitoes are active, cover up. Apply mosquito repellent to exposed skin and clothing. Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months old.

Earle Kimel — Herald-Tribune

Sarasota County confirms locally acquired West Nile virus case

The Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County issued a mosquito-borne illness advisory Oct. 23 after confirmation of a human case of locally acquired West Nile virus. DOH-Sarasota and Sarasota County Mosquito Management Services have coordinated surveillance and prevention, and Sarasota County Mosquito Management Services has already conducted mosquito control treatments in the area.

West Nile virus affects the central nervous system and can cause serious illness. However, about 80% of people who become infected with the virus will not show any symptoms.



West Nile virus is typically present in birds and mosquitoes. Mosquitoes can spread the disease after biting an infected bird. They usually bite other birds but occasionally bite humans.

DOH-Sarasota reminds residents to take basic precautions to avoid being bitten by mosquitos. These include avoiding the peak mosquito activity hours of dawn and dusk, applying repellant, wearing tightly woven light-colored clothing, removing standing water around homes and not wearing scented products.

In addition to West Nile virus, the Department of Health continues to conduct statewide vigilance for mosquito-borne illnesses such as Eastern equine encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis, malaria, chikungunya and dengue

For more information, visit sarasota.floridahealth.gov.

Kristina Fiore MedPage Today

CDC Issues Emergency Response for Florida Dengue Outbreak

The CDC has issued a Level 3 emergency response for dengue outbreaks in Florida and another U.S. territory, the agency's eighth emergency response activation this year. Florida is in the midst of its largest dengue outbreak in decades, with 745 cases this year; 425 of those have been locally acquired, and most are concentrated in the Tampa area. That figure marks the largest dengue outbreak in the continental U.S. since 1935.

Given the widespread presence of Aedes aegypti mosquitoes and with recent hurricane-related rainfall, continued domestic transmission remains a concern," Chris Braden, MD, acting director of the CDC's National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID), wrote in an email that was shared with MedPage Today. Braden acknowledged the extraordinary number of responses managed by NCEZID staff this year. "I know many of you are already supporting active responses across the agency, and I am deeply grateful for your continued agility and dedication," he wrote.

CDC experts said the locally acquired dengue cases in Florida primarily involve DENV-2 (there are four serotypes). About half (54%) of cases are in men, and the median age was 43, with 45% occurring in those ages 30 to 49. Overall, 47% of cases required hospitalization, CDC said, which may indicate under-reporting of cases. Locally acquired cases of dengue aren't unheard of in Florida, but this year's numbers are significant, experts said.

"Historically, dengue hasn't been a problem for the continental U.S. because we didn't have the mosquitoes that are capable of transmitting the virus," Adam Waickman, PhD, a dengue expert at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, New York, told MedPage Today. "The reason we're seeing this sustained transmission now is that the species of mosquito that are capable of transmitting the infection are now much more prevalent in Florida."

The vast majority of dengue infections -- 70% to 90% -- are asymptomatic, Waickman said, "so the numbers we're seeing in Florida are just the tip of the iceberg in terms of who's actually being infected." Unfortunately, routine spraying systems aren't very effective against the mosquitoes that transmit dengue because these bugs are "highly adapted to urban settings and can be found in and around homes" where spraying campaigns don't necessarily reach, he pointed out. **"Wearing mosquito repellent, wearing long sleeves, making sure you're covering up to avoid mosquito bites, that's the most effective thing you can do to avoid getting exposed," he noted.**

Several antivirals are being tested against dengue in clinical trials, Waickman said, along with monoclonal antibodies, one of which recently showed promise opens in a new tab or window in a phase II trial among patients hospitalized with the disease. All of those are going to be important, he noted, as dengue is likely to continue to spread locally in the U.S., and experts expect it to become endemic opens in a new tab or window

."You need vector control, you need vaccines, and you need therapies," Waickman said. "The cat is out of the bag and it's only going to keep spreading."

