

LIDO KEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION LIDO KEY MATTERS FEBRUARY 2019

Events Calendar

All Membership Meetings held at
Lido BeachResort 8th floor, 10:00 on the
3rd Saturday of the month:
February 16 March 16
April 20

“Meet and Greet“ Happy
Hours 5-7 pm

The second Tuesday of the month at:

Kokomos, Holiday Inn

With a special LKRA menu!!

Presidents Letter

Good Morning to all our 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 raiser 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 \$60,000.00 dollars. 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. In this newsletter there will be information for another fundraiser that is being sponsored by the Lido Beach Resort that will be held on March 5th. The theme will be Fat Tuesday - Mardi Gras, and this should be another good time for a great cause.

At the January breakfast meeting we had a very good turnout. The speaker was Tom Barwin, City Manager, who gave a presentation on what was done City wide in 2018 and what is projected for 2019.

An update on the interim beach renourishment (Big Pass project) is also included in the Newsletter. This little renourishment project is progressing and is scheduled to be completed sometime in March.

On the Lido Pavilion Issue, the City Commission will meet on Tuesday February 19th to discuss the proposed lease cancellation and termination agreement. It will be the last item in the afternoon session which starts at 1:30 pm and usually ends at 5:00 pm.

At our next member meeting we are having a local historian, Jeff Lahurd, and he will be giving a presentation on the history of Lido Key. It will very interesting to hear about our slice of heaven. Please try to attend.

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

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

Until we meet again

Carl Shoffstall

President LKRA

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Liz Alpert, Esq

Sarasota Mayor and City Commissioner

What's going on in Sarasota? Here are some of the things we are working on now.

1. The big project is the next steps for the The Bay. The Commission approved the first phase of the project which is the creation of a park on the southern portion of the property. In order to move forward, The Bay is proposing that a Conservancy be created to raise money and run the day-to-day operations of the park. The Commission and The Bay board are working on the terms of that Conservancy agreement.
2. Plans are coming together for improvements to the Lemon Avenue streetscape from Main Street to Pineapple. The idea is to create a more park-like feel all the way down the street similar to the streetscape on Lemon Avenue between First Street and Main Street. Work is planned to start in May.
3. The Commission approved improvements to Bobby Jones Golf Club. The plans for implementing those improvements are being worked on by Richard Mandell who was brought in to come up with the Master Plan.
4. A Master Plan is being developed for all city parks. We are analyzing what the city parks need and how to prioritize those needs, including looking at additional property to purchase in areas where there are no parks.
5. By the time you read this, the St. Armands Parking Garage will likely be open adding almost 500 new parking spaces. Parking in the garage will be \$.50 per hour. Once it is open, the parking meters will be operable on the Circle. If you haven't already done so, download the ParkMobile app to make paying for parking easier.

As always, if you have questions, concerns or would like me to come speak or meet with your group, you can contact me at liz.alpert@sarasotafl.gov or 941-228-5979.

Regards,

Liz Alpert, Esq.

Alex Davis-Shaw
Engineer

City

BEACH UPDATE

The Lido Key Beach Nourishment Project activities started on Lido Key on November 5, 2018 and will continue through March 11, 2019. The project is being constructed as an interim beach nourishment project, and will place approximately 185,000 cubic yards of material on the island. Sediment from the project will be obtained from the New Pass channel, located off the northern end of the island.

The construction project extends from north of the intersection of Benjamin Franklin Dr. and Tyler Dr. to South Lido County Park. Construction activities will progress from north to south. About 300-ft to 400-ft of beach will be closed at a time for beach construction, equipment storage and safety buffers. A staging area is located in a portion of the parking lot between Lido Beach Pool and Lido Beach Resort, opposite Garfield Drive and will be closed to the public. Construction will occur 24 hours a day, seven days a week, barring any weather or mechanical delays. Progress will be updated on a weekly basis; conditions are subject to change.

Progress:

Dredge and beach fill placement activities have been ongoing since November 19, 2018. Progress began near the north end of the north parking lot at the Lido Beach Pool and has advanced south to about Taft Drive.

Current Location:

About 400-ft of beach is closed south of the Limetree Beach Resort / Taft Drive. The staging area located in a portion of the parking lot between Lido Beach Pool and Lido Beach Resort, opposite Garfield Drive, will be closed throughout the project. The approximate closure is shown in the graphic attached.

