

LIDO KEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

LIDO KEY MATTERS

MAY2025



Events Calendar

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

NEXT MEETING:

Oct. 18 2025 Topic TBD

MEET & GREET

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm at the Daiquri Deck:

6/10/2025

7/8/2025

8/12/2025

Presidents Letter

Good morning to LKRA members

We have wrapped up another season in April with the last member meeting (our 23rd season living here). Mayor Liz Alpert gave the presentation and was well received. We had a very good turnout of members. To state the obvious, it was one hell of a year to date, starting with the three storms Debbie, Helene and Milton. Cindy and I like a lot of families got wiped out and we had to move out for several months until our condo was redone. Unfortunately, there are a lot of people still not back in their places and from what I am hearing it will be a while yet, but progress is being made. Speaking to some of our friends from St Armands and surrounding keys it is going to take some time to get back to normal. ST Armands circle is also slowing getting back to normal with several existing business and new ones moving in.

The Lido Key Resident Association was not able to hold member meetings in October and November due to the back-to-back storms. When we held our first meeting in January, our guest speaker was Bill Wadill and Tania Castroverde Moskalenko (new CEO Sarasota Performing Arts Foundation). In February we had our US Congressman Greg Steube, he went over what to do for hurricane damage claims, he also touched on many topics of concern. We had board elections, and the only change was Heidi Wells-Brandt stepped down and Michael Jaspan was promoted to the board and the rest stayed the same.

May 28, 2025

Our March meeting had Selby Gardens CEO Jennifer Rominiecki giving a presentation on the starting of phase 2 at the gardens. As I said at the beginning of this letter Mayor Alpert gave the update of the state of City. Even though it was a short season we had great speakers.

The highlight of the year was the Beach Party, hats off to the committee and volunteers who were instrumental in putting on a great event. PS for the summer we are planning to hold meet and greets over the summer. Check the website for dates, times and locations (www.lkra.org).

Over the past few weeks I have seen a lot of car carriers, a tell tail sign of the end of the season. I suppose that is my queue to sign off. Lastly, I want to thank my board for their dedication to our association and to all the members who have supported LKRA!!!!

Have a great summer and be safe

Carl Shoffstall
President LKRA

[813-967-2687](tel:813-967-2687) cell

carl@floridaplaystructures.com

[941-706-1217](tel:941-706-1217) home/fax

Rick Scott

United States Senator

Hurricane Preparedness

As Floridians, we know that preparedness saves lives. As the 2025 hurricane season begins on June 1st, the time for Florida families and businesses to make a plan is TODAY. Now is a great opportunity for your family to stock your disaster supply kits with vital supplies like a first aid kit, a radio, flashlights, batteries and other necessities. Your kit should also include 7 days' worth of food and water, prescription medications, and any important documents. You can find resources and information on creating a personalized emergency plan [HERE](#)

Here are a few tips to help you prepare your family and business for this upcoming season:

Before a Storm:

Prepare an evacuation plan & make sure everyone in your home knows the plan. Stock up on emergency supplies, including: Water – You will need water for drinking, cooking and sanitation purposes. Pack a minimum of 1 gallon daily per person for 7 days. Food – You will need enough food for a minimum of 7 days: Non-perishable packaged or canned food and juices Manual can opener Foods for individuals with dietary restrictions (i.e., infants, elderly, etc.) Snack foods Cooking tools and fuel. Paper plates and plastic utensils Flashlight and Extra Batteries Pillows, Blankets, and/or Sleeping Bags

Clothing - Include a complete change of clothes suitable for your area's climate. Be sure to include sturdy shoes to protect you from debris or other sharp objects you may encounter outdoors post-storm. First Aid Kit, Prescription Medication and Other Medicines. Radio – Battery operated and NOAA weather radio. Toiletries Cleaning Supplies – Include garbage bags, moisture wipes and other items you may need to sanitize your home or surrounding post-disaster. Special Items – Assess all family members' needs. Consider other items needed for infants, elderly and individuals with access and functional needs (i.e., medical items, baby bottles, etc.). Cash – Banks and ATMs may not be open or available for extended periods following a disaster. Toys, Books and Games. Important Documents – Consider storing all critical documents in a waterproof container, as well as saving them electronically. These items can include, but are not limited to, insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc. Tools Pet Care Items Proper identification/immunization records Ample supply of food and water Carrier or cage Medications Muzzle and leash Photo of you and your pet(s) – in the event that you are separated from your pet, having an updated photo with your pet will help validate pet ownership

If you have been told to evacuate, EVACUATE. Don't stay behind. We can rebuild a home, but we can't rebuild a life.

