



LIDO KEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION LIDO KEY MATTERS JULY 2021

Events Calendar

All Membership Meetings held at Lido Beach Resort 8th floor, 10:00 on the 3rd Saturday of the month: **October is a Live & Zoom meeting**

NEXT MEETING: August 21
Bill Wadill will present Bay Project follow up

"Meet and Greet"
Happy Hours 5-7 pm

The second Tuesday of the month at: Lido Key Holiday Inn Kokomos, Holiday Inn
Starts November

Presidents Letter

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

As everyone is aware of, we are having a very strong tropical storm Elsa (hopefully it will not become a hurricane). The city and county are preparing for post storm clean up after the storm passes which is to be Wednesday afternoon sometime. We are supposed to have high winds a lot of rain and a 2-3 storm surge. I hope it does not turn out as bad as they say, and the sand holds up well. We will send something out after the storm passes. The shoreline protection project is now complete; the second groin was completed several weeks ago; and the staging area was restored to its preconstruction look.

The pavilion is open now as well as the pool. The bathroom renovations are underway and should be completed very soon. Restroom trailers with running water and air conditioning were installed in the parking lot and are working out well until permanent restrooms are completed.

The boat races were held the week before July 4 and had a very nice crowd. What I noticed was with so much beach it did not look as crowded as in past years. I would like to thank the Sarasota Police, as well as the county staff, for all their work to maintain a safe weekend. Over the weekend of the fourth, there were many fireworks at different venues around the area.

We had a very good turnout for our June membership meeting; the presentation was By Gavin Meshad) regarding the proposed new project in St Armands Fillmore parking lot. The project is 96-room hotel with six Townhomes along with room for a market and parking. A link of the presentation is in this newsletter if anyone would like to see it. I have had conversations with the president of St Armands Resident Association (Chris Goglia) on his resident's opinion. We will be sending out a survey asking for our Lido Key Residents for their opinions and pass it along to SARA.

Some other projects that are continuing: Hotel houses (Jim Ludwig will give update in this newsletter). The city commission approved the extra height for the upcoming new condominium that is being proposed for the Gulf Beach and Coquina properties on Ben Franklin.

Another project that has started that will affect all of the barrier islands is the roundabout at Gulf Stream. As we get updates from City, we are sending them out to try to keep everyone informed.

On a final note, our next meeting will be held on the third Saturday of August the 21st at 10 am on zoom and the guest speaker will be Bill Waddill giving an update on the progress of the Bay Front Park. I am happy to announce our Board has voted to have our LKRA meeting in November in person at the Lido Beach Resort. I look forward to seeing everyone in person again.

Keep your fingers crossed regarding the approaching storm and I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Carl Shoffstall

President LKRA

129 Tyler Dr #102

Sarasota, FL 34236 813-967-2687 cell 941-7061217 home/fax carl@floridaplaystructures.com

Greetings members of the Lido Key Residents Association.

I previously shared that we began the process for developing the City budget for fiscal year 2022 which begins October 1, 2021 (the fiscal calendar is October to September each year). Well, we are half-way to the finish line. The City Commission held two all-day budget workshops on Monday July 12 and Tuesday July 13, with a special meeting on the latter day to approve the tentative millage. I am extremely pleased to share that following an extensive review of the proposed Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget, the City Commission unanimously approved a reduced millage rate for City taxpayers! With the preliminary approval of a rollback rate of 3.1372, property taxes for City residents are holding steady from the previous year. I would like to thank our professional staff, especially our Financial Administration Department and the City Commission, for this awesome achievement. Please be reminded that the City Commission will hold two budget hearings – on September 8 and September 21, both at 6 p.m. at City Hall – for final adoption. The proposed budget can be [viewed on the City's website](#).

A new Florida state law prohibits local governments from investigating anonymous code compliance complaints. Known as Senate Bill 60, the law went into effect July 1 and specifically states that a code compliance officer may not initiate a potential violation investigation that stems from an anonymous complaint. You must provide your name and address prior to an investigation occurring. You may not be aware that most complaints we receive at the City are anonymous. With that in mind, staff are revising processes and have [updated the City's website](#) with the new information. There is one exception to the new law: A code inspector may investigate if it is believed the violation presents an imminent threat to public health, safety or welfare or the destruction of habitat or sensitive resources. If you have questions, please [email CodeCompliance@SarasotaFL.gov](mailto:email.CodeCompliance@SarasotaFL.gov) or call 941-263-6417.