Underground Utilities on St. Armands & Lido Keys: Sarasota Launches $8 Million Push for underground Utilities on St. Armands & Lido Keys. Residents could see roughly $10,000 assessments over 20 years, with the first bills targeted for November 2027.

At its July 20 meeting, the Sarasota City Commission voted unanimously to launch the largest infrastructure initiative the city's barrier islands have seen in decades: a program to rip out every overhead electric and communications line from St. Armands Circle to the far reaches of Lido Key and bury the entire system underground, financed by the property owners who would benefit from it. Two separate votes made it real. First, commissioners approved a $7.95 million professional services agreement with Utility Consultants of Florida, Inc., the Largo-based firm that beat out national heavyweights Kimley-Horn and Bowman Consulting for the work. Second, they adopted Resolution 26R-3408, authorizing an $8 million tax-exempt line of credit with Regions Capital Advantage to front the money until special assessments can repay it. Both passed 5-0. Neither vote buries a single wire. What they do is set in motion an 18-month sprint of engineering, surveying and public persuasion that will end with a question put to the roughly 3,500 homes, condos and businesses on the islands: are you willing to pay about $10,000 per property, spread over two decades, to never again watch a hurricane take down your power lines?

What Exactly the City Approved: Public Works Director Nikesh Patel was careful to frame the July 20 actions narrowly. "Today's actions do not create an assessment district," Patel told commissioners. "They do not impose an assessment, and do not authorize construction." Instead, the agreement is split into two distinct phases. Phase one, the "required services" priced at $3.17 million, begins immediately. It covers the unglamorous foundation work. This work includes topographic and boundary surveys of the entire barrier island chain, subsurface utility mapping, 30% preliminary engineering design, coordination with Florida Power & Light and the communications carriers. Also, a defensible assessment methodology under Florida law must be justified and an aggressive public outreach campaign that includes a website where every property owner will be able to click on their own parcel and see their estimated assessment.

Phase two, the remaining $4.77 million in "optional services," is where the real construction machinery lives: final design, bid documents, easement acquisition, construction inspection, utility cutovers and the moment residents are actually waiting for, when FPL's poles come out of the ground. None of that can proceed without a future vote of both the affected property owners and the City Commission. The consultant agreement was signed for Utility Consultants of Florida by Mark Porter, a name that will ring familiar across the New Pass bridge. Porter briefed Longboat Key residents on that town's undergrounding rollout back in 2019, and his firm's team for the Sarasota program includes CDM Smith on engineering, Wildan on assessment methodology and Valerin on public outreach.

Born in the Floodwaters of 2024: Ask why this is happening now and every answer at City Hall leads back to the same season. In 2024, six separate weather events flooded the barrier islands, capped by the one-two punch of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, which left parts of Lido and St. Armands dark for extraordinary stretches. "I'd say about a week, some about a month, roughly," Patel said when Vice Mayor Debbie Trice pressed him on how long residents went without power. "There were contractors trying to get out there to get the work done and couldn't get it done because they had no power out there."

The islands watched something else that season, too. Longboat Key, their neighbor to the north, was in the final stages of its own decade-long undergrounding project, and when Helene and Milton hit, Longboat's new buried system held. The outages the town did experience were traced to FPL failures off the island, at mainland substations and subaqueous feeder lines, and power came back comparatively fast once those were fixed. "People have been through a lot with these storms, and they know they need resiliency with their electricity," said Chuck Haff, vice president of the St. Armands Residents Association, who told commissioners the association's annual survey put support for undergrounding above 80 percent. Carl Shoffstall, president of the Lido Key Residents Association and a 24-year Lido resident, put his neighborhood's number even higher. "From Lido Key, we were well over 90 percent," he said. "It's got to be done. It's got to get done. It's going to save money with storms on the back end of things, too."