Week Ahead:

Progress is anticipated to extend south from the current location to south of The Beach Club. A section of about 300 – 500 ft of beach will be closed at a time as the project moves south.

Sand ramps will be constructed over the pipeline at multiple locations to provide access to the Gulf of Mexico until removal. The active construction areas and staging area will be cordoned off and/or fenced to keep the public away from equipment. We appreciate your understanding. All timelines are estimates and are subject to weather and equipment delays.

City of Sarasota contacts: Cory Holding 941-321-5676, Alex DavisShaw 941-404-9859.

Thanks

Alex Davis-Shaw, P.E., PTOE, F.FES

City Engineer

Updates from the City's Sustainability Program

The Sustainability Office has been busy at work the last couple months with exciting new projects aimed to improve environmental conditions in Sarasota. Some highlights and updates include:

- Solar Energy: The Sarasota City Commission unanimously agreed to participate in a new FPL program called Solar Together. This program could begin in 2020 and allow the city to provide 71% of the its facility and operational energy use with solar power. This new program would cost the City an additional \$2,700 per month for year one, but participation costs decrease thereafter and by year five the City would begin recycling credits to reduce its electricity bill. We look forward to this potential partnership and will be watching its development as FPL presents it for approval to the Public Service commission.
- Plastic Pollution: On February 4th staff presented data to the City Commission on the impacts of plastic pollution to our local marine environment. Based on this information the City Commission was interested in transitioning away from the use of polystyrene and straws on public property. In late March, staff is also bringing back information related to what it would take to implement and enforce plastic straw regulations city-wide. There are state policies that prevent cities from regulating single use plastics bags in any form. Staff also recommended partnering with a local non-profit www.ReThinkingPlastics.org to help businesses voluntarily transition from using single use plastic materials, without using regulation pathways.
- Partners for Green Places: The City and Sarasota County received \$300,000 (over 2 years) to assist local non-profits with a human service or environmental missions in investing in energy efficiency. This program will fund detailed energy assessments for non-profits and matching funds to make the improvements. Partners for Green Places will provide financial savings so these great organizations can then put that money back into serving our community members. The first phase will fund energy improvements for three pilot partners: Historic Spanish Point, Harvest House, and Children's First and is expected to be available to other non-profits beginning this summer.

Mike Adkinson Soiree

Beach

Saving Lido Beach - a big project in the hands of people with huge hearts

As explained briefly in the Longboat Observer article linked below, the battle to save Lido Beach has been a most unusual ordeal between two neighboring communities. Lido needed to restore/refresh a public beach and a few individuals at Siesta raised a ruckus creating fear that “something bad might happen.” Meanwhile, lawyers upgraded their Lamborghini’s.

The Lido Residents Association is one of the largest homeowner associations in the city and it operates under the most capable leadership of Carl (& Cindy) Shoffstall. On Tuesday evening, they, along with support from Camille Schwabe and several others, earned the energetic participation of 125 members who assembled to strengthen their association’s legal defense fund and to make a statement about the future through their behavior.

This group of successful and optimistic people happily gathered and took part in the auctions in a manner which could only be interpreted as saying - we are here to support our beach and we stand ready, willing and able to get the job done - whatever it takes!

The event was one of the most fun occasions on these keys in a long time. Mari Lynn and I were delighted to be a part of this awesome group.

<https://www.youobserver.com/photo-gallery/lido-key-residents-association-hosts-save-the-beach-soiree#photo-1>

Mike Adkinson

ArmaLido.Nextdoor.com



Photo from The Observer Silent Auction Item



Photo from The Observer Silent Auction Item



Photo from The Observer

Mike Adkinson Fundraiser

Mardi Gras

Big Lido Beach Sand Party - Help Keep Lido Looking Good

The evening sunset provides a daily show and it is attended by people from all around the world. Watching that sun drop into the Gulf amidst the different background provided each day is truly one of the most enjoyed moments of the day - for Lido beach lovers.

One very important ingredient is the white sandy beach that we stand on while watching this daily phenomenon. Visitors might think very little about the presence of the sand because it is expected to be there but we see it differently.

Locals know more of the story and we know of the trials and tribulations experienced over the past few years as strange objections formed to try to prevent the US Corps of Engineers from being allowed to complete a project they had studied and worked on for several years.

Those concerned that “something bad might happen” have engaged the legal system to attack this beach nourishment project in every conceivable way possible. The city of Sarasota defended against those attacks but the only way to achieve fullest protection for the citizens was for the citizens to be represented themselves.

