

# LIDO KEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## LIDO KEY MATTERS

JANUARY 2013

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### Calendar of Events

All Membership meetings  
held at the Lido Beach  
Resort—8th Floor,  
10:00 am on the 3rd  
Saturday of the month  
Upcoming Meetings:

**February Meeting  
(Holiday Inn, Top Floor)**

March

April

### Presidents Dinner

**Helmsley Sandcastle Hotel  
Thursday, March 21, 2013**

**\$45.00 Per Person**

**Entertainment and Buffet**

### **“Meet and Greet”**

**Island Neighbors**

**Happy Hours**

**5 p.m.—7 p.m.**

**February 20th, Lido**

**Beach Resort**

**April 17th, Lido Beach**

**Pavilion**

**LKRA  
P.O. BOX 884  
SARASOTA, FL  
34230**

### Letter from the President

Greetings to all past members who are renewing their memberships, as well as new members who are joining for the first time. The season is in full swing now and this year's weather so far is really hard to beat. I am sure we will have some cold weather before it's over.

Our annual breakfast meeting was just held on January 19, 2013 at the Lido Beach Resort and we had over 180 in attendance. Our guest speaker was the New City manager Tom Barwin which he gave us a little bio of himself as well as what he sees as important issues facing the city in the next few years. Also in attendance was the new police chief, city commissioners, mayor, city staff and county commissioner Joe Barbetta. A questions and answer period followed which was very informative.

**Our next meeting will be held at the HOLIDAY INN on Ben Franklin DR on the top floor next to their restaurant (see date and time in newsletter).**

I would encourage everyone to attend and ask questions to the candidates. This is going to be a crucial election that will impact Lido Key residents in the coming year.

Again I want thank everyone that has joined our organization and supports our efforts. As I often say, the larger the amount of people that stand together have more say in matters that concern LIDO KEY (our slice of heaven).

God bless and see you soon

**Carl Shoffstall  
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Cell: (813) 967-2687**

**LIDO KEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS****MARY MOSS**

At our annual meeting on Saturday, February 16, 2013, we will be electing several members to the Board of Directors.

Our board is comprised of seven to eleven members who are residents on the Key. Terms are for two years. The board meets once a month during the months of October, November, January, February, March, and April.

Our by-laws state that "the Board of Directors shall function in all routine matters concerning the business of Association with the exception of matters relating to zoning and planning actions of the City and County."

Individuals up for re-election this year include:

John Lambert, John Kirker, Anne Franklin, Beth Dilworth, George Hafitz and Tim MaLaney.

Any member who is interested in running for the board should contact any board member for more information and can submit their name in nomination at the meeting.



**CANDIDATE FORUM AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING****CINDY SHOFFSTALL**

Our meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup> will be held at the **Holiday Inn**, top floor. We will be hosting a candidate forum for everyone running for City Commissioner.

Six candidates have qualified for the two open City Commission seats in the March 12<sup>th</sup> election. They are running for the two at-large seats currently held by Suzanne Atwell and Terry Turner. These two seats are elected by the entire city, not just our district.

In the March 12<sup>th</sup> election, voters will choose two of the six candidates listed on the ballot. A candidate must receive the majority of the votes to win. If nobody receives a majority of the votes, a second election will be held two days later with the three people who received the most votes. If one person receives a majority of the votes in the first election, then the two runners-up will face off in the second election.

**CANDIDATES**

**Suzanne Atwell**, incumbent, retired psychotherapist

Board of Director of the Economic Development Corp of Sarasota, Board of Directors of Sarasota Chamber of Commerce, policy board of Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

**Susan Chapman**, lawyer

City Planning Board member, chair of Sarasota AdHoc Police Advisory Panel, past president of Sarasota County Civic League

**Richard Dorfman**, former sports and entertainment agent

North Trail Redevelopment Alliance member, former member of the Sarasota County Sports Commission

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**CANDIDATE FORUM AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING**

**Linda Holland**, real estate broker

Coalition of City Neighborhood Associations (CCNA) founder, Gillespie Park Neighborhood Association founder, City of Sarasota Nuisance Abatement Board chair

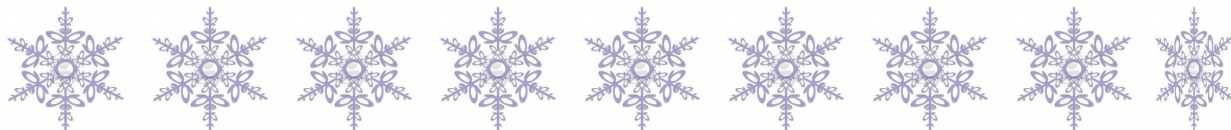
**Kevin Lumpkin**, church pastor

Independent Police Advisory Panel member, president of FOCUS-Newtown ministerial alliance

**Pete Theisen**, retired acupuncturist

Former president of Sun Health Foundation Inc, board member of Control Growth Now

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**COLD FRONT COMING IN!!!**

**NORTH LIDO PARK****CAPTAIN JEFFREY W. KARR**

In May 2006, North Lido Park was a problem park, owned by the city and maintained by the county. Illicit activities, drug use, and homeless camps were hidden in the tangle of non-native trees that choked the park. The Brazilian Pepper Tree and Australian Pine Trees had taken away the park's biodiversity and turned the landscape into a jumbled mess of the two plant species competing to choke out and destroy any opportunity for native plants to survive. Hidden in the density of this mass were homeless camps, trash, and numerous pathways used by those seeking illicit activities. Lido Key residents rarely ventured into the park and the police had had difficulty in trying to end the issues in themselves based on the vegetation.