During a Storm

Follow instructions from local law enforcement and emergency management officials. Stay away from windows and seek shelter.

After a Storm

If you were advised to evacuate, do not return home until it is safe to do so. Be mindful of debris and down power lines. Do not drive or walk around outside if you do not have to.

Hurricane Preparedness Resources Websites

FEMA: Visit FEMA for up-to-date information, support, services, and to apply for disaster assistance following a storm.

SBA: Visit SBA to learn about low-interest disaster loans to help businesses and homeowners recover from a major disaster

FloridaDisaster.org: Visit FloridaDisaster.org for resources and information on creating a personalized emergency plan for your family.

HUD: Visit HUD to learn about housing assistance available to homeowners and renters

National Hurricane Center: Visit NHC for the latest updates on tropical weather threats.

Liz Alpert, Esq.**Mayor, Sarasota**

Greetings to all as we move into the 2026 hurricane season. According to Accuweather, the prediction is for 13-18 names storms, 7-10 hurricanes, and 3-5 major hurricanes. We hope that we will enjoy our usual streak of good luck and that none will affect us, but we need to be prepared just in case. I know many of you are still disrupted and some have even had to move to another location, but I hope you are recovering and wish for a speedy return to normal.

With the official start of the Atlantic hurricane season on June 1, expect to see and hear a lot of information about what you can and should be doing to prepare. Now is the time to review plans and get your family and home ready. Restock non-perishable food, water, and other emergency supplies. Don't wait to trim tree branches. And be a responsible neighbor -- determine where your garbage and recycling carts will be stored. (During last year's storms, many unsecured carts blew into our streets blocking storm drains and scattering debris through neighborhoods.) Read the City News for more information about Hurricane Preparedness.

Although the 2024 hurricane season was stressful and difficult, we received an uplifting report on the condition of Sarasota Bay during our last City Commission meeting. Dr. David Tomasko, Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Mayor Executive Director, shared that the health of our precious bay has greatly improved since 2018 when red tide was at its worst. It's healthier due to reduced nutrient loads going into the bay. This has set the stage for remarkable growth in seagrasses, which serve as habitat for manatees, sea turtles, and fish. It's estimated that from 2022-24 Sarasota Bay gained 2,000 acres of seagrass, translating into 70-80 million more fish in the bay. Incredible!

Dr. Tomasko pointed out that while the City of Sarasota has one of the best wastewater treatment plants in the country, second only to Disney in the state, government cannot do it all when it comes to reducing nutrients in the bay. Waterfront property owners should consider using concrete seawalls (rather than less expensive plastic) to encourage the growth of nutrient-filtering oysters. Pick up after your pet and don't blow grass clippings into the water or street, which will go into the storm drains.

Thank you, Dr. Tomasko, for reminding us that our individual actions can make a difference. Let's all continue to do our part to protect and improve the health of Sarasota Bay, a precious natural resource that contributes greatly to our community, including the local economy.

O'Leary's on the bay front just reopened after being closed since the hurricanes. To avoid such a long closure next time, they have installed pavers, waterproof walls (instead of drywall), and raising their electrical outlets high enough not to be damaged. The City Commission just approved the necessary authorizations for the dredging of New Pass to replace sand on Lido Beach. The work is scheduled to begin in late 2025 and finish sometime in the summer of 2026. The dune project will begin in the Fall of 2026 and finish in early 2027.

The City Manager search is now proceeding forward. The Commission will be looking for a consultant as well as a new search firm to assist us. Until we engage the consultant, we won't know the timeline for when we anticipate we will have a new city manager, but I believe it will be at the end of the year.

Have a happy and healthy summer!

