



LIDO KEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

LIDO KEY MATTERS

FEBRUARY 2020

Events Calendar

All Membership Meetings
held at Lido Beach Resort 8th floor,
10:00 on the 3rd Saturday of the
month:

NEXT MEETING: March 21

District 2 Candidate Forum

Liz Alpert, incumbent

Martin Hyde

Terry Turner

Jerry Wells

"Meet and Greet"

Happy Hours 5-7 pm

The second Tuesday of the month

at: Lido Key Holiday Inn

Kokomos, Holiday Inn

March 10th, at 5 PM

With a special LKRA menu!!

Presidents Letter

Good morning to all members of the Lido Key Resident Association:

I hope everyone is enjoying the season as it is about half over already. I am happy to announce the beach fund raising soiree was an outstanding event. Everyone that attended had a great time and the sponsors, The Ritz Carlton and their staff, did an outstanding job. I am extremely happy to announce we raised right around \$42,000.00. A mighty shout out is in order to Ocean Properties, as well as all of the businesses and individuals who donated to this great cause. I want to thank the Committee who worked very hard to pull off this great event.

We had our annual election for the board and directors and the board will stay the same.

At our annual breakfast meeting this past Saturday, we had a very good turnout and the speaker was Jeff Lahurd (local historian) who gave a very interesting and entertaining presentation on the history of Lido Key, St Armands and the City of Sarasota. The 120 people who attended the meeting received it very well.

An update on the beach (Big Pass project) by City Engineer Alex Davis-Shaw is also included in the newsletter.

The Lido Pavilion project is progressing very well. To date, work that has been completed is a new hood vent in kitchen, new metal roof, all new concrete poured around the outside of pavilion and building was painted. A new shade structure is being manufactured for the sitting area in the concession area. Just this past week the new concessioner has signed the contract with the City to take over. He told me he was looking to be up and running by June.

Some other issues the Lido Key is experiencing are traffic, traffic and more traffic!!!!.

We have formed a Committee along with St Armands to see what if anything can be done to reign in the Hotel houses that are being built at an alarming rate on the barrier islands.

It seems there is always something happening on Lido Key these days.

Hope everyone is safe and look to seeing you around Lido Key.

Until we meet again,

Carl Shoffstall
President LKRA
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813-967-2687 cell
941-706-1217 home/fax
carl@floridaplaystructures.com



Camille Schwabe

LKRA Vice President

This years Ritz Fundraiser was a perfect affair with an absolutely stunning sunset. All who attended wore Hawaiian apparel which set a festive tone. The Ritz Carlton welcomed us with attention to detail and great service.

Dinner was served upstairs in Aloha fashion on white draped tables with floral center pieces. An auction of wonderful romantic getaways, golf outings and fine dining evenings out followed. Thereafter, the event continued downstairs for music, coffee, and desserts with a silent auction of lovely gift baskets. A good cause was attended by residents that truly care for our beautiful Lido Beach. My heart was warmed and I was proud to be a part of such a beautiful evening and even more proud of all who showed up to support such an important event. Thanks to all who donated and made this a successful event.

"Save Lido Beach".

Camille Schwabe

A great Big thank you to all of our Fund Raising Sponsors:

The Ritz-Carlton, Ocean Properties Hotel Resorts and Affiliates, The Founders Club, The Columbia Restaurant, Shore St. Armands and Shore on Longboat, Tommy Bahamas, Cha Cha Coconuts, Caragiulos, Owen's Fish Camp, Veronicas Fish and Oyster,, Venezia, The Terrace at Surf Shack, The Resort at Longboat Key Club Golf Courses, Ritz- Carlton Golf Course, Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium, Micheal's On East, Scott Ashby, Speaks Clam Bar, The Lazy Lobster, Blu Kouzina, Crab and Fin, Mar Vista, Blue Dolphin, Green Zebra, The Ringling, Old Salty Dog, Selva, Florida Studio Theaters, Big Cat Habitat, Sarasota Jungle Gardens





Thomas Barwin

Sarasota City Manager

U.S 41-Fruitville Rd. Roundabout - Updated Schedule

Since last week's update, we learned a custom-made box culvert designed to improve stormwater flow beneath US 41 to Sarasota Bay has been manufactured and soon will be delivered on site. To install this critical infrastructure, the contractor, Wright Construction, will have to dig approximately 5-6 feet beneath US 41 between Fruitville Rd. and Second St. To minimize impacts, this work will be done overnight during the next few weeks, with at least one lane remaining open in each direction. By morning rush hour, all traffic lanes will reopen. Improving the stormwater conveyance system is very important in that area, which is low lying and prone to flooding while becoming more susceptible as sea levels rise.