Also, as it relates to Code Compliance, We are excited to officially unveil the City's new service request app, Click-2-Fix. If you happen to be out and about and would like to submit a non-emergency service request immediately, you can do so now with a few taps on your cell phone. For example, if you notice a streetlight is not working properly, you can report it through Click-2-Fix and even send a photo if you would like. Within the app, a drop-down menu offers 10 categories for service requests: code compliance, noise complaint, public landscaping/trees, park issues, parking, safety hazards, sewer issues, streets/signs/streetlights, trash/recycling, and water issues. The specific location of the request is pinpointed through GIS mapping on your mobile device. Once submitted, you can receive tracking updates on the service request. A big thank you goes to the IT Department staff who did the heavy lifting with this project. A significant amount of work went on behind the scenes to modernize departments' workflows to be compatible with Click-2-Fix. The app is free and available now via Apple and Android app stores. Search "CoS Click-to-Fix".

Finally, I will always mention my commitment that our organization/personnel will be responsive, will be accessible, will be respectful, will be honest and will be accountable. Remember, our organization (the City of Sarasota) is a part of the community and that means we will listen and apply common sense principles to arrive at common ground solutions to be the best run city. Thank you and please continue to be safe and take all necessary precautions to remain healthy.

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Jay Elsasser

The first storm of the season in this area ‘Elsa’ passed through earlier this month. There was increased surf action ahead of the storm. The storm itself was a strong tropical storm, and even briefly a hurricane as it passed by.

The good news is that the beach held up quite well. A survey was conducted soon after the storm and the data sent to the Corps of Engineers for analysis. In a few weeks we should know how much sand we lost. Though this was a small storm by the feel of it, and many factors come into play like wind direction and duration, we are encouraged by the performance of the beach so far.

Before Elisa



After Elisa



To allow time and space for LKRA member input at the end, we will not go into details on most of the matters covered.

Johnathon Lewis, the Sarasota County Administrator, was the speaker at the June 5 CCNA zoom membership meeting . He was quite positive about the current working relationships between and City and the County and the successful administrative partnerships that are achieving better results . He reminded us that we all are County residents.

He pointed out these projects: The completion of Segment 1 of the Legacy Trail from Proctor to Bahia Vista. The beginning of an On-Demand Transit System. Two properties in North Sarasota that are being developed for affordable housing. He particularly stressed and asked for the support of the 1 % sales tax that is so important to local progress.

Finally, to confirm what we all are feeling and seeing regarding the growth of our area, by mid- year 2021, single family home permits have exceeded previous recent years and will easily blow by 2205, the highest on record.

CCNA announced that Click-2-Fix, the new mobile app designed to streamline and facilitate non-emergency service requests is now available to the public . It brings the handling of neighborhood problems into the hi-tech, smart-phone age and the CCNA Executive Committee and LKRA's own Jim Ludwig were actively involved in its development . For a quick video preview click: <https://player.vimeo.com/video/562730971>.

As announced previously, the new interactive City Hall Directory is also in action . It features the organizational structure with photos and active links into the city website for additional information on the person or department.

5G rollout is taking place in the city and there are questions and some concern regarding the placement of the towers in the neighborhoods, although it has not reached the barrier islands yet. If interested visit this CCNA [web address](#) for a presentation and see pictures of the towers. For more information contact the City or call a LKRA Officer.

The CCNA September 11 meeting will be in-person only at the Robert L Taylor Community Complex near the intersection of 301 and Myrtle.

In closing, the CCNA Board has requested a **Membership Survey** to provide neighborhood inputs into the City Strategic Plan . That plan is going through the approval process right now, and for the first time the City is allowing CCNA to suggest 3 goals: how often do we hear LKRA members bring up suggestions, complaints, questions about City Governance, or why something isn't a certain way or not. Here is your chance to be heard and influence what's happening in your city or on your key.

The CCNA Board will condense all neighborhood inputs and provide the top (3) suggestions for consideration, which will become part of an overall city list of suggestions sent to the Commissioners for approval. This does not guarantee our recommendations will be accepted (due to limited City resources) but it does get our foot in the door.

Please print out and complete the survey form below and email to Lou Costa, CCNA Chairman louandsue3@aol.com or Carl.

CCNA Membership Survey

CCNA was formed to preserve and enhance City neighborhoods and to address the needs of the neighborhoods.

The CCNA Board has taken a non-partisan position and focused on solving neighborhood issues in collaboration with the City.

Purpose of this survey is to assess neighborhood priorities.

1. Rank how well CCNA is meeting their mission (as an organization) _____

Rate on a scale of 1 – 10 10 = strongly meets, 0 = doesn't meet

1a. Why did you give it this rating?

2. List the top issue important to all neighborhoods

3. List the top issue important to your neighborhood

4. List the top Park issue important to all neighborhoods

5. List the top Park issue important to your neighborhood

6. List the top 2 items Commissioners should focus on that can be completed within 2 years and one started within 2 years.

