



LIDO KEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION LIDO KEY MATTERS FEBRUARY 2026

Events Calendar

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

**NEXT MEETING: March 21st
9:00 AM Lido Beach Resort,
Selby Garden Phase**

April 18th: Fire Department

**MEET & GREET :MARCH 10
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm: Lido Beach
Resort, 8th floor**

SAVE THE DATE:

**LKRA Beach Party.
Friday, April 10,2026
'Sip Sip Hooray for the USA'**

Presidents Letter

Good morning to new and existing LKRA members

It's with great sadness and a heavy heart that I must inform everyone that my best friend, soulmate, and confident Cindy passed away on February 2nd at 10:24 pm at home in hospices care. She fought a courageous 5-year battle with cancer.

She loved everyone of the LKRA members and was the PR person for many years sending out emails of the "goings on Lido". She was an exceptional human being; a person whose kindness and generous spirit touched the lives of everyone she met. I will forever have a large hole in my heart as we were together for 50 years.

I am scheduling a celebration of life (sometime in April) and will let everyone know if you would like to attend. Cindy wanted me to ask everyone to donate to Lido Key Scholarship fund in lieu of flowers. You can go onto the website www.LKRA.Org and go to scholarship area. She will really appreciate it watching over us.

February 24, 2026

For me I don't plan on going anywhere anytime soon and will be getting involved with the city again as I have just been elected to be the chair of the Park, Recreational and Environmental board. Another major issue on the horizon is what the future of St Armands circle will look like (more information on meetings are in this newsletter. This will affect Lido Key dramatically and I hope all members pay close attention to what's to come. Cindy's computer will be operational for a few months, but if you need something please email me at carl@floridaplaystructures.com and I will get back to you.

Our next member meeting will be March 21st, and our presenter will be Selby Gardens, they have started phase 2 and will be a very interesting presentation.

I want to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers at this most difficult time.

Carl Shoffstall
President LKRA
129 Tyler Dr #102
Sarasota, FL 34236
[813-967-2687](tel:813-967-2687) cell
[941-7061217](tel:941-7061217) home/fax
carl@floridaplaystructures.com

Liz Alpert

Sarasota City Commissioner, District Two

It's hard to believe we are already midway through February 2026. As I'm sure you have noticed, the city is working on projects that affect all of you. FDOT is doing work along the John Ringling Causeway to add dedicated bicycle and transit lanes on the bridge, drainage upgrades, and raising the seawall cap near Sunset Drive. Other project activities include resurfacing the roadway throughout the project corridor and the installation of new traffic signals at the intersections of Sunset Drive, Golden Gate Drive, and Bird Key Drive. The project also includes relocating palm trees and small shrubs from their current locations on the eastern area of the John Ringling Causeway to medians closer to St. Armands Circle. Construction is expected to be completed in early 2027.

The Little Ringling Bridge construction is expected to start in 2028. The proposed replacement for the bridge includes a single bridge with bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. The existing bridge currently has no shoulders or designated bicycle facilities across the bridge.

The beach renourishment is well on its way and should be done by mid-April. Then we will be starting the project to create dunes on the beach to help prevent flooding. Plans are to start in Fall 2026 and be finished by early 2027. The city is also exploring options to make St. Armands more resilient. We were recently awarded \$13.5M for the City of Sarasota St. Armands Resiliency and Flood Mitigation Project.

We are in talks with the County about whether the City of Sarasota should take over Ted Sperling Park. Will keep you posted.

These projects and initiatives should make our quality of life here in Sarasota even better.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at liz.alpert@sarasotafl.gov.

Warm regards,

Liz Alpert

Three cold-stunned manatees are being cared for at Mote in Sarasota

Mote's strandings team also rescued a manatee near Siesta Key on Jan. 23; that animal is now being cared for at ZooTampa in Lowry Park



Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium is caring for three cold-stunned manatees at its rehabilitation facility on City Island. All three manatees now being cared for at Mote are from Bear Creek in Pinellas County, Mote spokeswoman Amber Smalley said. Two of the manatees arrived Jan. 29. The third arrived Jan. 27. Mote scientists also rescued a cold-stunned manatee off Siesta Key on Jan. 23. That animal has since been transferred to ZooTampa at Lowry Park in Tampa, which is a Primary Care Manatee Rehabilitation Facility. Mote became a secondary care rehabilitation facility for manatees in April

2025.

What water temperature is best for a manatee?

According to the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, manatees need access to water warmer than 68 degrees to survive cold weather. Prolonged exposure to water colder than 68 degrees can result in manatees undergoing cold stress syndrome. In addition to becoming weak and lethargic, their immune system weakens.