The US 41-Fruitville Rd. roundabout project remains on schedule to be completed in Fall 2020, and we anticipate by early March the new traffic patterns for the project will be in place, including the return of the third left turn lane from Gulfstream Ave. to northbound US 41, the westbound closure of Fruitville Road from Coconut Ave. to US 41, and new bypass lanes west of the US 41-Fruitville Rd. intersection. Regularly updated information is available at www.US41FruitvilleRoundabout.com.

The roundabouts at US 41-Fruitville Rd. and US 41-Gulfstream Ave. have been part of the community's vision to improve Bayfront connectivity and traffic flow for over two decades, dating back to 1999 when roundabouts along US 41 were identified in the Downtown Master Plan. An engineering report from Kimley-Horn to the Florida Department of Transportation just last March states that a roundabout at Fruitville Rd., when compared to a traditional signalized intersection, would reduce delay during peak hours in February by 51 percent and in March by 53 percent. The report also shows a roundabout at Gulfstream Ave. will have a positive impact on traffic congestion, with a 29 percent reduction in delay during peak hours in February and a 41 percent drop in March. These are significant reductions in wait time, especially for those going to/from the barrier islands.

Moreover, it's FDOT's policy to consider roundabouts for intersection improvements because of the significant benefits of improved traffic flow and enhanced safety for motorists and pedestrians. The Federal Highway Administration notes 35 percent fewer crashes occur in a roundabout than a signalized intersection. In addition, the slower speeds greatly increase safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Over the past 10 years, crashes at the US 41-Gulfstream Ave. area have been increasing. There have been 353 crashes, including two fatalities, one due to speed, the other a head-on collision. Our professional transportation and engineering staff can say with confidence that those fatalities would not occur when the roundabout is constructed due to the decreased speed and configuration of the intersection. The US 41-Fruitville Rd. and Gulfstream Ave. roundabouts also will enhance stormwater flow.

The Gulfstream Ave. roundabout construction project will provide greater, much-needed relief to that area of the city that is flood prone with heavy rains. As part of the Gulfstream Ave. construction project, more drainage inlets will be added, the capacity of FDOT's stormwater retention ponds will increase significantly, and water treatment within the retention ponds also will go up.

In recent years, more than \$2.5 million in City funds have gone toward studies, design and construction documents for the Gulfstream Ave. roundabout. Over the course of the past 20 years, community leaders and engineering and transportation professionals have reaffirmed roundabouts at Gulfstream Ave. and Fruitville Rd. is the most effective way to reduce traffic congestion while connecting downtown to the Bayfront and boosting pedestrian safety.

In the meantime, we continue to encourage everyone to consider traveling during off-peak hours if you can, monitor traffic apps and websites (<https://www.smarttrafficinfo.org/> provides real-time traffic camera views) and consider walking, biking and taking transit if possible.

David Conway, Deputy Managing Editor

Your Observer

Interested in cycling around Sarasota's barrier islands?

City

tests bike-share program on St. Armands

The city announced today it is launching a bike-share pilot program by placing about 10 bikes for rental at the St. Armands Circle parking garage on North Adams Drive. The bikes are available to rent on an hourly or daily basis from a self-service station on the first level of the garage. In a release, the city said it's testing the program at the Circle to investigate the viability of establishing bike-share options elsewhere.

"This is a great opportunity to provide another mobility option for people to get around and reduce traffic congestion on St. Armands Circle and the keys," Parking Manager Mark Lyons said in the release. "We'll be monitoring the success of the pilot program and may look to expand to other City-owned parking garages in downtown Sarasota in the very near future."

Signage at the bike rental station lists rates of \$10 for two hours, \$15 for five hours and \$25 for 48 hours.

The city is partnering with rental company I Bike Sarasota to operate the pilot program. For questions about bike rentals, the city said to [visit the I Bike Sarasota website](#) or contact the company at

941-376-3368.