7. What would you like CCNA to do that we are not doing today?

6/25/21

Please Print and Complete the Survey Form and email to: Lou Costa, CCNA Chairman, louandsue3@aol.com or Carl

Jim Ludwig

Chair of Hotel House Committee

Hotel Houses – Vacation Rentals Update

The Vacation Rental ordinance the neighborhoods worked to get passed was signed at the end of May and was effective immediately with several exceptions. The enforcement of the Registration Requirement, the Naming of a Designated Responsible Person and the Occupancy Limitations were delayed until June 1, 2022, to give City Staff enough time to put processes and systems in place to handle the new requirements. We are continuing to work with the City on the design of a new section for their website that details all aspects of this ordinance including answering frequently asked questions and the necessary forms and administration procedures.

Code Compliance:

If you have ever tried to use the City’s website, you know it is not always easy to find what you are looking for. Although there is a plan to redo the entire site in the next 1-3 years, LKRA in conjunction with CCNA, launched a joint effort with the City to improve two areas residents seem to have the most difficulty finding and using: Reporting Code Violations and Service Requests. This new more informative and easier to use website design is in its final administrative review stages and should be live to the public within the next 60 days.

The City has just launched (July 2021) a new mobile app called “CoS Click-2-Fix”. This app allows the user to report issues with Code Compliance, Public Landscaping and Trees, Park Issues, Parking, Safety Hazards, Sewer Issues, Streets, Signs and Streetlights, Trash and Recycling and Water Issues. Several other cities are using a similar app and many more will be soon, but each one is customized to a particular City. Ours will allow a user to snap a picture of the violation, display an interactive map where the issue is, allow you to briefly identify the issue and immediately send it to the City. The City will email you status updates and resolution. Everyone is encouraged to download the app by searching on “CoS Click-2-Fix” in the app store for your smartphone or tablet.

In a related matter, the State of Florida enacted SB-60 effective July 1, 2021 that basically prohibits the City to act on any code violation or complaint filed anonymously. You will be required to identify yourself in any code or other violation reported. Doing so makes that report or complaint a matter of public record subject to disclosure under the Florida Public Records Act. The City is in the process of updating their website to accommodate this new state statute.

Liz Alpert, Esq.

City Commissioner

Hard to believe we are already halfway through the summer. Hope all of you are enjoying the opportunity to get out and enjoy all the amenities that we have to offer here in Sarasota and especially our newly renourished Lido Beach. If you are up north for the summer, we hope you will enjoy the beach when your return.

You may have seen that Time Magazine included Sarasota in The World's 100 Greatest Places of 2021. One of the places that was specifically mentioned was our newly-renovated Lido Beach Pavilion. They also mentioned The Bay project which will develop 53 acres of our bayfront as a park and other amenities. Currently, The Bay is conducting a survey to understand the wants and needs of future visitors to the park. If you want to participate in the survey, please go to TheBaySarasota.org.

And finally, I am very excited about our new mobile app to simplify service requests. Click-2-Fix, a new mobile app designed and launched by the City of Sarasota to streamline non-emergency service requests, is now available to the public. The app is free and available for download for Android and Apple mobile devices. Search "CoS Click-2-Fix" in app stores.

If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact me at 941.228.5979 or at liz.alpert@sarasotafl.gov.

David Conway, Deputy Managing Editor

Your Observer

Sarasota Memorial Hospital sees rise in COVID-19 patients

The hospital has 36 patients with COVID-19, including seven in intensive care. Health professionals say serious issues remain limited almost exclusively to unvaccinated individuals — a notable increase from one month ago, the hospital said. The hospital said it had single-digit COVID-19 cases a month ago, and zero patients in the ICU with the disease. The hospital said the majority of hospitalizations are among individuals who have not been fully vaccinated, which is in line with national data. Of nearly 100 admitted patients with COVID-19 at SMH, six were a "breakthrough infection" of individuals who had completed a series of vaccinations at least 14 days prior to testing positive.

The hospital said many of the admitted patients are younger than those hospitalized in 2020 and early 2021, including some patients in their 30s. Manuel Gordillo, Sarasota Memorial's medical director of infection prevention and control, said: locally, more than 80% of senior citizens have received both vaccinations, but older individuals who are unvaccinated remain the population most vulnerable to severe effects from COVID-19 and "Basically, this has transformed into the epidemic of the unvaccinated."