A joint initiative started by the Sarasota Police Department and the Sarasota County Parks Department began that month to help end the problems and start to restore the park back to its natural state. By the end of that year, the majority of the 77 acre park's Brazilian Pepper Trees had been removed and the restoration had begun. On February 10, 2007, Sarasota Bay Estuary Bay Buddies helped in removing hundreds of seedling Australian Pines, Brazilian Pepper trees, Carrotwood trees, Hawaiian beach naupaka, all non-native species. They also assisted in removing the remnants of six homeless camps that had been exposed. Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (SBEP) became a major partner in the restoration of the park itself. Through this partnership, a tidal stream was designed for the park and the sand dredged from the project was used to form the large sand dunes that are located in the center of the park itself. On any given day you can watch mullet, snook, and schools of small fish navigating through the stream. The stream now attracts wading birds, ospreys, and the occasional bald eagle, all trying their skills in catching a fish here. SBEP has assisted us in planting hundreds of native plants over the past several years.

A connection was made with Friends of Oscar Scherer State Park, which resulted in helping both parks in a very unique way. Friends of Oscar Scherer were looking for a firewood source. They wanted to sell firewood to campers at the state park without impacting the native tree species at the park itself. North Lido Park's invasive Australian Pine trees provided that firewood source to meet that need and it helped us in removing the trees with their free labor. A true win win situation.

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**NORTH LIDO PARK****CAPTAIN JEFFREY W. KARR**

The Lido Key Residents Association gave full support to the efforts to return their neighborhood park to a safe place to walk and applied for a grant through the City's Neighborhood Partnership Office in 2009. The grant required direct neighborhood participation either through matching funds, which were made possible by the generous donation of the Korp family, and sweat equity by volunteers willing to help in the restoration effort itself. The result was returning the park entrance on Emerson Drive to native plant species and removing the impenetrable barrier of old and dying Australian Pines that lined the street. The City of Sarasota Public Works Department has also provided continued funding for removal of trees and partnered with the County Parks Department and SBEP to plant native Sable Palms and hundreds of other native plants along the road that winds through the park.

The work continues at the park at a slower pace since the center of the park has been restored to its natural state, but the park is now facing a new threat to its progress. Thousands of Australian Pine seedlings are now sprouting in the restored areas and new dunes. The sweat of hundreds of volunteer's hours will soon be challenged by this non-native species, again attempting to take a foothold in the park. One mature Australian Pine tree can produce 30,000 seed a year. Is the work endless, yes, in some sense of the word? Can we win? We will if we try hard enough.

What can you do to help? Take a walk in the park, learn what a seedling looks like and leave after you have stopped and pulled up a few seedlings. Leave them bare rooted on the road's edge so they won't have an opportunity to reroot again. The partnerships that were formed to help restore the park will continue their efforts, and with the help of the Lido Key Residents Association joining in this small way, the work already done won't be undone.

**Interested in a LKRA work day? We have a work day scheduled for February 8th, from noon to 4 p.m. If you are interested in helping out, bring some gloves, dress in some comfortable pants and shirt that you don't mind getting a little dirty. Parking will be available on Emerson Drive for all volunteers. Come out and help continue to turn this diamond in the rough into a destination location for walkers, runners, birders, and most importantly your neighbors and friends.**

**MEMBERSHIP**

**JOHN LAMBERT**

Membership is the life blood of our organization. We continue to strive for increased membership but have never reached our goal. If each member brings in one new member we will be well on our way in achieving our goal.

Now go after them now.....Let's reach our goal in 2013.

**(CCNA)**

**CARL SHOFFSTALL**

The monthly meetings of the Coalition of City Neighborhood Associations (CCNA) are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month (except July) at the fire station on Waldemere Ave. There are approximately 27 neighborhood associations represented each month.

There is a scheduled topic for each meeting with a speaker addressing the issue that affects the neighborhoods. The meetings are open to the public and anyone can attend.

Many city and county officials attend. Anyone interested in going to these meetings let me know and I will give the time.



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**ANNUAL PRESIDENTS DINNER****JOHN LAMBERT**

Reserve the date of Thursday, March 21, 2013 at Helmsley Sandcastle Hotel. We will have room for 120 Lido Key Resident members. So when the info is sent out reserve immediately. Price for the event is \$45.00. This includes tax and service charge.

Some of the buffet items will be red snapper, prime rib carved, snow crab legs, steamed clams and mussels in butter, shrimp, salads, fruits, desserts and much more. We are also planning entertainment, etc . If anyone is interested in assisting John T. Lambert or Beth Dilworth call 941-228-0667 or 570-421-4364. Hope to see you all there!!!!!!!!!!!! Reserve Thursday, March 21, 2013.

**MEET AND GREET****DEBBIE COMER  
SPECIAL EVENTS CHAIR**

Last season, Five New Opportunities to MEET AND GREET your Island Neighbors were held. All Meet and Greet—Happy Hours were very popular, and well attended. Meet and Greets were held at various locations, including the Helmsley Sandcastle, Lido Beach Resort, and the Lido Pool Pavilion. Happy Hours began at 5:00. We were given special drink prices and/or snacks/appetizers, but most important an opportunity to mingle, and make new friends. Be watching for this season's dates plan to attend, and bring a neighbor.



**PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR NEWSLETTER!!**

Submit your letter in 150 words or less to the Editor at [carl@floridaplaystructures.com](mailto:carl@floridaplaystructures.com) and get your letter and/or picture 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.*



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

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