What the Islands Would Actually Look Like: Every primary feeder, lateral circuit and communications line would move below grade, served by pad-mounted transformers and switch cabinets. In their place would come new street lighting built to dark-sky and sea-turtle-protection standards, the amber, shielded fixtures required near nesting beaches, along with full restoration of pavement, sidewalks and landscaping torn up by the work. The recently installed, federally funded streetlights on St. Armands Circle itself would stay; the residential streets would get the new environmentally friendly fixtures. There is an economic argument buried in the aesthetics. Real estate research consistently finds that overhead lines cost property owners money: homes near visible power lines typically sell at discounts of 2 to 10 percent. On barrier islands where a modest home starts at seven figures, even the low end of that range would exceed the assessment many times over.

Who Pays, and How Much: The honest answer to the question every property owner will ask is that nobody knows yet. Producing that number is precisely what the $3.17 million phase one buys. But a working figure has been circulating in association meetings for months. "The numbers that have been floated during these meetings is approximately $10,000, maybe a little higher," Haff told commissioners, adding that residents surveyed were told to expect that cost spread over roughly 20 years. On a per-year basis that lands in the neighborhood of $500 to $600 per property, collected as a non-ad valorem assessment on the annual tax bill, the same mechanism Longboat Key used. Mayor Trice pressed staff on whether the $10,000 figure was realistic or whether residents should brace for another zero. Patel declined to speculate, saying only that the floated numbers "are comparable to the Town of Longboat Key." Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch, who admitted to "sticker shock" when she first saw Sarasota's consultant price, said she ran the numbers past Longboat Key's town manager, Howard Tipton. "He did say that this is in line with what they had done," she reported, adding that Longboat's biggest headaches were permitting and interagency coordination, not construction. "What they projected and what they actually ended up with was very close."

One structural difference: Longboat ran two separate assessments, one for Gulf of Mexico Drive and one for the neighborhoods. Sarasota's initial intent is a single, holistic barrier-island assessment, partly because government properties on City Island complicate a piecemeal approach, though Patel said the consultant will evaluate splitting the districts. Trice pushed to keep that option open so that if, say, Lido votes yes and St. Armands votes no, the city could proceed with one and prorate its recovery of the upfront costs.

If the Islands Say No, the City Pays: The $8 million line of credit is the financial engine, and it comes with real risk. The city can draw funds through July 2028 at a floating tax-exempt rate currently estimated around 3.4 percent; whatever balance remains converts that August to a term loan maturing in 2038 at an estimated 3.9 percent. The intended repayment source is the special assessment revenue. But if property owners or a future commission kill the project after phase one, the assessments never materialize, and the city remains on the hook for up to $3.17 million plus interest, payable from non-ad valorem revenues.

That prospect gave Commissioner Liz Alpert pause even as she voted yes. “I really want this to happen. I want the undergrounding,” Alpert said. “But $3 million to just explore it seems a lot of debt for the city to take on. If it gets rejected, we just spent $3 million for nothing.” Finance Director Kelly Strickland acknowledged the exposure. The city’s five-year capital plan sets aside $1.3 million in Penny surtax funding for undergrounding as a partial backstop, she said, but a failed district would force the city to “look at the general fund” and other sources for the balance. She noted the city’s debt capacity is comfortable, with non-ad valorem revenues covering maximum annual debt service at more than seven times the two-times coverage its own policy requires, and that the note carries no pledge of property taxes and no lien on city property. Patel offered a consolation prize: even in a worst case, the city would own a complete survey and subsurface utility map of its barrier islands, an asset for every future road, drainage and infrastructure project out there.

The Flooding Question: Undergrounding will not stop the water. Nothing about burying electric lines lowers storm surge on Ben Franklin Drive, and residents should not confuse the two. In fact, saltwater inundation is the one environment where buried systems face their own vulnerabilities, which is why modern designs like FPL’s rely on submersible transformers and flood-rated equipment, and why some utilities elsewhere reported mixed underground performance in surge zones during Helene.

