



MARCH 2008
LIDOKEYRA@GMAIL.COM

LIDO KEY MATTERS

PRESIDENTS NEWS



So, the March edition of *Lido Key Matters* is here, and a big thanks goes to all who provided input and support to help make it “your” newsletter.

Speaking of contributing--volunteers do make a difference. Hats off to Debbie Comer (Beach Cocktails) and Tony & Mary Lagunovich (Marathon) and their teams for making these events successful and Lido Key a better place to live and play.

And now, a call to arms! The “voices” of our residents, visitors, and neighbors must be heard by our political leaders. Please read about Lido Beach Renourishment inside and contact your Congressional representatives.

Finally, kudos to those 75 members who braved the very cold weather to attend the Beach Cocktails. Please join us for the Annual Members’ Dinner—in a warmer environment--on March 25.

Sandy

Sandy Bower
President

WHAT MATTERS?

In February, we asked the question: What Matters? Well, according to our feedback and mailbox the answer apparently is.... Neighbors! Now, we don’t want to start a civil war on Lido Key but perhaps we can all be better neighbors and ultimately be even prouder of our little slice of paradise. Take a look inside to see what you can do to help keep Lido looking good, and when it comes to the beach, you can improve it just by writing a letter or two.....

Please keep the input coming – News, complaints and praise from you keeps our huge editorial staff motivated! Just write to LidoKeyRA@gmail.com...

NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED BOOKER HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ COMBO TO ENTERTAIN

Time is running out to make your reservations for annual members’ dinner at the Sarasota Yacht Club. The event will be held Tuesday, March 25, beginning at 5:00 pm.



A seafood buffet, along with carved prime rib, chicken, and desert will be provided for \$38.00 per person. Coffee and tea are included. A cash bar will be available to purchase sodas and adult beverages.

Cocktails will be served at 5:00 pm, the Jazz Combo will entertain at 6:00 pm, and dinner will be served at 6:30 pm.

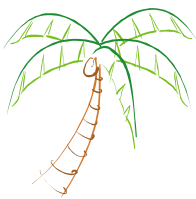
Reservations are limited and deadline for reservations is March 21. Please make your reservations by sending your check for \$38.00 per person to Delphine Roosen, 845 Ben Franklin Drive, Unit 303, Sarasota, FL 34236 (388-3543).

MORE OF LIDO KEY MATTERS.....

GARBAGE, PLANTS, DOGS AND SPEEDING...

On the whole, all of us living on Lido Key seem to get along pretty well...but that doesn't mean we couldn't get along even better! I am not going to name anyone who has passed on comments but here is a summary of some areas where we are all being asked to be better neighbors and to keep Lido Key more beautiful:

Trash Cans are supposed to be put out after 5.00pm the day before collection and removed from the street after they have been emptied. City ordinances note that trash receptacles are not to remain in the street all week. Lido Key has scheduled collections on Tuesday and Friday mornings. Recycling collections take place on Tuesdays.



Trim your trees please. Our beloved palm trees grow wonderfully in our beautiful climate; unfortunately, they also have a habit of “peeling off” huge fronds. Be nice to your neighbors, and to yourself prior to hurricane season, and trim your trees regularly.

We all love dogs and most conscientious owners clean up after their dogs. There is not too much grass for the poor dogs resident on Lido Key, but it is no fun for the human residents to find “doggie parcels” on their front lawn.



OK, I admit it! This complaint is from me (*Editor*).....I am no angel but I make a point of always trying to stay within the speed limit, especially as soon as I cross the bridge. Crossing St Armand's can be very frustrating with all the slow traffic, but it is scary to see how drivers speed up and roar around the corner of Ben Franklin Drive..... It's better to be a few minutes late than never to arrive home at all.