Gordillo said an increase in cases is occurring across Florida, and he said the hospital believes the more-contagious delta variant of the coronavirus is contributing to that phenomenon in Sarasota. In the week ending July 15, the Florida Department of Health reported 504 new cases in Sarasota County at a positivity rate of 8.6%. In the week ending June 17, the state reported 95 new local cases at a 1.9% positivity rate. In addition to the increased transmissibility of the delta variant, Gordillo said increased social interaction without measures such as distancing and mask usage — particularly indoors — is contributing to the rising numbers. Gordillo stressed the importance of vaccination as a strategy to limit the effects of COVID-19 across the community. "We know we have the tools to protect people," Gordillo said. "This infection has been made largely preventable — if not fully preventable, at least it will prevent you from ending up in the hospital or dying, going to the morgue. So it's very, very frustrating when you see a lot of vaccine out there not going into people's arms."

A bloom of Florida red tide, patchy and persistent since December 2020, has recently increased in severity in Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay and along the coast from Pasco to Sarasota counties, causing respiratory irritation at local beaches and widespread fish kills. The Florida Red Tide Mitigation & Technology Development Initiative, led by Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium in partnership with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, is developing the tools and technologies to mitigate red tide and decrease the impacts on the environment, economy and quality of life in Florida. During the first two years of this six-year Initiative, over 25 projects are already underway.

One of those projects includes a partnership of scientists from Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium (Mote), Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI) and University of Central Florida (UCF). In response to the current bloom event, these researchers have come together to rapidly deploy and test the ability of clay dispersal to remove cells and toxins, a mitigation strategy used in other settings around the world to control other types of harmful algae blooms (HAB).

Florida red tides are caused by the overabundance of cells of native species of algae, *Karenia brevis*. Clay mitigation involves spraying the surface of the water with a slurry of modified clay particles and seawater, and as the dense clay particles sink they combine with red tide cells. This process can kill the cells and also bury them in the sediment on the seafloor. For a more thorough description of this process, known as clay flocculation, see below.

“The Initiative is focused on a multi-tiered approach to developing mitigation strategies,” said Kevin Claridge, Vice President for Sponsored Research & Coastal Policy Programs at Mote and serving as the Administrator for the Initiative. “Although we have many Initiative projects in different stages of research and development, we’re excited to be able to conduct one of our first field tests to work through logistical hurdles and gauge the effectiveness of a treatment option in a real-world situation, with actual red tide present in a water system.”

“As we’re looking for mitigation strategies for red tide, we’re not only looking at the water quality impacts of treatment options, we’re also looking for potential impacts on the benthic and fish communities,” said Dr. Kristy Lewis, co-Principal Investigator and Assistant Professor in UCF’s Department of Biology, National Center for Integrated Coastal Research.

How does clay flocculation work?

When sprayed as a slurry on the surface of the water during an algal bloom, the tiny but dense clay particles will “flocculate” or combine with other particles in the water, including the red tide cells. The process of flocculation is common in drinking water and sewage treatment. As these aggregations, known as “flocs,” grow, they sink through the water until they reach the bottom. As these flocs fall, they capture additional particles, clearing the water as they descend. In some cases, as with the fragile cells of the Florida red tide organism *Karenia brevis*, the flocculation and sinking process can rupture cell membranes, killing the cell. In deeper water, darkness, prolonged contact with the clay, and eventual burial in sediments on the seafloor can also kill the algae cells.

photos available [here](#)

In studies of the Florida red tide organism *Karenia brevis* and related HAB species, clays have been very effective in removing cells from the water with no re-emergence up to 48 hours after clay control experiments in the laboratory, suggesting that the cells are either dead or incapable of escaping from the clay floc. This study also assesses the amount of clay needed and the ability of the clay to remove the toxins from red tide-impacted water. In researching mitigation strategies, scientists are focused on not only the removal of cells, but also removal of the toxins produced by the red tide organism. Determining the fate of red tide toxins, as well as the cells is an essential aspect for evaluating the ability of the products and/or processes we are testing to mitigate the adverse effects of red tides.

Alice Ramos

Florida Department of Transportation

RoadWatch Update for the Week of Sunday, July 18, 2021. SARASOTA

US 41 at Gulfstream Avenue Roundabout Project, Sarasota: Construction project: Crews will work within the right-of-way, medians, driveways and throughout the project limits. Activities include:

1. Construction of the temporary roadway along the Marina Jacks parking lot continues. Activity involves moving material from the pond site on the east side of US 41 to the west side of US 41.
2. Pre-work for removal of existing curb and median on US 41 and Gulfstream Avenue in preparation for the next traffic phase. These activities will take place during the during nighttime hours.
3. Delivery and compaction of roadway base material for construction of the temporary roadway. Expect vibration from compactors/roller.
4. Installation of electrical conduit along the east side of Gulfstream Avenue. This work will take place between the ponds and sidewalk.

Detours/Crossings: 1. Pedestrian crossing at the US 41 and Gulfstream Avenue intersection is closed in preparation for the next traffic phase. Temporary pedestrian paths around the work zone have been implemented. 2. Pedestrian crossings are available on Fruitville Road or Main Street during construction. Please use designated paths and follow posted detour signs.