Liz Alpert, Esq.**City Commissioner**

Traffic! At this time of year, it is always an issue for the residents of and visitors to the barrier islands. This year, however, the traffic back-ups have been particularly difficult due in part to the improvements along the Coon Key Bridge, but mostly due to the construction of roundabouts at Fruitville, 10th Street, and 14th Streets. To further exacerbate the situation, the third left turn lane going north on U.S. 41 from the Ringling Causeway has been closed because of the Fruitville Road roundabout construction. Often the assumption is that no one in government has done any planning or put any thought into any of this. But, nothing could be further from the truth. While sometimes there are delays in the construction that can't be anticipated, a lot of planning goes into how to make the disruption to the public as short a time as possible. And, no, these projects can't all be done in the off-season. A project that takes a year or more to complete can't be done only in the off-season.

I am one of the city commission representatives to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The MPO is the organization that does the long-term transportation planning for our area and determine which projects will do the most good for our transportation needs. We are required to look at not only roads, but transit, bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure network. The plans go out 25 years. The detail of planning is very granular in analyzing where and what needs to be constructed. It takes years for a project to work its way through the system before it is funded for construction. On Monday, February 24, I will be attending a workshop open to the public about the Long-Range Transportation Plan. While by the time you read this, it will be too late to attend, you can go to MyMPO.org to look at the plans for transportation and any upcoming workshops. All of our meetings are open to the public and have an opportunity for public comment. While you're on their site, you might want to review the Barrier Islands Traffic Study and how plans are being made based on the data from the study.

I realize it doesn't help you right now with the back-ups you're experiencing, but please know that once these projects are complete, your traffic woes will be much alleviated. In fact, that's the purpose of the projects. The planned roundabouts will increase the traffic flow anywhere from 25-40% with 90% fewer fatal traffic accidents. If you want more information on why modern roundabouts are being implemented, you can do an online search for "modern roundabouts" to get the real story on their safety and efficiency.

If you want to get updates regarding the Fruitville Roundabout Project, you can subscribe at www.US41FruitvilleRoundabout.com.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at

liz.alpert@sarasotafl.gov or 941-228-5979.

Christine Johnson, Executive Director of the Conservation Foundation – Land Trust made a presentation at the February meeting, about their efforts to conserve land and anything involving plants, animals and water. I won't go into a detailed list, but there are 100's of examples of parkland and wilderness land that they have impacted over the years, including some very small parcels that one would not suspect had anything to do with land conservation. Obviously, there are a number of much larger and more visible projects, such as the Orange Hammock Ranch project.

Visit www.conservationfoundation.com to learn more.

One of their latest ventures, in the City of Sarasota, is with the Bobby Jones Municipal Golf Course, which makes up 50 % of all the Cities park land, so it's an important piece. They're proposing partnering with the city to manage and develop more of Bobby Jones as parkland, protecting wildlife and wetlands and such, which will require eliminating some of the holes of golf.

Monday the Parks, Recreation and Environmental Protection Advisory Board voted 4 to 3 to recommend a 27 hole golf course, down from 45 holes, and a 9 hole short course, and 130 acres of parkland. There will still be other golf amenities, like a driving range, but it will really increase the amount of parkland. It also is the most financially prudent approach. It will be discussed this Tues at the Feb 18 city commission meeting and the decision will have been made as you read this.

The Arlington Park initiative to have the City formalize a permanent process with set procedures, that neighborhoods could use to create and implement programs, was sent back to the CCNA by City staff. It's in the City Comp plan that the city will support such neighborhood projects, but there's no set procedure laid out. As an example, the Rosemary district went through the process, pretty much on their own, and it took years.

The idea is to have the groundwork in place so there's specific direction when neighborhoods want to go into action. The CCNA Executive Committee has now taken over the marshalling of the idea and will put together a plan for approaching and getting City approval.

Bill Waddell from The Bay reported on the beginning work on the mangrove bayou and the park land surrounding it, which will include several architectural shade structures. The renderings look very inviting. Probably not many were even aware that this mangrove bayou runs somewhat parallel to the Blvd of the Arts and well into the property, South of the Van Wezel and the parking lot and are not too accessible. That will be changing, and it looks like another really good park space where we can chill out.

Volunteering Suggestion

Two years ago Camille promoted the Audubon Bird Steward program as a volunteering opportunity and I took advantage. This April or so will be my 3rd experience. For those of you who are staying into the summer, it's a tremendous experience. For 3 hours on the weekend, you watch over and protect the Black Skimmer shore birds, who nest on Lido Beach once a year. You also educate the public about their endangered situation and how cool they are. You get to meet and talk to a lot of interesting and often appreciative folks and you can certainly feel good about what you're doing. It's a win win proposition!

