



LIDO KEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

LIDO KEY MATTERS

FEBRUARY 2023

Events Calendar

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

NEXT MEETING:

March 18: Dr. Michael Crosby, Mote Marine

April 22: All Star Children's Foundation

MEET & GREAT:

Holiday Inn: second Tuesday of the month, March 14
April 11

Presidents Letter

Good morning to LKRA members and our new people!

Season is in full swing and all the things associated with it are going on, traffic, beach is full everyday lots of people here for season as well as many tourist. So far, we are experiencing mild winter weather, which is great.

This past Saturday we had our annual breakfast meeting, which was attended by about 120 people. The presentation we had was John McCarthy. He is a local historian and did a history of Lido Key and the other Keys around here. It was extremely well received from the comments we are getting.

Some other things that were at the meeting was the election of officers and directors for the upcoming year. We did not have any changes, so everyone is in the same positions. A year-end beach soiree was discussed and there will be information with details forthcoming. I highly recommend signing up ASAP as we think it will sell out.

Some things going on around the city that impact us are the roundabout on Gulf Stream is progressing (but it seems at a snail's pace). Hopefully it will be completed soon. Building continues at a torrid pace, It seems like when you drive around one day and go by the same place the next day they are starting a new project

To end the letter I again must say how much I appreciate how members are involved with our association. To all of the existing and new members I wish everyone to have a safe and happy season.

Have a great day and hope to see you around the Key

Carl Shoffstall carl@floridaplaystructures.com cell: [941-706-1217](tel:941-706-1217) home/fax ¹

Marlon Brown

Sarasota City Manager

Greetings Lido Key Residents,

By now, you've probably had the chance to navigate the new Gulfstream roundabout, located at the intersection of Gulfstream Avenue and US 41. When construction at Gulfstream began in February of 2021, it followed the heels of three roundabouts constructed on US 41 at 10th Street, 14th Street, and Fruitville Road. Completing these four roundabouts realizes a two-decade-long plan to fulfill the community's vision of connecting our vibrant downtown to our beautiful bayfront.

Aesthetic improvements and other final elements will continue through the next few months. Soon, you'll notice increased safety measures for pedestrians, with a signalized pedestrian beacon, sidewalk additions, and protected pedestrian refuge islands. For now, the new traffic pattern will take some getting used to but will ultimately reduce speeds and fatal crashes while improving traffic flow.

With this, along with other transportation improvements this year - including the Ringling Trail, Veo scooter and bike share program, and the Bay Runner Trolley - we anticipate travelers of all types will see relief in traffic congestion across the City. We ask our citizens to please exercise patience and use caution while getting used to the new traffic patterns and be mindful of others who are doing the same.

Meanwhile, in Tallahassee, our State Legislative Representatives are getting to work deciding funding priorities for their 2023 budget. At the City of Sarasota, we are dreaming big about the future of our community. We have put forward several projects we are asking our representatives to support. Here are the top five:

First, connecting our area to the Florida Gulf Coast Trail, a multi-jurisdictional, statewide system of trails for bicyclists and pedestrians. This project would safely connect the newly completed Legacy Trail extension in downtown Sarasota to recreation spaces at Bobby Jones Golf Club and Sarasota County's 17th Street Park.

Second, we are asking for support to build a robust nature park at Bobby Jones Golf Club on approximately 300 acres of land that was officially designated to be conserved in perpetuity by our City Commission last year. The park will complement the newly created wetlands system and stormwater quality improvement features that we are currently working on.

Next, we are advocating for the Whitaker and Hudson Bayou Water Quality Project, which impacts our entire region. We are asking for funds for water quality improvements and flood reduction projects that would reduce harmful runoff to our beautiful Sarasota Bay.

We are also asking for funds to improve Pedestrian Connectivity in Newtown, upgrading substandard sidewalks to increase safety, walkability, and equity in the historically underserved community.

And finally, we want to take steps to build a Resilient, Smart City with the installation of fiber infrastructure that will enable wireless connectivity citywide and prepare us for the future.

We believe addressing these priorities will help further our mission to provide high- quality services to our residents, businesses, and visitors, while safeguarding our natural resources and building a prosperous community.

Wishing you a wonderful 2023!

City Manager Marlon Brown

Marlon.Brown@sarasotaFl.gov

Liz Alpert, Esq.

District 2, City Commissioner

Hope everyone has been enjoying the beautiful weather we have been having along with our beautiful, renourished beach.