What the program does address is what happens after the water recedes: the weeks of darkness while crews rebuild pole lines, the contractors who cannot work in powerless neighborhoods, the restaurants on the Circle throwing out inventory. And the city is explicitly trying to avoid digging up the islands twice. Ahearn-Koch pressed staff to synchronize the undergrounding with the separate St. Armands drainage improvements now advancing through Sarasota County and a new state appropriation via FDOT, and Patel confirmed the consultant’s job includes coordinating all of it. “I want to make sure we’re not digging up, filling in and digging up again,” Ahearn-Koch said.

What Happens Next: The clock starts immediately. Stakeholder engagement is required to begin the moment the agreement is executed, and over the summer and fall the consultant will refine district boundaries, build planning-level cost estimates and stand up the program website with its parcel-by-parcel assessment lookup. By the winter of 2026-27, staff expects to return to the commission with detailed parcel-level assessment ranges, at which point the community support process begins in earnest. There is no statutory minimum for how much support is required. “It’s up to the commission to decide on the amount of support, but a minimum 60 percent,” Patel said. “The commission can decide if they want 75 percent support or 60 percent.” If the islands say yes and the commission concurs, statutory assessment resolutions, mailed notices and public hearings would follow through 2027, with permanent financing arranged that year and the first assessments targeted for the November 2027 tax bill. The program’s working schedule calls for contractor procurement in late 2027 and construction rolling across the islands in three segments beginning in early 2028, with the final segment starting in 2030. Earlier city estimates put full completion as much as seven years out.For the residents who pushed this program into existence, the timeline is almost beside the point. As Shoffstall told the commission before the vote: “It’s got to get done.”

LIDO KEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL BREAKFAST MEETING





Reserve the Date: ***Friday, April 2, 2027*****:**

LKRA's Beach Party which is more and more popular each year will be back at the Lido Beach Resort beach. The committee is working on details including food and entertainment that will allow us to set a ticket price. As soon as details are known, we will be let everyone know.

November 20, 2026

John Howell — Sarasota Herald-Tribune

Sarasota Farmers Market named No. 1 in America

When James Myrtetus moved to Sarasota last year after graduating from Florida State University, he said he wanted a nice place to live with a strong sense of community. He quickly discovered what Sarasota residents and longtime visitors have known for more than 45 years. "The Sarasota Farmers Market isn't just a marketplace. It's a cornerstone of community in Sarasota," Myrtetus told the Herald-Tribune. Now the whole country knows. The nationwide contest ranked the top 10 U.S. farmers markets after two months of online voting, with the Sarasota Farmers Market receiving 10,728 votes.



The America's Farmers Market Celebration is the only annual ranking for farmers markets in the United States that is decided by public voting. A total of 1,896 markets nationwide participated in the 2026 contest with over 116,687 votes.

Established in 1979, the Sarasota Farmers Market (1 N. Lemon Ave.) – centered around North Lemon Avenue and Main Street – unites local farmers, food producers, artisans, small businesses and nonprofit organizations every Saturday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine, in the heart of downtown Sarasota.

sarasotafarmersmarket.org.

Andrew Warfield — Business Observer

For the second straight year, USA Today readers ranked Sarasota Bradenton International Airport as the country's best resort airport.

SRQ once again outperformed terminals in other vacation-rich destinations, including Monterey, California; Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; Hilton Head Island, South Carolina; and Palm Springs, California. As SRQ experienced exponential growth in the post-COVID era, hundreds of millions of dollars were invested to upgrade the travel experience, including the new Concourse A, new and enhanced dining and bar options in Concourse B and expanded parking.

"For many visitors, SRQ is their first impression of our region, and we take that responsibility seriously," SRQ President and CEO Paul Hoback says. "We want them to step off the plane and immediately feel they've arrived in paradise and their vacation has started." Hoback says it's the people that separate SRQ from the rest, citing volunteer ambassadors, helpful staff and even a visit from an SRQ Sunshine Squad therapy dog to ease anxiety.