Manatees in need of care may first be treated at Primary Care facilities, which typically are located at zoos, such as ZooTampa at Lowry Park. Because the demand for care is so high, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission have also been expanding the ranks of secondary care facilities. Mote joined the ranks of secondary rehabilitation facilities when two male manatees, Cabbage and Sleet, were transferred to the facility for care last April. Both were successfully released back into the wild in December.

While Mote's current facility is on City Island, the nonprofit has a long-term plan to open a manatee rehabilitation center to care for up to 12 manatees at the Mote Aquaculture Park off of Fruitville Road east of Interstate 75.

Similar rehabilitation care is afforded to sea turtles. Last January, 20 cold-stunned juvenile sea turtles rescued off Florida's east coast were cared for at Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium's Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Hospital.

[Link to Mote article](#)



Popular Sarasota beach to see partial closures during restoration

Popular Sarasota beach faces partial closures during major \$12 million restoration project.

One of Sarasota’s premier destinations will receive a \$12 million facelift as the city and federal authorities begin a renourishment effort at Lido Beach on Tuesday, Jan. 20. The beach will be open throughout the project, but

some sections will be temporarily closed as the project sweeps from north to south. “The pavilion, concessions, pool, parking lot to the north and Bay Runner Trolley will not be affected by contractor parking,” a city press release said.

The project will move between 200,000 and 300,000 cubic yards of sand onto a 1.2-mile stretch of Lido Beach, following intense damage caused by Hurricanes Helene and Milton in 2024. The sand was dredged from New Pass and will be placed on the beach using special pipelines.

Officials expect the project to be completed by April. The city is working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to fortify the beach. The project is entirely federally funded, according to city spokesperson Luke



Beachgoers brought volleyballs, turtles and bags for shells to Lido Beach on Labor Day, Sept. 7, 2020.

CARLOS R. MUNOZ/HERALD-TRIBUNE STAFF

Mocherman. “Aside from severe weather events, long-term erosion of Lido Beach due to natural processes can necessitate regular renourishment,” Mocherman said in an email to the Herald-Tribune.

A 50-year agreement between the city and USACE will renourish the shoreline every five years. Lido Beach was last renourished in 2021. The city also partnered with Mote Marine Laboratory, Sarasota Audubon, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Lido Key stakeholders on the renourishment.

A 2024 report from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection found that about half of Florida’s 825 miles of coastline is “critically eroded” – including the southern half of Longboat Key, the north end of Lido Key, and the the north end of Siesta Key.

[Link to City Beach Renourishment](#)



4th Annual LKRA Beach Party - Friday, April 10, 2026



Get ready to celebrate. *"Sip Sip Hooray for the USA, a Semiquincentennial Celebration"*.

Lido Beach Resort at The Sand Garden - On the Beach

- **Friday April 10th 5:30 - 9:30 pm**
- **Happy Hour, Dinner, Music, Dancing and more**
- **\$ cash bar \$ (No credit cards, ATM on site)**
- **\$70 per person**

Music this year will be provided by local favorite **Wayne DeLair**. Reservations are required. See our website www.lkra.org for more information. Registration is now open!

[Link to lkra.org](http://www.lkra.org)

The Future of St. Armands Registration Link

The following is more information regarding St. Armand's Resident Association's President Chris Goglia's comments at the February 14th LKRA Annual Meeting. Chris advised about an upcoming "Visioning Session" of the "Future of St. Armands". As we know, anything that happens on the Circle is significant to every Lido Key resident. We can't get to or leave Lido Key without going through St. Armand's key.

"The first of two visioning sessions will be held on Thursday, February 26 (in less than two weeks), from 6-8pm. It will be held at the Mote Marine Keating Marine Education Center on nearby City Island. It's the elevated building. Parking at the Mote Aquarium lot. All St. Armands stakeholders are being invited. I believe that there will be people present to push bigger commercial buildings on St. Armands, and perhaps asking for new uses (e.g., hotel rooms or short-term rentals) and increased density (i.e., more rooms than would otherwise be allowed). If granted for one commercial property, the zoning changes will apply to all commercial properties. If this were to become common, what would be the impact on traffic? What would be the impact on the charm of St. Armands?"

Yesterday the city sent out the official notice with a registration link. You can view the notice or go directly to the registration page using the link and button below."