Lido Key Residents Association picked up the slack by agreeing to take a leadership position on behalf of all citizens. They engaged a strong legal team which complimented the city legal team and together they have managed to keep this project afloat and moving forward. The last court filing has not yet ended but the outcome is looking pretty good for the home team.

Taking on this responsibility to act on behalf of all local citizens has been a long, arduous and expensive process. The legal team was very good and in that field, very good is also very expensive. The tab has been heavy and the responsibility for payment has fallen squarely on the shoulders of local residents.

The fundraising event which is promoted by the advertisement shown below is important and its going to be fun. So consider this note as a call for citizen-hood action. Citizen-hood action is when we all pitch-in and help a needed cause to be served.

March 5th will be a fun evening and with or without costume, a couple of hundred happy people will assemble to support a cause that is very important to all of us. Early tickets costing \$45 are now available and its one of those occasions that makes us feel good because we know we are doing the right things. I hope to see you there.

Jay Elsasser

Lido Beach Litigation Summary Update

Federal Case: LKRA is considering the cost/benefit of participating in the Federal case.

Civil Case: After having their complaints dismissed multiple times without prejudice, the latest iteration results are:

Count One was an argument trying to use FL Statute 403.412 was dismissed WITH prejudice.

Count Two of their complaint is seeking to force the City to get a letter from the County. This was amended and refiled by Siesta. Previous iterations were dismissed because they were insufficient for a court ruling. Now enough errors were fixed in their complaint for the court to move it to the next step and ask the City to explain why it should not be forced to seek this letter. The City has 20 days from Feb. 12th to do so. In essence the second count has finally made it past the starting gate and the argument about it can actually begin.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5TH



**JOIN US FOR OUR
MARDI GRAS FUNDRAISER
MARCH 5, 6:30-10:30 pm**

Party Hearty for Lido Sand!
Lido Key Commodores Dixieland Band will perform for your listening & dancing pleasure!
Appetizers & soft drinks provided by Lido Beach Resort
Cash bar! Raffle!
Costume & Dance Contests!
\$45/Guest for Presales or \$50/Guest Day of the Event
Pay Online at LKRA.ORG
Or Mail Payment to:
Lido Key Residents Assoc.
PO Box 884
Sarasota, Florida 34236
Questions? Call 941-894-4771



**MARDI GRAS
SPONSORS AND
DONATIONS**

**Minimum Sponsorship
\$50.00**

Available Sponsorships

- Costume Contest
- Decorations
- Giveaways
- Photo-OP Booth
- The Lido Key Commodores Dance Contest

All Sponsorships and Donations Will Benefit the Lido Beach Legal Fund, and Can Be Made Online at LKRA.ORG or Mailed to

LKRA,
PO Box 884
Sarasota, FL 34230

For More Information
Contact Camille at

941-894-4771



Cathy Antunes Pavilion

Lido Beach

It was standing room only on January 14th at the City Commission's public hearing to decide whether to approve or deny the proposed Major Conditional Use and Site Plan for Lido Pavilion. The hearing began with a surprise announcement that the applicants, Troy Syrett and Gavin Meshad, were proposing to withdraw their application. Attorney Bill Merrill, representing the applicants, acknowledged the overwhelming community sentiment against the project, and said the applicants were looking to terminate the lease and negotiate a settlement with the City for their costs.

Another surprised ensued. Attorney John Patterson, representing Logan Acquisitions, the owners of Lido Beach Resort, made an announcement as well. Contingent on the withdrawal of the application and termination of the lease, his client was willing to donate \$175,000 toward the refurbishment of Lido Pavilion. Mr. Walsh, principal partner of Logan Acquisitions, indicated that the donation would be toward a refurbishment that had the support of the community, one that maintained the family friendly nature of Lido Pavilion. The room erupted in applause.

It has been a long and convoluted odyssey since 2007, when City residents voted to set aside \$1.25 million toward updates for Lido Pavilion. Those dollars have remained in a designated account ever since, and cannot be used for any other purpose (the interest on those dollars is allocated elsewhere). In 2011 the County ended its maintenance of Lido Pavilion, and the financial responsibility became the City's once again. In 2014, the City issued an Invitation To Negotiate (ITN) to solicit proposals for redeveloping Lido Pavilion. The applicants were the only respondents to the ITN - an early sign of a flawed process. Negotiations took place over three years, and during that time the applicants' company was actually not a legal entity. Their LLC began incorporation in October 2017, one month before the City Commission hearings on the lease. The lease is for ten years with two renewals - thirty years. But, there is a provision in the lease which provided the opportunity for the applicants to conduct further improvements at year 24, and extend the lease to amortize those improvements (easily another 20 years). This lease could have tied Lido Pavilion up for more 50 years, essentially changing Lido for good.