Liz Alpert

Alyssa Thomas**Assistant Sarasota City Engineer**

Lido Beach Shore Protection Project: Advancing Renourishment and Dune Resilience

The City of Sarasota, in close coordination with Sarasota County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), continues to make significant progress on vital shoreline protection initiatives for Lido Beach. These efforts include the next phase of beach renourishment and a future dune enhancement project—both essential to reducing storm-related impacts and safeguarding our coastline.

Federal Authorization and Local Collaboration Drive Progress

A major milestone was achieved on May 5th, 2025, when the Sarasota City Commission approved two key agreements: a Temporary Access and Work Area Easement and the temporary assignment of 21 Perpetual Beach Storm Damage Reduction Easements (PBSDREs) to Sarasota County. These agreements empower the County, serving as the non-federal sponsor to USACE, to meet the real estate certification requirements necessary for construction. Both the easement and the assignment to the County are temporary, in support of the project, and will expire on December 31st, 2026.

The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2025 further strengthens our ability to move forward by allowing the temporary use of existing easements for up to two years. This provision enables the project to proceed without further delay, while the City retains concurrent rights to the easements during this period to ensure ongoing oversight.

Scope and Timeline of Upcoming Improvements

The coordinated project includes:

- **New Pass Dredging:** Conducted by USACE to enhance navigation safety, with the dredged sand reused to replenish Lido Beach.
- **Beach Renourishment:** Placement of beneficial sand fill to stabilize the shoreline, protect adjacent infrastructure, and enhance ecological and recreational value.
- **Dune Enhancements:** A 1.57-mile-long dune system—scheduled for Fall 2026 through early 2027—will be constructed to reinforce natural storm protection and improve habitat continuity.

Project mobilization is anticipated in late 2025, following the County's real estate certification in June. Beach fill operations are expected to run through Summer 2026.

Design Refinements and Community Input

The dune system, originally developed in 2021 and permitted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) in 2023, is currently being revised to reflect the updated beach conditions. Thank you to those who came to the informational meeting on March 26th and to Lido Beach Resort for their hospitality. While the City initially explored constructing dunes ahead of nourishment, the current plan is to implement dune enhancements after the USACE completes the renourishment in late 2026. Community engagement will remain a key component as we work with properties to utilize the most suitable sand sources available.

Sustainable Sand Source Planning

With the New Pass nearing depletion, the City is actively pursuing federal support to secure sustainable sand sources for the future. Long-term shoreline protection relies on reliable material access, and identifying alternative sources is crucial for maintaining Lido's resilience.

Commitment to Coastal Protection

Lido Beach remains a cornerstone of our community's environmental and economic vitality. Guided by interagency collaboration, scientific expertise, and meaningful public engagement, the City of Sarasota is advancing proactive measures to safeguard this treasured coastal resource for future generations. We are grateful for the continued partnership of Sarasota County, the USACE, FDEP, Mote Marine Laboratory, the Sarasota Audubon Society, and our engaged local stakeholders. We also extend our sincere appreciation to the offices of U.S. Representative Greg Steube and U.S. Senator Rick Scott for their advocacy and collaboration with our City Commissioners in advancing this critical project.

For more information, please contact:

Alyssa Thomas

Assistant City Engineer

Office: [\(941\) 263-6520](tel:(941)263-6520) | Mobile: [\(941\) 400-4582](tel:(941)400-4582)

Email: alyssa.thomas@sarasotafl.gov

[LKRA's 2025 Beach Party Photo Gallery](#) [\(click\)](#)





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Mote releases two rehabbed loggerhead sea turtles off Lido Key

Sub-adult turtles Grimm and Monique were rescued after showing signs of red tide toxicity. Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium rehabilitated the pair over several weeks. When the door of the transport truck opened, Monique was flailing in anticipation, making it clear the turtle was ready to return to the ocean.

The loggerhead sea turtle left its companion, Grimm, as Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium staff lowered her from the transport truck and onto a cart. The humans rushed across the beach with Monique, still working her flippers on top of the beach cart. When they reached the tide line with small waves crashing around the crowd, staff lowered her to the sand. It was Monique's first time seeing the ocean in almost two months.