The Gulfstream Roundabout is getting close to being fully functional. The landscaping and choosing a sculpture to place in the center will come next. It is not only going to be beautiful, but it will also aid in the traffic flow on and off the barrier islands. While during construction, there have been some backups, for the most part, it is working well. I have been watching it function on an overhead cam placed on the roof of Marina Tower. If you would like to see how well it is working, you can go to video.nest.com/live/pY8lAo91sg.

The Bay Runner Trolley continues to be popular. Not only does it provide a fun way to get on and off the barrier islands, imagine how many cars it is taking off the road! My husband and I took it to dinner last night on St. Armands. It is just so easy to hop on and off. If you haven't tried, make a plan to do so soon. And, be sure to download The Bay Runner app to find the locations for trolley stops and to track the trolley movement.

The City will be hosting a second Attainable Housing Town Hall to learn about possible strategies that could encourage and boost the attainable housing inventory in Sarasota.

The Town Hall will be held Wednesday, March 1 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at City Hall, 1565 First Street. It also will be live streamed and available on demand through the City of Sarasota website www.SarasotaFL.gov. Attainable housing is a crisis around our country. We are taking steps to address it in our city. On March 1, there will be an overview of proposed incentives to encourage attainable housing, frequently asked questions will be addressed, and citizens will have a chance to provide input and feedback. Be sure to join in person or online.

By the time you read this, the Lido Key Residents Association annual breakfast will be past. I hope that I got a chance to speak with you. If not, please feel free to reach out to me any time at my city email: liz.alpert@sarasotafl.gov or call my cell phone: 941-228-5979. Let me know your concerns.

As always, I am always available via email at liz.alpert@sarasotafl.gov or [941.228.5979](tel:941.228.5979).



WHEN: 5:30 - 9:30 pm,

Sunday, March 19, 2023

WHERE: Sandcastle Resort

COST: Tickets - \$65.00 each

REGISTRATION: Buy tickets on-line below ([go to web page](#)) or print a registration form and mail it along with your payment.

\$ CASH BAR \$

Games, Dinner, Dancing, Live Music

Dress in your best Casual Beach Attire and come join your Lido Key neighbors for a celebration of living in paradise.

Print and mail [Registration Form](#)



Scott Alan

The Island Doctor

Music with an island attitude

.Greetings members of the Lido Key Residents,

The City of Sarasota Public Works Department is excited to share information about a few impactful projects in Lido Key that demonstrate the City's continued commitment to improving the shoreline for a sustainable and resilient future.

**Lido Key Beach Nourishment – Dunes Restoration:**

In 2021, City Commission approved an agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to provide funding to design, permit, construct, and monitor a vegetated dune feature approximately 1.57 miles long. The project extends 400 feet north of John Ringling Blvd to the south end of Lido Key.

The project's primary goal is to buffer potential flooding impacts to Benjamin Franklin Drive and upland private property. Other benefits of this project include reducing the effects of wave run-up, enhancing the coastal ecosystem, adding beach vegetation, improving a higher level of storm protection, reducing wind speed, and retaining sand volume on the beach. In 2022, City of Sarasota staff reached out to residents and the community regarding the proposed dune concepts and received a great deal of feedback. This feedback ultimately influenced updates to the preliminary design plans prepared by project consultant, Taylor Engineering.

Fortunately, Lido Beach suffered no major erosion when Hurricanes Ian and Nicole passed through Florida. The City is currently working with FDEP to modify the existing Lido Key renourishment permit to add this dune feature. After the permit is modified, the City will share the final plans with the community. Construction is anticipated to begin late Spring 2023 and should last two to three months. Camden Mills, Capital Projects Manager, and I will be the primary contact points at the City's Public Works Department for this project.

Florida Red Tide Mitigation and Smart City Technology Initiative:

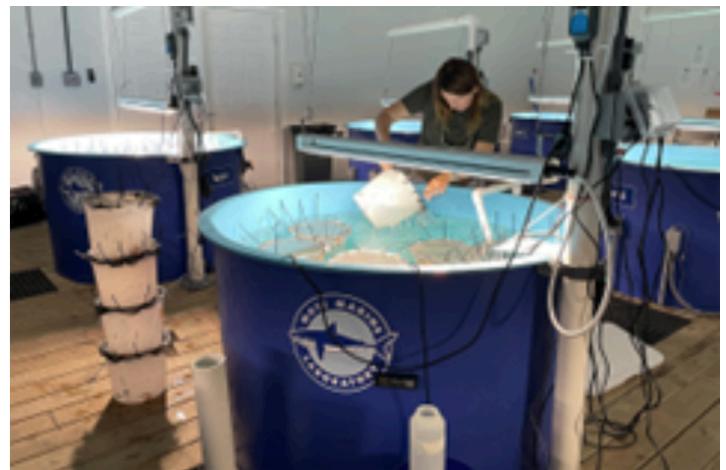
The City of Sarasota recognizes the local impacts of Florida red tide, which is why we have partnered with MOTE Marine Laboratory. MOTE is currently on the third year of a six-year partnership with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission aimed at developing mitigation technologies that will decrease the impacts of Florida red tide on the environment, economy, and coastal quality of life. As codified under 379.2273 in the Florida Statutes, public and private research entities are combining their