SARASOTA 3RD ANNUAL MARATHON

Well, we did it again—another successful volunteer effort for Sarasota Marathon. This year's event was even better than last year. All of our volunteers for North Lido and South Lido water stations showed up at the crack of dawn. The volunteers were all at their posts at 6:00 am, in neon orange shirts, ready to serve the runners. They kept the water and Gatorade flowing all morning, and were horse from yelling words of encouragement to all the great runners and walkers who passed the station.

The Lido Team of volunteers has already signed on for next year's marathon. Team captains, Tony and Mary Lagunovich, pass along their personal thanks to each and every one of the volunteers for a job well done. We couldn't do it without our great volunteers and their wonderful positive attitude!! Lido volunteers are the best!!

Lido Key Matters – Published and Edited by Nigel Mould – Lidokeyra@gmail.com

Don't have an e-mail? You can write to the Editor/Publisher directly at his home address:

Nigel Mould, 208 Polk Dr N, Sarasota Fl, 34236

MORE OF LIDO KEY MATTERS.....

BEACH RENOURISHMENT NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

Alexandrea DavisShaw, Sarasota City Director of Engineering and City Engineer, and Rick Spandoni, Coastal Planning engineer, and Sarasota City Commissioner Dick Clapp are traveling to Tallahassee the second week in April with plans for the FEMA renourishment project that will hopefully begin in November, 2008. They will be seeking information regarding timing for receipt of a Department of Environmental Protection permit required to begin the renourishment.



Congress is currently in session and will soon be considering Sarasota's request for funding to continue with the preconstruction engineering and design of Lido Beach. We have put in a \$500,000 request for this project from the General Investigation Account of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill. We are requesting that you fax or e-mail (postal mail is very, very slow reaching the Congressional Offices) a letter written and signed by you that encourages our Senators and Representative to support this request. Below are some thoughts you may want to include, in addition to your own thoughts---

- Thank you for your strong support of Lido Key restoration in the past.
- City has been working since 1996 with US Army Corps of Engineers to develop an erosion and beach maintenance plan for next 50 years.
- In a Reconnaissance study report, approved by Army Corps of Engineers in May 1997, found that the Lido Key Beach Nourishment project "is technically sound, economically justified, and socially and environmentally acceptable."
- A Feasibility Study was completed and approved in 2004. Since then, the Corps and City have signed preconstruction engineering and design cost-sharing agreement and moved forward with that phase of the project.
- Next step is to get funding approved FY2008 to continue with the preconstruction engineering and design of Lido Beach.
- Lido Key is a coastal park that serves tens of thousands of residents and tourists annually.
- It has suffered severe erosion, with the City spending significant local funds in attempts to deal with the worst "hot spots" on the beach.
- While these efforts have been important, we need a long term solution to this problem.
- Please support the City of Sarasota and request for \$500,000 to continue the preconstruction engineering and design effort for Lido Beach, a critical asset and one of the jewels of Sarasota.
- Your ongoing support is appreciated



Please create your own message; *do not photocopy and send the background information.* Personal comments, based on the background and your views carry much more weight if contained in a personalized letter.

We must take a strong stand to enhance and preserve our beach and gain the funding required to continue with preconstruction engineering and design of Lido Beach! ***You can help!***

Turn the page for all the addresses you need.....

MORE OF LIDO KEY MATTERS.....

SUPPORT LIDO BEACH AND WRITE TO :

Please write to all three gentlemen and sign your name and your mailing address in your communications.

The Honorable Mel Martinez
U.S. Senate
356 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

e-mail: <http://martinez.senate.gov> (click “contact us”)
fax: (202) 228-5171

The Honorable Bill Nelson
U.S. Senate
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

e-mail: <http://billnelson.senate.gov/contact/email.cfm>
fax: (202) 228-2183

The Honorable Vern Buchanan
U.S. House of Representatives
1516 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

e-mail: <http://buchanan.house.gov/contact.shtml>
fax: (202) 226-0828

SUNSET COCKTAILS...



LKRA arranged a “sunset cocktails” get-together that unfortunately coincided with one of the coldest days this winter. That didn’t stop many of our hardy residents from showing up and enjoying the company and the music.....