"Sometimes it's helping someone find their gate or taking an extra minute with a family that needs a hand," he says. "People love that SRQ is easy and welcoming, and as we grow, we're committed to protecting that. You can build a beautiful terminal, but how people feel when they're here comes down to how you take care of them."

November 20, 2026

A Call to the Lido Key Community: Help Us Build a Lasting Legacy

Dear Lido Key Residents and Friends,

Our community has always demonstrated a deep commitment to education, conservation, and giving back. Today, we have a unique opportunity to make a lasting impact on the future of marine science while honoring the memory of someone who meant so much to our community.

The **Lido Key Residents Association Scholarship Fund** was rededicated by the LKRA Board **"in loving memory of Cindy Shoffstall"** upon her passing last February. Cindy's kindness, generosity, and support of others continue to inspire those who knew her. Through this scholarship, her legacy will live on by supporting young student research interns who work alongside the scientists at **Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium,** helping advance critical research that protects our oceans, marine life, and coastal ecosystems.

Thanks to the generosity of our residents and supporters, we have already raised $$59,646.00 toward our goal. But there is still important work ahead. Our objective is to *fully endow the scholarship fund, requiring at least $100,000, by February 2027.* Once endowed, the fund will provide ongoing support for future generations of research interns, creating a permanent source of funding that will continue LKRA's and Cindy's legacy for years to come.

To help us reach this goal, LKRA President and community leader Carl Shoffstall has issued a Matching Donation Challenge. Carl has generously pledged to match donations dollar-for-dollar, up to a total of $25,000. This means that every dollar you contribute today will have twice the impact. A $100 donation becomes $200. A $500 donation becomes $1,000. Together, we can accelerate our progress toward full endowment and ensure that this scholarship continues to support promising young scientists and meaningful marine research far into the future.

The research conducted at Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium benefits all of us. From protecting our coastal waters to advancing marine conservation and scientific discovery, these young student interns play an important role in projects that strengthen our understanding of the marine environment we cherish.

We ask you to join us in this important effort. Whether your contribution is large or small, every gift moves us closer to our goal and honors Cindy's memory in a meaningful and enduring way. Please consider making a donation today and help us maximize Carl's matching challenge. Together, the Lido Key community can create a lasting legacy of education, research, and service.

Current Progress: $42,000 Raised Goal for Full Endowment: $100,000+
Matching Challenge: Up to $25,000 from Carl ShoffstallFull Endowment Target Date: February, 2027

LKRA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donors will receive a receipt. Make out Checks and Mail to: LKRA Scholarship Fund, PO Box 884 . Sarasota, FL 34230

For more information or to make a donations by Bankcard, visit ur website at LKRA Scholarship Fund: Supporting Environmental Education. Please consider adding 2.5% to cover the bankcard processing fee so the full amount can go to the scholarship.

OUR APPRECIATION TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE CREATION, PUBLICATION, AND DISTRIBUTION OF THIS NEWSLETTER

Editor: BruceAbramowitz

Contributing Articles: Carl Shoffstall, Kathy Kelley Ohlrich: Sarasota Mayor, Karie Friling : City Manager, Liz Alpert, Esq.: Sarasota City Commissioner , Earle Kimel : Herald-Tribune, Cheryl McCloud and C. A. Bridges: USA TODAY NETWORK, Steve Reid: Editor Longboat Key News, Kristina Fiore: MedPage Today, John Howell: Sarasota Herald-Tribune, Andrew Warfield: the Business Observer, Bruce Abramowitz, Jim Ludwig,

Please Join or Renew Your Membership Now



LKRA Membership is open to everyone. Whether Lido Key is your homestead, a favorite spot to spend the season, a great place to vacation or just a place you care passionately about, we welcome you! If you live or own property on Lido, membership allows you to vote in association matters. All others are considered associate members and enjoy all membership benefits.