3. Marina Jacks north parking lot entrance/exit on Gulfstream Avenue will be closed to vehicular traffic.
4. Motorists may access the parking lot via Bayfront Drive at Main Street/Marina Plaza. No through traffic allowed through this area.
5. Eastbound through travel lane on Gulfstream Avenue (towards downtown) will remain closed as part of the Pre-Phase of construction. Use alternate routes via Main Street or Fruitville Road.

Construction activities will take place during the daytime and occasionally during nighttime hours.

Expect noise and vibration from construction equipment, backup alarms, lighting, vacuum trucks, and pumps. Motorists are urged to use caution and watch for construction vehicles and dump trucks entering or exiting the work zone. Detours and lane closures will be in place during various phases of the project. During construction, the speed limit will be reduced to 25 mph on US 41 and Gulfstream Avenue.

Improvements being made as part of this project consist of replacing the existing signalized intersection on US 41 at Gulfstream Avenue with a roundabout, installation of HAWK pedestrian crossing signal system, raised pedestrian refuge islands, replacement of underground drainage structures, utilities, fiber optic, new LED streetlights, reconfiguration of stormwater retention ponds, sidewalks, and pedestrian walkways. Expected completion is early fall 2022. The contractor is Russell Engineering, Inc.

Red tide is present at all 16 Sarasota County beaches.

The county announced it is posting red tide notification signs at beaches in the area. The county reported conditions at the beaches include minor fish kills and respiratory irritation.

In a release, the Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County advised that people may experience mild respiratory symptoms at beaches where red tide is present. The health department advised individuals with chronic respiratory problems to consider staying away from the beach, as those people may experience more severe issues. Symptoms usually go away when a person leaves the beach or goes indoors, according to the release.

The health department made the following recommendations:

Do not swim around dead fish.

Do not eat molluscan shellfish and dead or distressed fish from affected waters.

Do not allow pets and livestock near water, sea foam and dead sea life.

If you live in a beach area and experience respiratory symptoms, close your windows and run the air conditioner.

Prior to today's announcement, Longboat Key officials said they had received several reports of red tide conditions on the barrier island's shores. Today's announcement came two weeks after the Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County reported elevated levels of red tide at nine south county beaches.

More information on red tide and the status of local beaches is available on the [Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission website](#) and the [Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium website](#).

What can you do to help? Take a look at [seven things you can](#) do pretty much everyday to help.

How does red tide work? It's a natural process, but it can be affected by humans. Here's a look at the

[life cycle of red tide](#).



Red Tide Update - July 20, 2021

TODAY'S STATUS

All 16 beaches in Sarasota County continue to have red tide notification signs posted.

There are no red tide cleanup operations scheduled for July 20, but staff continues to monitor and evaluate each beach daily for the effects of red tide.

For PRNR's daily reporting of conditions, visit the [Red Tide Dashboard](#).

SEAWEED CLEANUP

Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources (PRNR) staff continues to monitor beaches each day and will evaluate, in accordance with [beach cleanup policy](#). The amount of seaweed present at this time does not meet the county's criteria for removal operations to be activated.

HOW TO REPORT RED TIDE IMPACTS

For manatees, dolphins, whales and marine turtles, call the FWC Hotline at 1-888-404-3922. Be prepared to describe the location of the animal and take a picture, if possible. An FWC biologist will return the call to get additional details as well as the picture, if available. For all other types of fish, call 800-636-0511. To report sick or injured shorebirds, call 941-388-3010.

SIGN UP FOR RED TIDE ALERTS

Residents can sign up for Alert Sarasota County, which is the county's mass notification system, to receive red tide alerts. The service sends alerts via phone, text and/or email, depending on the contact methods selected at registration. If you are already signed up for Alert Sarasota County, you can log in to your account and opt in for the red tide notifications. For more information and to sign up, visit [alertsarasotacounty.com](#).

HELPFUL RESOURCES

The Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County is offering **walk-in vaccinations** from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at its downtown Sarasota office, located at

Chris Goglia

President St. Armands Residents Association

SARA Members and Friends

I hope everyone is having a fantastic summer, whether in Sarasota, up north or out west, or abroad!

My apologies for the length of this email. As founding father Benjamin Franklin famously once said: "If in this I have been tedious, it may be some excuse, [but] I had not [the] time to make it shorter."

