



LIDO KEY MATTERS

PRESIDENTS NEWS



Our last social event of the season, "Dining on the Bay" was a truly enjoyable evening. If you see Del Roosen or John Lambert, please give them your thanks for their efforts. They worked hard to make your evening memorable. Their team of volunteers helped make the evening quite a success. Our events are possible only through the members who step up and just make it happen!

Summer season is here--our neighborhood will now host thousands of residents and visitors who will enjoy the Triathlon, the Mangrove Tunnels, the Boat Races, the nature trails, the turtle crawls, and the magnificent beach sunsets! What a neighborhood we live in!

To our friends, members and neighbors who have left for the summer...See you in the fall!

Sandy

Sandy Bower
President

SNOWBIRDS LEAVE, TURTLES ARRIVE...

As we wave goodbye to many of our friends and neighbours, as they head back north, it's important to remember that as one "season" ends another begins. In this issue we'll try to keep you up on the news but also dedicate space to some of the letters and views we have received from our members. You will find a lot of small bits and pieces in this months LKM, hopefully there is something interesting for everyone.

Through the summer please keep the input coming, even if you have something to say from up north! – News, complaints and praise from you keeps our huge editorial staff motivated! Just write to LidoKeyRA@gmail.com...

BEACH RENOURISHMENT NOT YET ON SOLID GROUND

Thanks to everyone who wrote letters, sent faxes and e-mails in support of Lido Beach renourishment. It's not too late if you still haven't written, every single message of support helps.

As far as the current project is concerned, Commisioner Richard Clapp, Alex Davis Shaw, Engineering Director will travel to Tallahassee on June 5th to push for progress on the sand source.

As far as Big Pass is concerned, there is an on-going study due to be finished in November or December this year. County Commissioner Joe Barbetta has promised to address the Lido Key RA at that time. Thanks go to John Kirker for staying on top of both projects!



MORE OF LIDO KEY MATTERS.....

TURTLE „SEASON“ STARTS ON MAY 1ST...



Now we all know that Florida has nearly 1,200 miles of coastline, but did you know that we host about 90% of sea turtle nesting in the continental United States? Not only do our sea turtles love Florida's beaches as much as we do, the females usually return to the very same beach every 2-3 years to lay their eggs. Green Sea Turtles, the most common visitors to Lido Beach, lay an average of 3-5 clutches of 100 or more eggs during an active season. 400+ Eggs in one year may sound a lot, but the hatchlings chance of survival to adulthood is around 1 in 2500. That means a female turtle needs to keep coming back to Lido Beach over a period of 12-15 years to have a good chance that one of her eggs makes it to become a full fully fledged adult. No surprise that our sea turtles are an endangered species...

THERE ARE 2 BIG PROBLEMS, WITH EASY SOLUTIONS :

Firstly, turtles are designed to live in the ocean; they don't have an easy time moving about on land. This means that the females can easily be frightened by humans, easily entangled in beach furniture, and distracted by large obstacles. These „hazards“ tend to make the turtles just turn around and swim back out to sea, never laying her eggs at all. We can all make a huge difference by staying off the beach at night and making sure that beach furniture is removed from the beach or pulled well up away from the sand.

Secondly, turtles navigate to the sea by following the strongest light source. This should normally be the moon reflecting off the water. Unfortunately, new hatchlings cannot differentiate between the moon's reflection and garden or condo lights. Many lighting applications are known to affect sea turtles, including porch, pool, street, stairway, walkway, parking lot, security, interior lights, floodlights, up-lights, spotlights, flashlights, lanterns, open fires, car headlights and even bug-zappers (which emit light that both insects and sea turtles see as well). Turning off garden lights, closing the drapes and putting your security lights on motion-sensitive switches all helps. Lower watt bulbs and using yellow incandescent lightbulbs are also recommended.

GARBAGE DOESN'T GO AWAY....

...well, certainly not as quickly as you make think! There is almost nothing which will “dissolve” away quickly on it's own. Polystyrene pellets (from soda cups) and plastic shopping bags take many, many decades to break down completely. Plastic bags floating in the water look just like jellyfish, which happens to be the Leatherback Turtles favourite food. Small pieces of plastic (which look just like bits of shrimp or squid) are regularly found in the Turtles brought into Mote Marine's Turtle Hospital. Cigarette butts take from 1-5years to “dissolve” in the ocean, monofilament fishing line takes hundreds of years to breakdown.....plenty of time for our Turtles to get entangled....

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

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MORE OF LIDO KEY MATTERS.....

BITS AND PIECES

Lido Key Residents Directory in process; delivery is anticipated in June. – The Proscenium (Waldorf Astoria) architect is reworking their plans and a neighborhood meeting will be scheduled when they are finalized. – "Sink the Powerlines" project for John Ringling Boulevard/Coon Key has slowed due to funding issues. – There have been a couple of close calls resulting from speeding drivers on the island, please slow down before someone gets hurt.

SIGNS OF CHANGE

1. Earlier this year, LKRA membership approved new design for Lido neighborhood sign which has now been erected at South Boulevard and Polk, just over the hump back bridge.
 2. The County has installed a new Lido Nature Center sign at the Taft entrance.
 3. The County has installed a new sign at South Lido Park at the end of Ben Franklin Drive.
 4. The new sign for the Lido Beach Pool has also now been erected.
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YOUR VIEWS AND CONCERNS :

Doggie Bags? – Many of our residents are concerned about dog owners not picking up after their dogs on a daily basis. The resulting "debris" is unattractive and unhealthy for our neighborhood. This waste eventually washes into the bay and gulf where people swim. Members have also noticed more dogs on the beach, and many leaving their deposits on the sand. Your thoughts on how to constructively communicate to our many visitors (and even residents) that dogs and their deposits aren't permitted on the beach?

Beach-goers don't always read signs – Sea Oats and other fragile beach front plants that protect and anchor our beach front from wind and surf are being trampled by beach visitors. Paths are worn through prohibited areas, despite the signs pleading visitors not to walk through these environmentally protected areas. Ideas?

Smoking on the beach doesn't seem to bother people as much as the garbage it creates. Smokers take your butts away with you and maybe everyone will leave you to smoke in peace?

SOUNDING OFF *Opinion Corner*

Our board suggests we focus on Managing Growth And Development, amongst other things. I would like to suggest that we give equal consideration to the protection of private property ownership rights. We read and hear so little about the ongoing diminishment of our property rights. The State and county governments have caused the entitlement process to become so exorbitant that it has become prohibitively expensive to develop and build a home. They continue to raise impact fees to unprecedented levels. Has anyone really looked recently at what their children and grand children will be able to afford relative to housing. I am fifty years old and I can remember when \$250,000 would buy you a four bedroom, three bath home with a two car side loaded garage on a quarter acre lot with a pool on a golf course within a very nice community with excellent schools. Today, that same \$250,000 will buy you a town home with a two car garage (maybe), no back yard and in a community with marginal schools, at best. Are we not placing too much emphasis on growth management and not enough on the protection of our children and grand children's rights to raise their families in a home? Just a question I think is worth asking. Respectfully yours, William D. Pigozzi

MORE OF LIDO KEY MATTERS.....

2008 ANNUAL DINNER



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

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P.S. Next meeting will be in October! More updates in the coming newsletters.....