While the applicants' desire to be compensated for costs is troubling for many Lido advocates, it may well be worth it to ensure that the issue is settled quickly. The status of the settlement will be discussed at the February 19th City Commission meeting. Hopefully the Commission will have a final vote and finally dispose of this problem proposal. The next still will be coming together as a community and planning a Pavilion update which truly serves the public interest. Be there at the City Commission meeting on February 19th to encourage our City Commission to follow through on ending the Syrett/Meshad plan. Then let's get started on a new beginning for Lido Pavilion.

Cathy Antunes

Mote Secures Formal, Long-Term Plan for New Aquarium Land

The Sarasota County Commission unanimously approved an agreement for Mote Marine Laboratory's use of county-owned land in Nathan Benderson Park for the site of its planned new Science Education Aquarium during the county commission meeting today, Jan. 30.

The "omnibus" agreement includes a two-year lease, during which Mote will pursue normal, due-diligence steps and seek zoning approval for ultimate sale of the land. If this does not happen within the short-term lease, the agreement calls for a long-term lease of 90 years.

Mote Science Education Aquarium (Mote SEA) will be an iconic, educational and outreach hub that vastly improves access to marine science and technology for an estimated three million residents living within a 60-minute drive and visitors from around the world, representing a rebirth of the current Mote Aquarium. For maximum impact and accessibility, Mote leaders will establish Mote SEA on 12 acres in the Sarasota County-owned land within Nathan Benderson Park, within a rapidly growing nexus location for Sarasota and Manatee counties and the broader Southwest Florida region.

Mote SEA will be an iconic facility with 110,000 square feet containing more than 1 million gallons of exhibits featuring marine life and scientific displays from around the world, onsite diving programs, a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) resource center for students, teachers and the general public, conference and special event space, educational galleries with interactive, advanced, digital and augmented reality technology to enhance learning, two STEM workforce training labs and three K-12 STEM teaching labs, which will offer no-cost opportunities for every school in the region. Outdoor nature trails with potential additional features such as science-education demonstrations of snook stock enhancement and wetlands restoration will enhance public use of the area.

With the nearly 40-year-old existing Mote Aquarium reborn as the Mote SEA at Nathan Benderson Park, Mote Marine Laboratory will also be poised to launch the distinct transformation of its City Island campus into an International Marine Science, Technology & Innovation Park that will ultimately catalyze the development of a "Silicon Valley" for marine science and technology in Southwest Florida that will fuel the growth of a diverse "blue economy."



David Conway

Deputy Managing Editor of The Observer

St. Armands Circle Parking Changes

The new district-wide paid parking program will coincide with the opening of a parking garage on North Adams Drive.

Two major parking-related changes are coming to St. Armands Circle next week, the city announced today.