The purpose of this email is to update you on the commercial development being discussed for St. Armands. This currently includes: *A proposal to install a Carousel and other carnival-like attractions in Circle park (a fenced off area with swings, see-saws, selfie-stands, etc... and an electric train that traverses the perimeter). A proposal to install public restrooms in a vacant store on St. Armands (21 Fillmore Dr). A proposal to increase the allowed height of all the commercial buildings on St. Armands (including the Fillmore Parking Lot and Wells Fargo Bank properties) from 35' to 45' which would make a third (and possibly a fourth) story possible which could be used for residences or additional boutique hotel accommodations. A proposal to place a four-story hotel in the Fillmore Parking Lot that would include an underground parking garage and a market (e.g. Mortons) A proposal to construct an amphitheater in Circle Park*

Does anyone else find it curious that so much of the above are seemingly being pushed heavily when many residents are away for the summer?

All of us who are fortunate to live here (or nearby) are well aware that we share our island home with the many wonderful shops and eateries on the Circle, and that we share our roadways with the many residents of and visitors to Lido and Longboat Keys. We also know that our roadways can not accommodate the amount of traffic we experience in-season on a beach day: it can take well over an hour to travel the two miles to the mainland!

Plus there is the effect this traffic has on the pedestrian-intensive shopping district that is St. Armands Circle, with the need for pedestrians to safely cross the same streets that all this traffic must get through. And the need for police, medical and emergency service vehicles to get through!

Plus the City has a Special Events Ordinance that limits the number of festivals/events that can be held in Circle Park in-season. Why? Because of traffic capacity and pedestrian safety issues!

Plus the City has a Coastal Islands Overlay District that includes St. Armands. Why? To carefully control development and the scale of development on the City's environmentally-sensitive and limited-access barrier islands.

Are any of the discussions for commercial development on St. Armands considering these things? Not that I've heard.

Mayor Brody recently stated that "St. Armands (and the Beach) is our gem, it's our economic generator, it's been a major part of why Sarasota has been so successful over the course of its life." So what happens out here is a City-wide issue even though those of us living on St. Armands (and Lido) will be most affected.

Here are two questions that I think every City resident should consider:

Does St. Armands currently have a different and unique character than the communities on Anna Maria Island, or the City of Venice, or Fifth Avenue in Naples? Of course it does. Is that a good thing that should be preserved, or should we be trying to emulate the character of one of these other communities?

Will the proposed commercial development for St. Armands make our island (and the beach and parks just beyond) more or less accessible and inviting to ALL the residents of and visitors to the City of Sarasota?

My personal view, which has evolved after speaking with many people and especially those involved in City government, is that we should value and preserve those elements that make St. Armands unique and special and different from anywhere else, and that this amazing part of the City of Sarasota must be welcoming and accessible to all members of our City. Any proposed commercial development should demonstrate how it addresses those two things, and should prove that it won't further exacerbate the existing problem with in-season traffic capacity and pedestrian safety.

In communicating with our members, I know that my own personal views are not always ubiquitous. A few have indicated to me that the Carousel and Fillmore Hotel might be desirable (although almost everyone questions why the City wouldn't put out an RFP and do a competitive bid for the purchase of the land). Others are nostalgic for the upscale and more exclusive shopping district that St. Armands used to be.

In our upcoming Annual Member Survey, our Association will seek to quantify this; to measure the percent of our members who feel each way. Normally we do this survey late Fall or early Winter, but we will likely conduct it sooner this year as the above development plans get closer to final City Commission decisions.

Finally, I would like to bring your attention to the recent July 14 St. Armands BID meeting.

The BID (Business Improvement District) is a five-person Board, consisting of owners of commercial property on St. Armands, which is allocated tax revenue from the City to spend on marketing and maintenance of the St. Armands commercial district. The BID represents the interests of the commercial property owners who pay property taxes to the City. (Unlike we residents who also pay plenty of property taxes but who have to represent ourselves!)

Here is the [link to the video](#) of last week's meeting:

Here are the time-stamps that you may want to fast forward to for some important information:

17:42 (17 minutes, 42 seconds) - Announcement of a Virtual Community Workshop on Thursday, August 5, at 5:30pm via Zoom. This will be for an amendment to the City's Comprehensive Plan to allow a height increase for commercial property on St. Armands from 35' to 45'. "Notices will go out to affected property owners next week" (which would be this week; not sure who will be included in that... all of us?). The public can register to attend (via Zoom) by emailing: communityworkshop@sarasotafli.gov

37:05 - Discussion of how many hotel rooms per acre that they will be asking the City to approve. They seem to be talking about putting hotel rooms in ANY commercial property on the Circle; the discussion is not limited to the Fillmore Parking Lot. "For the residents... we're going to have some explaining to do... Most people [meaning the typical commercial property owner on the Circle] can only get in a four story building 20-30 hotel rooms... We just have to be careful we don't throw a landmine out there..." says one BID Board Member.