The turtle was feisty, flailing its flippers in the sand and seemingly ready to touch the ocean. As soon as the staff lifted their hands, Monique crawled steadily toward the waves and, once deep enough, she swam away. Cheers erupted from the crowd and Mote staff, all gathered on Lido Beach on April 23 to watch the release of Monique and Grimm, both fully recovered through rehab after being recently rescued. With the way Monique exhibited strength in swimming, one would not imagine the turtle arrived at Mote almost two months prior in rough shape. "These are always the great days when we get to send a couple of these turtles home," said Gretchen Lovewell, the program manager for Mote's Stranding Investigations Program.

Grimm followed her shortly thereafter. Mote staff followed the same procedure until they reached the water. Grimm needed extra help during the sendoff, so staff carried the turtle into knee-deep water and let Grimm swim away from there. Again, more cheers. "It's just amazing to watch them swim off," Lovewell said. "We've seen them go off strong and feisty in these beautiful waters."

Opposite to the order in which they arrived at Mote, Monique and Grimm swam away free and healthy. Monique and Grimm were ready to return to the ocean after spending several weeks at Mote's rehabilitation center on Ken Thompson Parkway. Red tide toxicity is what brought them to the center. Grimm was found floating near Sanibel, Florida, on Feb. 16. Lethargy is one symptom of red tide toxicity, which occurs when marine organisms get exposed to the harmful algae.

Before being released, the Mote staff attached Passive Integrated Transponder tags to each of them, which work similarly to a pet's microchip. These tags will allow researchers to identify them if found again.

Mote credits the Sea Turtle Grants Program and organizations like Longboat Key Turtle Watch for continued support of the facility's rehabilitation efforts through funding equipment and resources. Lovewell spotlighted Mote's collaborative efforts throughout the state which helps bring turtles like Grimm to Mote's care. "It's a huge collaborative effort, especially for turtles like Grimm," Lovewell said. "It's not just us, it's our partners down south."

On March 6, bystanders found Monique washed ashore near South Siesta Key, exhibiting similar symptoms as Grimm. At Mote, the staff kept Monique and Grimm out of the water for a day or two until they proved they could manage shallow water independently. After they regained some strength, staff gave the turtles fluids and fat treatments. They moved to larger water tanks, as their condition improved, and kept under observation until they proved ready for release.



Lovewell said whenever Mote receives multiple red-tide-affected turtles in a short period, it can be alarming as they wonder if red tide is getting worse or will impact more turtles. Luckily, she said these two turtles made a full recovery.

Though red tide is out of the individual's control, Lovewell said there are things people can do to minimize the risk of harming sea turtles. For example, Mote promotes a [voluntary sea turtle protection](#)

[zone](#) to encourage boaters to slow down through certain areas.

“We want people to slow down in between New Pass and Big Pass and keep an eye out for our turtles,” Lovewell said.

How to help

If you spot a stranded or dead sea turtle or marine mammal within Sarasota or Manatee County, contact Mote's 24-hour Stranding Investigations Program at [888-345-2335](#).

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission also handles stranded manatees and sea turtles in state waters. The FWC Wildlife Alert hotline can be reached at [888-404-FWCC \(3922\)](#).





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

Editor: Bruce Abramowitz

Contributing Articles: Carl Shoffstall; Rick Scott, United States Senator; Liz Alpert, Esq., Mayor Sarasota; Alyssa Thomas, Assistant Sarasota City Engineer; Bruce Abramowitz; Carter Weinhofer, Mote Marine Laboratory;

Maintain & Finalizing Mailing List: Cindy Shoffstall





2025 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 happy hour runs from 5 - 7:30 at the various locations with exclusive 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 10:00 am at the Lido Beach Resort. Our Annual Breakfast precedes the February Meeting. Again in 2025 LKRA will throw a Beach Party (April 4th). Our newsletter *Lido Key Matters* (published 3-5 times a year) is emailed to all members and is viewable 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).

Please 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

[Household membership](#)



2025 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).

Please 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

[Hotel/business membership](#)

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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

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Director – Rhonda Daniels rhondadaniels26@yahoo.com Membership

Director -Tim Malaney lidotim@yahoo.com Scholarship

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

Director - Michael Jaspan michael@safemoneyadvisory.com Membership

Newsletter Mailing & Delivery: Cindy Shoffstall cindys@floridaplaystructures.com Jim Ludwig, jhludwig@comcast.net

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