2026 LKRA Membership Dues (remain):

- Individual Household (Residence, Condo or Apartment) - $30
- Condo Association, Hotel or Business - $50

New and Renewal Memberships made after October 1st are good through the following calendar year. Your annual membership dues cover the cost of hosting our Monthly Meetings and Meet & Greets. They also cover our Email, Newsletter and Website expenses, offsetting expenses for Special Events and funding charitable contributions and other association expenses. Our new **Scholarship Fund** is funded strictly through donations.

Lido Key Residents Association

2027 HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Proudly Encouraging Meaningful Community Involvement Since 1972

Membership Dues: $30.00

(PLEASE PRINT)

☐ Lido Key Resident or Property Owner ☐ New ☐ Renewing

☐ Associate Member ☐ New ☐ Renewing

Member Name: _____

Email: #1: _____ Phone #1: _____

Spouse/Partner: _____

Email: #2: _____ Phone #2: _____

Local Address: _____ Unit: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mailing Address (if different): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

LKRA hosts monthly Meet & Greets from 5–7:00 pm on the 2nd Tuesday at various locations, with happy-hour food and drink pricing. Resident meetings feature guest speakers and are held at 9:00 am on the 3rd Saturday of October, November, January, February, March, and April at Lido Beach Resort, subject to Lido Beach Resort availability. The Annual Breakfast precedes the February meeting. LKRA's 2027 Beach Party is April 2nd. Our newsletter, *Lido Key Matters*, is published 3–5 times a year, emailed to all members, and available on our website.

Questions? Email Jim Ludwig lidokeyresidents@gmail.com or visit www.LKRA.org. Join and pay for membership with a bankcard at Join (lkra.org). or mail completed Membership Application and your check made out to:

LIDO KEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 884 SARASOTA, FL 34230

ONLINE PAYMENT LINKS FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP ***Click to link***

Lido Key Residents Association

2027 CONDO ASSOCIATION, HOTEL OR BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Proudly Encouraging Meaningful Community Involvement Since 1972

Membership Dues: $50.00

(PLEASE PRINT)

☐ Condo Association, Hotel or Business ☐ New ☐ Renewing

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Website: _____

Contact Name #1: _____ Phone: _____

Position: _____ Email: _____

Contact Name #2: _____ Phone: _____

Position: _____ Email: _____

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Questions? Email Jim Ludwig lidokeyresidents@gmail.com or visit www.LKRA.org. Join and pay for membership with a bankcard at Join (lkra.org).or mail completed Membership Application and your check made out to:

LIDO KEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 884 SARASOTA, FL 34230

ONLINE PAYMENT LINKS FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP ***Click to link***

COALITION OF CITY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

Link

Projects and Issues



Coon Key Bridge REPLACEMENT



Ben Franklin Street Lighting REPAIRS

BOARD MEMBERS and COMMITTEES

President – Carl Shoffstall CarlS@Floridaplaystructures.com Scholarship Fund, CCNA traffic calming committee, City Parks and Recreation and Environmental advisory board

Vice President – Jay Elsasser jay@JABETECH.com, Beach and Dunes

Secretary – Katherine Kussy KWKUSSY@gmail.com Events, Nominations

Treasurer – Jim Ludwig, jhludwig@comcast.net Website, CCNA Board 1st Vice President, Membership, Scholarship

Director– Bruce Abramowitz bruceabramowitz@gmail.com Newsletter

Director - Jasbir (Jessie) Hayre jessiehayre@gmail.com CCNA alternative representative

Director - Diane Sterner Sun2day@gmail.com Special Events

Director -Tim MalaneyTimlido65@gmail.com Scholarship

Director - Scott Ashby rscottashby@aol.com CCNA alternative delegate

Director - Michael Jaspan michael@safemoneyadvisory.com Membership

Director - Dave Rayner daverayner@aol.com

Newsletter Mailing & Delivery: Jim Ludwig, jhludwig@comcast.net