39:39 - Discussion about whether to include the Fillmore Parking Lot and/or the Wells Fargo property in their request for the height increase for all commercial properties on the Circle-proper. "Our responsibility is to the landowners" says the BID Chair who goes on to refer to residents as "Joe Public".

46:50 - Discussion of how the requested height increase will affect the Fillmore Lot, BID Board Member says "you guys [seemingly meaning residents] can all come out with your guns loaded and your pitchforks out!"

50:00 to 54:25 - Discussion of using one of the vacant stores (21 Fillmore Dr) for public restrooms and a visitors center. A citizen speaks that a permit was obtained with use specified as "office or professional service" which it later was discovered was not a permitted use, but the City approved it anyway. Citizen goes on to show how fiscally irresponsible this project has been and will be. The developer who wants to put a hotel at the Fillmore Parking Lot, Gavin Meshad who also serves on the BID, goes on to talk about the minutiae of the floorplan for the public restrooms. It makes me wonder if a hotel at the Fillmore Lot would still have to offer public restrooms if they were already right next door to this location. And it makes me wonder when this rises to the level of a conflict of interest for which this BID Board Member should recuse himself.

1:20:00 (1 hour, 20 minutes, 0 seconds) - Director Emeritus of the St. Armands Circle (Merchants) Association says that she thinks residents support the Carousel when in fact the Board of our Residents Association has already voted not to support it and has communicated this to City Commission and Staff on two separate occasions. Also, the Carousel would now be permanent and could no longer be moved to make room for other events like our art festivals.

1:29:00 - BID Board Member introduces the amphitheater idea which could perhaps be funded by private donations. Good visuals are shown. I personally listened to this for 10 minutes until 1:39:10 at which point he talked about how you might be able to fit both an amphitheater and a carousel into Circle park!

And a final, final note: One of our members attended this morning's presentation at the Daiquiri Deck by Gavin Meshad, developer of the proposed hotel for the Fillmore Lot. Our member reports: "As expected. No mention of traffic studies or the impact this will have on residents. Even last week (in July) Ringling was backed up to the Circle on a few occasions."

Thank you for your time. I'll send along more info as I get it. Please sign up for the August 5th public workshop (see above). And please participate in our Annual Member Survey when we email out the link later this year!

Carl Shoffstall**Fillmore Parking Lot**

There is a fast moving effort underway from Land Owners, specifically the Business Improvement District, and Board of Directors of St. Armand's Circle, to change the zoning and Comprehensive Plan for the Circle.

The changes that are being proposed will change the Fillmore parking lot from it's current Government (G) zoning to the Commercial Tourist (CT) zoning which when it is all put together would allow, among other things, up to 55' in height and 150 hotel units per acre (the site is approximately 2 acres)

If passed, the implementation of these Comprehensive Plan amendments and Zoning Code text changes would dramatically and irrevocably alter St. Armand's Circle and our neighborhoods as we know it. Please note, the Public Workshop meeting on the Comprehensive changes are currently scheduled for August 5, 2021 after which the actual Applications must be filed by August 25th. Changes would include changing the purpose of the current zoning to include lodging in the form of Hotels and also Bed & Breakfast (neither of which are currently allowed).

Another item includes raising the height limit to 45' above FEMA or about 55' total. The current height limit is 35' and most if not all of the buildings on St. Armand's Circle are non-FEMA, so the heights as proposed would be 20' to 30' taller than most of the current buildings. To get an idea of how high 55' is, the St. Armand's parking garage is about 42'.

Hotel density is proposed for 150 units per acre.

Hotel parking is proposed for .25 spaces per hotel unit. Everywhere else in the city requires 1.1 spaces per hotel unit except downtown which requires .50 spaces per hotel unit. They are also proposing you do not have to provide any parking on site. It allows developers to just make a deal with whomever is the City Parking Manager at the time. It says parking permits can be purchased by the developer for spaces located in the St. Armand's parking Garage at the discretion of the City of Sarasota Parking manager in lieu of providing onsite parking.

In addition to hotels, it is contemplated that the upper floors of buildings that would be built, were the new 55' heights to be allowed, could be utilized as the 'Bed & Breakfast' component.

Again, this effort coincides with a proposal that would attempt to allow the City Commission, once the Comprehensive Plan and text amendments are in place, to sell or lease public property to the Meshad Group to build a 55' high mixed use commercial/townhouse/hotel/grocery project on the two acre Fillmore public parking lot adjacent to residential homes on Adams and Monroe Streets.