Lido Key residents see firsthand how maintaining our coastal water promotes a high quality of life. Your geography allows you to participate in our red tide mitigation efforts through MOTE's Beach Conditions Reporting System (BCRS). This website (www.visitbeaches.org) was developed as a means for collecting and sharing beach conditions. Volunteers—known as Beach Ambassadors—report beach conditions, such as beach flag color, surf type, wind speed, and algae conditions, several times a week. These reports are accessible by the public so locals and tourists can make informed decisions when visiting our beaches. This BCRS data also allows the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to monitor red tide and provide accurate forecasting. If you are interested in training to become a Beach Ambassador, please reach out to Capital Projects Manager, Camden Mills, at Camden.Mills@sarasotafl.gov for more information.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments about either of these projects, please do not hesitate to contact me at (941) 263-6132 or at nikesh.Patel@sarasotaFL.gov.

Yours in service,

Nikesh Patel, PE, CPM City Engineer



Staff

Your Observer

The best things to do around Sarasota for Feb. 23 - March 1

<https://www.yourobservers.com/news/2023/feb/21/things-to-do-in-the-sarasota-area-feb-23-march-1/>

Winter Festival redux request tabled by commission

Sarasota City Commission wants hard data from staff before deciding whether to permit a return of the Winter Spectacular at St. Armands Circle. Depending on whom is speaking, the first holiday season Winter Spectacular at St. Armands Circle was either a rousing success or a colossal nuisance. Both sentiments were on clear display Monday as organizers of the six-week festival were back before the Sarasota City Commission seeking to not make the first Winter Spectacular the last.

Twenty-three St. Armands-area residents, business owners and others spoke in roughly even numbers of support and opposition during Monday's commission meeting, ranging in claims from taking an hour to get out of a driveway to traffic actually being lighter than usual. On the agenda was a request by Tom Leonard, owner of Shore restaurant and Jeff Koffman of Ride Entertainment to consider issuing a use permit for to operate the event again in 2023.

Leonard is also chairman of the St. Armands Business Improvement District board of directors. His involvement in the festival, though, is a personal endeavor not affiliated with the BID. In addition to generating more customers for Circle merchants, Leonard said the festival boosted revenue for the city parking deck just off the Circle. He said data from the city's parking department reported 47% more fees collected in December compared to the year prior — not from more cars, but rather cars parked there longer.

Koffman told commissioners the festival attracted approximately 20,000 visitors, but because they were dispersed over time during festival hours, the additional traffic generated was negligible. "We can continue to control crowds through the disbursements of tickets through time slots, diminishing any concerns about traffic, and the issue is traffic," Koffman said. "At our peak, we had 400 people in a two-hour period. If you assume three people per car, that's about a car a minute."

Those speaking in opposition ranged from traffic complaints to questioning the legality of permitting an event that charges admission to be held in a public space. City Attorney Robert Fournier reminded commissioners the circle park at St. Armands, as public right of way on a state highway, belongs to the Florida Department of Transportation, which has long-since ceded authority over use of the space, if not ownership, to the city. In addition, he said, FDOT had no objection to the festival.

Leonard and Koffman pitched the Winter Festival to commissioners last October as a fitting celebration of the city's \$286,000 grant to replace St. Armands' 20-year-old holiday tree. Pulling off the event in only 28 days, they brought their request early this year to facilitate more planning. Citing most of the information provided by the two was anecdotal, commissioners unanimously voted to continue the matter to a future board meeting. They're looking for traffic data, incident reports from the Sarasota Police Department, parking statistics and other numbers to take into consideration.

Commissioner Debbie Trice suggested continuing to an April meeting. Vice Mayor Liz Alpert asked if the research could be completed sooner. Deputy City Manager Pat Robinson responded that staff is already working under his direction to collect the data. "We have been working on that since about mid-week last week, and as there are four or five different departments that are feeding into that I'm getting streams of information," he said. "Instead of trying to piecemeal them out, I'd rather put something together and report back holistically on it, especially considering there's been additional comment and questions that have come out of some of the citizens' input some of the businesses' input."