Residents weigh in on proposed fish farm off Sarasota coast

The project would allow Kampachi Farms to place 20,000 Almaco jack in a pen suspended in the Gulf of Mexico.

Red tide fears led the discussion as hundreds of Florida residents gathered at Mote Marine Lab and Aquarium on Jan. 29, 2020 to express support or disdain for a fish farm proposed to be assembled and run off the Sarasota coast in the Gulf of Mexico.

A Hawaii-based company, Kampachi Farms, wants to host 20,000 almaco jack in a pen suspended in the Gulf of Mexico. To do so, it would need a permit from the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA held a hearing on the topic, which attracted more than 100 people and 60 speakers. Most of them opposed the project.

The project would place a pen about 45 miles southwest of Sarasota and produce a maximum annual harvest of 88,000 pounds, according to the permit draft. If approved, it would be the first finfish project in the Gulf of Mexico and the first in federal waters in the contiguous 48 states.

Many residents expressed concerns that the project would upset the Gulf ecosystem and pave the way for future farms.

Resident Ken Jaros questioned whether allowing the program that has the potential to release pollutants into the Gulf was the best move for a body of water already fraught with harmful red tide blooms. “We should be asking the question: Do we need more daily pollution from fish food and the waste it becomes?” Jaros said. “Do we really want to directly discharge toxins like the untreated fish waste and pharmaceuticals for the financial gain of a few individuals?” He cited the millions of pounds of dead sea life that washed on Florida shores during the 2018 red tide bloom.

However, supporters of the projects said that many criticisms of the farm were based on antiquated fish farming practices. Dennis Peters, project manager and permit coordinator, said that in preparation for the project, Kampachi met with various organizations, which allowed the company to highlight 18 possible sites.

He said the group selected this site because it has the appropriate water, depth, substrate and temperature regimes. It also allows the company to avoid sensitive reef habitats and endangered species, Peters said, which will allow the company to run the project with minimal impacts.

“Although aquaculture in federal waters is a new industry in [the Gulf], there is already plenty of sound science that shows when net pens are inserted correctly in deeper water farther offshore and when these systems are managed according to well-established practices, there are no significant impacts on water quality, sea form habitats or on the wild fish or other wildlife around the net pens,” Peters said.

As part of the permit’s requirements, Kampachi would have to monitor several factors, such as medicinal products used on the fish and discharges of pollutants including chlorophyll, copper, phosphorus, sulfide and nitrogen.

If approved, Mote will provide Kampachi with fingerling almaco jack raised at its research park.

Although many residents stood firmly on one side of the issue or the other, some offered suggestions to improve the project.

Environmental consultant Sean Patton suggested rather than solely farming the almaco jack, Kampachi should do an ecosystem-based farming project that would also grow macroalgae or other organisms that could help clean the Gulf's waters.

"If we just block every project that comes our way, we'll never get anywhere," Patton said. "But imagine if we took this warm, salty, shallow waters that we know grow a lot of harmful algae and instead grew algae that we could eat. Imagine at the same time you were doing this aquaculture project and making money and driving our economy, you were improving the water quality."

The facility would include a support vessel and one floating cage at a depth of 130 feet.

Residents have until Feb. 4 to email comments to: R4NPDES.Kampachi@epa.gov.

If the EPA approves, the project also would need a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Thomas Barwin



Greetings all. Last week I had the opportunity to meet with a board member of the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport Authority. He was understandably delighted to report that over the past two years air traffic at the airport has doubled during the month of January. Of course, after getting off their airplanes, those passengers anxiously hit the streets on their way to enjoying some time on the gulf coast.

With the continuous growth in Florida, local and state governments are striving to evolve to build the systems necessary to move residents and visitors around safely and efficiently. Replacing the drawbridge to Lido in 2003 with today's iconic \$68 million bridge now seems like ancient history, with many newcomers having never experienced the drawbridge induced traffic delays of the past. The conversation and regional traffic jams I hear about and experience remind me of Yogi Berra's famous statement, "Nobody goes there anymore. It's too crowded." I often wonder if Yogi may have been talking about Florida during the season. As a multiple times per week visitor to Lido Beach, it appears to me that Lido is as busy as I have seen it over the past 8 years. And speaking of the beach, the period to submit bids to restore and protect the Lido Key shoreline was extended by a couple of weeks by the Army Corp of Engineers. Bids are now due by the end of the month. We will keep the LKRA leadership updated.