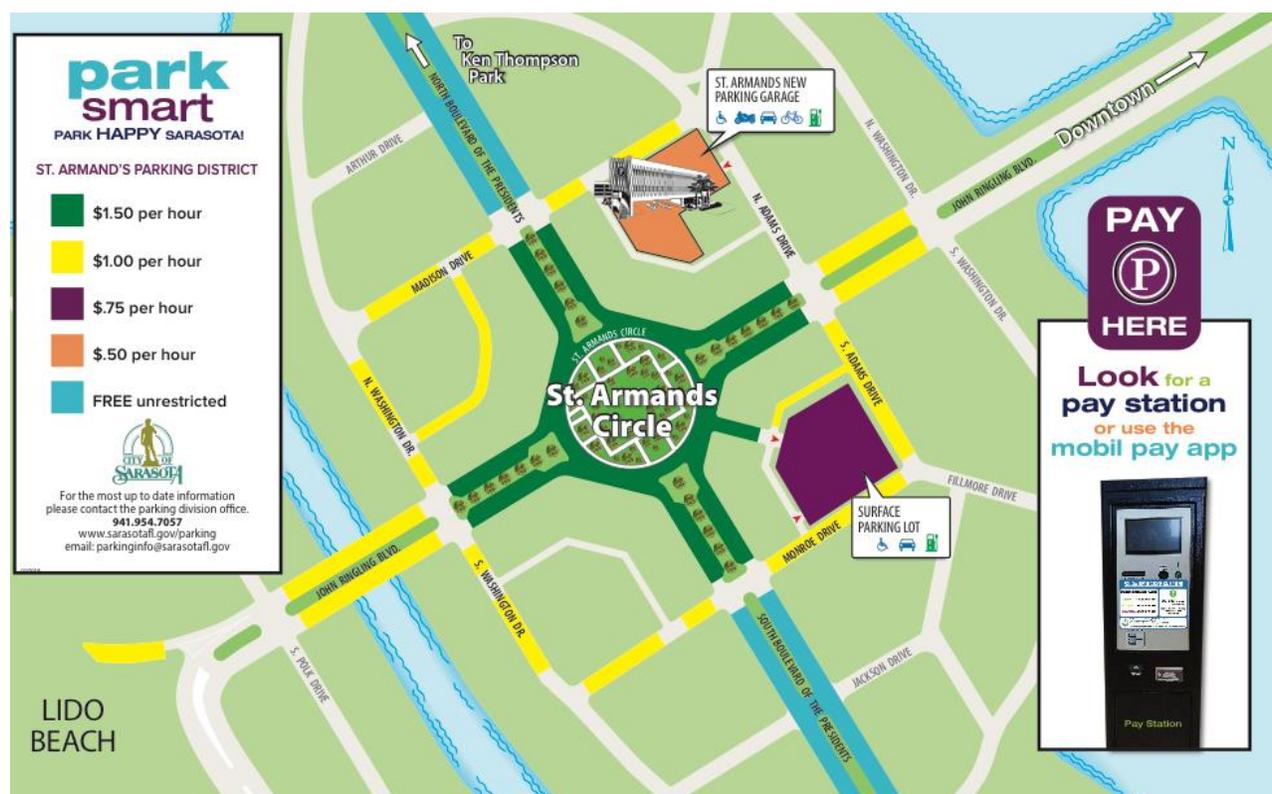
The city plans to open a parking garage at 47 N. Adams Drive and begin a district-wide paid parking program Feb. 12. St. Armands will be the first area in the city with on-street paid parking since officials removed meters from downtown in 2012.

The city approved the paid parking program as part of a strategy to fund the \$15 million garage project. The garage will have 484 spaces, and there will be an additional 23 surface parking spaces near the garage.

The hourly parking rates in the Circle will vary depending on where a space is located. Prime spaces will be \$1.50 per hour, while more remote spaces will be \$1 per hour. Parking in the surface lot on South Adams Drive will cost 75 cents an hour, and parking in the garage will cost 50 cents per hour. Nearly 200 free spaces will remain in the area, the city said.

The city installed 40 pay stations around St. Armands, where visitors will input their license plate to pay for a space. The machines accept coins and credit and debit cards. Visitors can also: [use a phone app, ParkMobile](#), to pay. The city shared [a video with information on how to use the app](#).

from The Observer: <https://www.youobserver.com/article/sarasota-st-armands-circle-paid-parking-garage-opens>



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 2019 membership starts on January 1st. Our updated membership total is 910 members. Many of you have already paid. If you are unsure of your current status, contact us for an update. THE YEARLY MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR 2019 is \$30. The membership application is on the next page of this newsletter.

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.

Subject: LKRA Legal Fund Contributions

We were up to 63% of households donating to the legal fund. PLEASE GO TO: www.LKRA.org, click on Lido Key Sand Matters Legal Fund.

ONLINE PAYMENT LINKS FOR LEGAL FUND DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

<http://www.lkra.org/lido-key-sand-matters-legal-fund.html>

<http://www.lkra.org/membership-1.html>

2019 LKRA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

2019 DUES: \$30.00 Annually Per Household

Type to enter text
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 Send Membership Form and Check to Address Below. Or visit our website and pay online with credit or debit card. Memberships Meetings are held the Third Saturday in the months of October, November, January, February, March and April.

Additional info available on our website – www.LKRA.org

**RETURN FORM TO:
LIDO KEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, PO BOX 884, SARASOTA, FL 34230**

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR NEWSLETTER!!

February 12, 2019

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.

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.

IT WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE.

Beth Dilworth

Potential Future Speakers

March 20, 2019 - Stevie Freeman-Montes: Sarasota Sustainability

April 20,2019 - Tod Kettering: Hurricane Preparedness

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