[Invitation to St. Armands Stakeholders](#)

[Register](#)



The LKRA Scholarship Fund Please Help Us Reach Our Endowment Goal of \$100,000

The **Lido Key Residents Association (LKRA) Scholarship Fund** is designed to provide financial assistance to students pursuing degrees and training in marine biology, environmental science, wildlife management, conservation, and related fields. By reducing financial barriers, this fund will empower passionate individuals to focus on their studies and develop the skills necessary to safeguard vulnerable species and habitats.

Your generous support will directly impact on the lives of future conservationists, researchers, and advocates who are committed to protecting marine ecosystems and shore bird populations. Contributions to the LKRA Scholarship Fund will help cover tuition, research opportunities, internships, and hands-on field experiences, all of which are essential for preparing students to meet the complex challenges facing our coasts.

From our members generous donations, the LKRA Scholarship Fund has awarded \$9,000 in scholarships to participants in Mote's Intern Program, \$3000 in each year, 2023, 2024 & 2025.

Phase 1 Endowment Goal - \$100,000

LKRA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and is now in a fundraising effort to endow the LKRA Scholarship Fund. Once we reach our **Phase 1 target of \$100,000**, [Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium](#) (Mote) has committed to serving as our partner, as well as being the custodian and investor of the fund. LKRA will establish a Scholarship Oversight Committee, which will collaborate with Mote, establish a Selection Committee, and determine the available scholarship amount for distribution each year. **Our goal is to raise the money and turn the program over to Mote. In the interim, LKRA has set up a separate bank account for this fund.**

To Donate to The LKRA Scholarship Fund ([byBankcard](#)) – Click Here

Mail In Donations To:

Lido Key Resident's Association
PO Box 884
Sarasota FL 34230

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

Editor: Bruce Abramowitz

Contributing Articles: Carl Shoffstall; Liz Alpert, Esq., Sarasota City Commissioner, District Two; Earle Kimel, Sarasota Herald-Tribune; Christian Casale, Sarasota Herald-Tribune; Jim Ludwig; Bruce Abramowitz; Katherine Kussy, Events;

Katherine Kussy

Events

Meet and Greet Dates for this year are as follows at the Lido Beach Resort:

March 10

April 14

May 12

June 9

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.



2026 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 sponsors Meet & Greets on the 2nd Tuesday each month. This neighborhood social event runs from 5 - 7:00 pm at various locations with happy hour pricing on drink and food options. LKRA holds Membership meetings with guest speaker(s) on the 3rd Saturday of October, November, January, February, March, and April at 9:00 am at the Lido Beach Resort. Our Annual Breakfast precedes the February Meeting. Again in 2026 LKRA will throw a Beach Party (April 10th). Our newsletter *Lido Key Matters* (published 3-5 times a year) is emailed to all members and is viewable 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 \(lkra.org\)](http://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](#)*



2026 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 \(lkra.org\)](http://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*](#)

Three Pianos



2026 LKRA Night at FST's Goldstein Cabaret Wednesday April 8, 2026

LKRA member Pat Nicosia has done it again. **He has booked the entire 107 seat Goldstein Cabaret** creating a very special evening for LKRA.

WHEN: Wednesday, April 8, 2026

WHERE: FST's Goldstein Cabaret, 1239 N Palm Ave. Sarasota

TICKETS: You can either exchange your subscription tickets or purchase tickets for the show on April 8. All done through the box office this year 941-366-9000 using code **LIDO** you can do the exchange or purchase. Tickets are \$33.20 (\$31.20 + \$2.00 service fee). Regular price is \$41.00.

Three Pianos: From Billy Joel to Alicia Keys, from Ray Charles to Freddie Mercury, Three Pianos celebrates the piano legends who refused to play by the rules. These aren't your cookie-cutter rock stars: they're the rebels, romantics, and risk-takers who turned 88 keys into pure magic. Enjoy timeless favorites like "Crocodile Rock," "Just the Way You Are," "Great Balls of Fire," "I'm Still Standing," and "Beautiful." From the soulful sway of Fats Domino to the anthemic joy of Elton John, this high-energy musical revue proves that when you follow your own tune, the music never stops.

For those not familiar with FST's Cabarets they offer full service from their restaurant and bar, Cabaret attendees are invited to dine conveniently at their table beginning one hour before their show.

GENERAL PUBLIC Sales: Tickets not sold by March 8th will be offered to the public.

For more information, visit our website: www.LKRA.org

[Link to LKRA.ORG](http://www.LKRA.ORG)

COALITION OF CITY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

PROTECT & ENHANCE SARASOTA [click to connect](#)

LIDO KEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION PROJECTS AND ISSUES

[Click to connect](#)

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 – Rhonda Daniels rhondadaniels26@yahoo.com Membership

Director -Tim Malaney Timlido65@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

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