As we prepare to re-nourish the beach this spring, the cleaning and rehabilitation of the Lido Pavilion is also progressing. New patio furniture is being installed as I write. We are hopeful the new concessionaire, Laszlo Bevardi of Bevardi's Salute! will be operating by summer. Meanwhile, food trucks will continue to provide beachgoers with food and beverage options with the restrooms and pool remaining open to the public as normal. The new 10-foot wide sidewalk, known as a multi-use recreational trail (MURT), on the south side of John Ringling Boulevard, was recently completed and is already seeing heavy pedestrian and bicyclist use. As work shifts to the north side of John Ringling Boulevard, the earth is being prepared to replace a vulnerable, 70-year water main which services the island. The new main will then be installed under another new 10-foot MURT which will serve pedestrians and bicyclists using the north side of John Ringling. These important health and transportation projects are being aided with grant assistance and are therefore being driven by budget cycles and grant requirements. We are working with contractors to have the work completed with as little disruption to vehicular traffic as possible. Your patience and understanding are greatly appreciated. As always thank you for your time and caring about our special community. I look forward to seeing you on Lido Beach and St. Armand's Circle.

Please feel free to contact me at thomas.barwin@sarasotafl.gov

Jay Elsasser Update

Lido Beach

Beach Project

The bids for the beach renourishment are due to the Army Corps of Engineers by Thursday February 27th. Assuming a successful bid/award process and no complications, the work could potentially begin as soon as this summer. The actual timeline would be up to the contractor with the project being required to be completed by the end of April of 2021.

Civil Case

With the Civil case there are two remaining and somewhat interrelated items being worked on, the attorney's fees award and the appeal of the Civil case by Siesta.

Last year LKRA and the City were awarded attorney's fees for a part of the case. In determining the amount of attorney's fees to be awarded, there is a discovery process. So far in that discovery process LKRA has submitted interrogatories for Siesta Key Association (SKA) to produce related documents. Parallel to that is also a negotiation process.

Last October SKA had filed notice that they were appealing two of the decisions from the civil case. On February 6th SKA filed the text of their appeal. Both of the items they have appealed are related to arguments they made, and lost, during the course of the case which gave rise to LKRA and the City being awarded attorney's fees.

Both the attorney's fee and appeal process are ongoing.

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

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Heidi Brandt Membership

Official 2020 membership started on January 1st. Our updated membership total is 863 members. Many of you have already paid. There are still a number of people who haven't paid for 2019 membership. If you are unsure of your current status, contact us for an update. THE YEARLY MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR 2020 is \$30. The membership application is on the next page of this newsletter. If anyone is questioning payment for 2019 they can feel free to email me heidimbrandt@gmail.com

When filling out your application, write legibly and fill out all the blanks. Please put your condo number with your street address. Please provide your EMAIL ADDRESS and PHONE NUMBER in order to receive our regular updates and notifications of things pertaining to Lido Key. You can have additional email addresses if a husband and wife both have their own emails.

ONLINE PAYMENT LINKS FOR LEGAL FUND DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

<https://lkra.org/membership>

<https://lkra.org/donate>

CINDY SHOFFSTALL NEWSLETTER

WE HAVE HAD MANY REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS THAT THEY WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE NEWSLETTERS AND OTHER INFORMATION THROUGH EMAIL AND NOT THROUGH THE POST OFFICE..

THE BOARD HAS DECIDED THAT UNLESS YOU NOTIFY US THAT YOU WOULD PREFER A HARD COPY BY MAIL, ALL CORRESPONDENCE WILL BE EMAILED.

2020 LKRA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

2020 DUES: \$30.00 Annually Per Household

PLEASE PRINT:

Member Name: _____

Spouse/Partner: _____

Condo (if applicable): _____

Email Address: _____

Lido Key Street Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Mailing Address (if different): _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone #1: _____ **Phone #2:** _____

PLEASE CHECK HERE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A HARD COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER BY MAIL TO YOUR MAILING ADDRESS ABOVE _____

Have a question? Call Carl Shoffstall: 813-967-2687. Or email membership director

Heidi Brandt: heidimbrandt@gmail.com. Mail Membership Form and check to the address below. Membership meetings are held the 3rd Saturday in the months of ; October, November, January, February, March, and April.

Additional information available on our website: www.LKRA.org

RETURN FORM TO:

LIDO KEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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