We believe studies should be done to show us why, in our St. Armand's residential areas, the City needs to sell a public surface parking lot to developers to build a 55' hotel, with bar/restaurant, roof top pool, multistory parking garage, and a 15,000 sq/ft grocery store. After so many years of this land being undeveloped, why does this particular City Commission, without any current studies our City outreach on why this public property needs to be immediately rezoned and sold off. How and why is

If the height in the Commercial Tourist (CT) Zone District were to be changed as proposed to 45' instead of 35' developers/building owners may be incentivized to demolish existing structures and build new construction with parking underneath to meet the flood zone requirements and to obtain more building area (square footage). Once one building or assembled buildings does it everything around it becomes out of scale and completely out of context with the pedestrian ambiance/character of the Circle. It appears Developers are assembling parcels already.

A height change to 55' is not needed. The Shore restaurant and Alvin's Island are two successful redevelopment examples of the height that can be built under the current 35' height limitation and zoning. Alvin's Island new roof is at 34'. What is now being proposed is 55' which is 21' higher than Alvin's Island. These two projects are successful and maintain the look and charm that makes St. Armands Circle unique.

This concept to make all the changes was proposed at the May 17, 2021 hearing by Developers John and Gavin Meshad and the BID proposals have been on a fast track ever since. They have scheduled the public workshop for the Comprehensive Plan changes just days away on August 5, 2021 after which they will file their Application.

Please make no mistake. By the end of Summer, early Fall while many of us are still taking time after COVID 19 to catch up for lost time with families and friends, these approvals are being pushed through. We believe the changes are too intense. The City should commission appropriate studies to review the best long term use for the Fillmore property and provide the public this information with enough time to review and discuss in public meetings. The Fillmore site has been City property since 2004. There is no reason to have an important decision like this made on without time for the taxpayers and residents to weigh in.

Let's look for a balanced decision for our neighborhoods and one of the most important and distinct places in the City.

Hagen Brody**Mayor, Sarasota**

Hello Friends,

It's been a very eventful two weeks! We celebrated Independence Day and honored our healthcare workers and first responders during a night parade along the Bayfront on U.S. 41, followed by one of the best fireworks displays in recent memory. I'd like to personally thank Lucy Nicandri with Suncoast Summer Fest for her tireless work with the Grand Prix boat races and integrating our first-ever Celebrate Sarasota events this year. Thank you to Dan Kennedy and former Vice Mayor Danny Bilyeu for coordinating and carrying out a very successful parade that included our healthcare heroes, first responders, Tampa Bay Buccaneer cheerleaders with the Vince Lombardi Trophy, the Orioles' Bird and so many others. What a night! A big thank you to the men and women of the Sarasota Police Department who escorted the parade and experienced firsthand what



may have been the busiest two weeks in SPD's history.

As parade goers dispersed to find the best viewing areas for the fireworks over Sarasota Bay and the Ringling Bridge lights transitioned to a patriotic red, white and blue theme, City staff were continuing to monitor Tropical Storm Elsa. While we were fortunate with this storm, our neighbors to the south in North Port experienced serious flooding after an estimated 11 inches of rain poured on the area in a matter of hours -- a stark reminder that we must remain vigilant throughout storm season. If you haven't done so already, please register for [Alert Sarasota County](#) to receive storm updates (and other important notifications) by text, call or email. Thank you to the many City staff who seamlessly pivoted from Fourth of July special event mode to storm mode, including SPD, Public Works, Parks and Recreation and Communications.

Less than a week later, the City Commission unanimously cut the millage rate -- something that hasn't happened since 2008. (More on that below.) And the topper? This week, U.S. News & World Report ranked Sarasota in the top 10 on its Best Places to Live list. It's an exciting time in Sarasota -- with even better days ahead as we come out of COVID-19. Thanks to everyone for making this a great, memorable summer!

Mike Atkinson

ArmaLido Community Conversations

ArmaLido Community Conversations - coming to Lido and the entire city island community this fall. A great new program will include a very informative speaker each month beginning in November. Experts focus on trends and issues related to our island home. Reservations will be required and there will be no costs to attend these local presentations. There will be a limited number of seats available so to be on the list for receiving an invitation, send email to:

armalidocommunity@gmail.com

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

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PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR NEWSLETTER!!

Submit your letter in 150 words or less to the Editor at 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.

Heidi Brandt Membership

We currently have 473 households, which equates to 871 members. Of 25 condo associations, 9 have paid their dues. If anyone ever is questioning if they are up to date on paying membership dues, please reach out to me and I will check: heidimbrandt@gmail.com. We've had 8 new families join since the beginning of the year. Talk to your friends and neighbors and have them reach out to me if they have questions about joining. We are usually a very active and social group. Hopefully next fall we will be back in person with our monthly meetings and events.

Official 2021 membership starts on January 1st. **THE YEARLY MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR 2021 is \$30.** The membership application is on the next page of this newsletter. Please feel free to email me with any questions 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.

2021 LKRA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

2021 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

PO BOX 884

SARASOTA, FLORIDA 34230

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