Among festival opponents' claims were charges that commissioners favor business interests over residents. That didn't set well with Commissioner Erik Arroyo.

"Everything we do is for our residents. Now however, the question that we have to ask ourselves is which residents?" he said. "Some people believe that St. Armands belongs to the residents that live on St. Armands, whereas there's another whole group of residents that believe that St. Armands, as a commercial district, is for everyone. It's for all the residents of the entire city and even beyond.

"So that's the rub. Does it belong to all residents or does it belong to a few residents?"

Added Mayor Kyle Battie: "We look out for the residents. You may not agree with all the decisions that we make, but make no mistake about it, we do have to take in consideration the residents of the city no matter where they are."

Merchants who support the return of the festival told commissioners they noted no traffic impact in the Circle throughout the event. Residents who live off the Circle painted a different picture. Trice said the forthcoming traffic report may clear up that inconsistency, positing that drivers traveling to and from Lido and Longboat keys might have avoided the Circle and instead traveled neighborhood streets.

"We have to take into consideration that the impact on the residents and what is being seen by the merchants on the Circle could be two different things," Trice said. "I want to get the information on the staffing, on the cost and the impacts, and I want a better understanding of the impact on the actual stakeholders — the merchants, the business owners, the residents and the barrier island residents who have to go back and forth."



Jessie Hayre captured setting moon over Lido



E.J. Benioni captured this photo of a crab coming out of its shell

City backs up repeal of back-in parking ban

Back-in parking will now be allowed in city-owned and -controlled parking facilities at the city manager's discretion. Drivers who prefer to back into parking spaces may soon have permission to go rear wheels first in city-owned and controlled surface lots and decks. At its Feb. 6 meeting, the City Commission approved amending an ordinance to allow back-in parking in individual facilities at City Manager Marlon Brown's discretion.



The policy doesn't apply across the board. Brown will determine which facilities will permit back-in parking on a case-by-case basis. Currently, signs prohibiting back-in parking are posted in surface lots such as Bayfront Park and in parking decks in downtown and at St. Armands Circle. Back-in parking can be a polarizing issue among drivers, including commissioners who were divided regarding their parking preference. As for the support of removing the citywide ban, they were in unanimous support.

"I'm going to vote yes but I hate backing in," said Vice Mayor Liz Alpert. "I know a lot of people like it."

"I'll vote yes. I love backing in," said Mayor Kyle Battie.

The amendment still prohibits back-in parking in angled spaces, except where otherwise posted. Backing in is required, for example, along Gulfstream Avenue. Back-in parking had been prohibited by city ordinance where posted in most city parking facilities. That was primarily because the city's Parking Division scans license plates for expired registrations and stolen vehicles. With Florida requiring only a rear license plate, it can be a challenge to efficiently run plates on vehicles backed into spaces, particularly in parking garages.

Commissioner Debbie Trice asked if there was any pushback from the Parking Division about the plate-reading obstacles. "As you may recall the parking manager the time (Mark) Lyons came before you and said that he will support this and that there are no other issues other than do they have to get out of their enforcement vehicle to read the tag," Brown said.

No drivers will be required to back into a parking space. In lots where Brown deems it permissible, it will be optional. "It simply allows it, and it would not apply to the angled spaces," Fournier said. "It wouldn't apply on the street, just in city-owned lots, not private lots, and in city-controlled parking structures or portions thereof."

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

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Cindy Schoffstall

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.

NOTE: If you are not getting our regular email notices, go to the [website](#) and send us your email address.



2023 LKRA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Celebrating 50 years of Community Involvement (1972 - 2022)

Annual Dues: **\$30.00 Individual Household**
 \$50.00 Condo Association, Hotel or Business

(PLEASE PRINT)

☐ New Member ☐ Renewing Member

Member Name: _____

Spouse/Partner: _____

Condo, Hotel or Business (if applicable): _____

Email: #1 _____ #2 _____

Local Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #1: _____ #2: _____

Mailing Address (if different): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Our newsletter *Lido Key Matters* (published 3-5 times a year) can be read online or downloaded from our website. It is also emailed to members. Questions? Email Membership Director Jim Ludwig lidokeyresidents@gmail.com or visit www.LKRA.org. You can also join and pay for membership with a credit / debit card from our website.

2023 Resident Meetings: January 21, February 18 (includes Annual Member Breakfast). March 18, April 15, June 17, August 19, October 21, and November 18

Please mail completed Membership Application and Check made out to:

LIDO KEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 884 SARASOTA, FL 34230

ONLINE PAYMENT LINKS FOR LEGAL FUND DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

<https://lkra.org/membership>

<https://lkra.org/donate>

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