Thanks to Debbie Comer for organizing the event and to Robin Hartill from the Longboat Observer for the photos!

...A NEW LIDO TRADITION?

The residents of the North Polk area liked the idea so much that they arranged a potluck block party to celebrate the time change last weekend. A great way to get to know the neighbors! Maybe sunset block parties will become a Lido tradition?



MORE OF LIDO KEY MATTERS.....

FEBRUARY MEMBERS MEETING

Our February 16 meeting was attended by approximately 95 members and guests. State Representative Keith Fitzgerald presented an overview of issues and ongoing activities at the State, County and City level. Winnie Nelon, Board member of CART (Coalition Against Runaway Taxation) provided an update and goals of the organization and invited members to become involved.

The Board of Directors for 2008-09 comprises of President, Sandy Bower; Vice President, John Lambert; Secretary, Blayne Thompson, Treasurer, Tony Lagunovich; Debbie Comer, Beth Dilworth, George Havitz, and John Kirker.

Business discussion included:

- Audit of LKRA financials was completed in January and approved.
- Presentation of new design for “Welcome to Lido” neighborhood signs, approved by members present
- Status of new Environmental and Coastal Island Chapter in the City Comprehensive Plan
- Unanimous approval to oppose narrowing US 41 Bayfront traffic /Gulfstream Avenue closing
- Lions Gate Development’s filing a site plan for new hotel on Lido, at current site of Coquina Motel
- Lido Beach Pavilion update and approval from membership to continue direction as presented
- Update on Lido Beach renourishment

LIDO PAVILION UPDATE

The Lido Pavilion Task Team, comprised of representatives from nearly all districts in the City, has developed a Phase I plan to revitalize the Lido Pavilion and beach area. One of the primary goals of the Team was to ensure the compatibility of the Pavilion and amenities with the environmentally sensitive beach and dune areas. There was also a focus on creating an attractive environment and easily accessible amenities for beach visitors. After evaluating numerous options over 10 months, the Team voted unanimously to update the current Pavilion, through seeking Penny Sales Tax monies for building improvements. The request was approved by the City Commission; however, the \$1.25 million in funding for the building renovations will not be available until 2016.



The Task Team then voted to move ahead immediately to add and upgrade amenities at the Pavilion and beachfront to make the area more attractive and more visitor friendly. Due to budget constraints at the City and County levels, these recommended upgrades and enhancements will be funded by a grass-roots fund-raising effort and through grant dollars. Additionally, other sources of funding will be explored, including Tourist Tax dollars and impact fee funds.

Among the upgrades that are being considered: Improving landscaping, creating shaded sitting areas, creating a children’s playground, adding sun shade structures for the pool and playground, creating a better flow between the pavilion and pool area, evaluating shop, kitchen, restaurant, restroom areas. Other amenity improvements and additions may be explored as funding becomes available.

MORE OF LIDO KEY MATTERS.....

2008 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

A 2008 membership drive was conducted to encourage new members to join LKRA and become part of helping maintain and enhance the quality of life on Lido Key for all residents and our many visitors. The drive resulted in 20 new members, and the member who signed up the most new members will be announced at the March 15 membership meeting. This individual will receive a \$100 gift certificate from the Lido Beach Resort. We have gained a total of 50 new household memberships over the last few months. We have approximately 630 individual members supporting our organization at this time. We are gaining on our goal of having 1000 individual members supporting Lido Key and helping to maintain and improve the quality of life on the Key. If each member would bring in one new member, we would exceed our goal. So let's get busy! .

P.S. Membership dues were payable by February 29. Are you one of the members who forgot to pay your \$20 annual dues? We will be removing members from our mailing and e-mail lists within a short time if memberships are not renewed. We appreciate all the members who have renewed your memberships for 2008. Your support helps make our organization successful

GOT 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. *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.*

LIDO KEY
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 884
SARASOTA, FL 34230