



Events Calendar

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

NEXT MEETING: March 19

Hotel Houses Update

"Meet and Greet"

Happy Hours 5-7 pm

The second Tuesday of the month

at: Lido Key Holiday Inn

Kokomos, Holiday Inn

March 8th, at 5 PM

Presidents Letter

Good morning to LKRA members as well as new ones

As I start this letter from the President, I must first say the weather is beautiful. In my opinion, we have had a mild winter this year. Season is here and of course, traffic is extremely heavy as usual. In this Newsletter, there are articles of the ongoing projects around the Key, i.e. The Ben Franklin solar lighting project and the restoration of the beach dunes. The Association is still trying to get the hotel house issue resolved (our next meeting, a presentation on code enforcement will address them). At a recent city commission meeting, the commissioners voted to delaying the sale and development of the Fillmore parking on St Armands, which was well received by most on the Keys.

On the social front, we have had a meet and our annual breakfast meeting was held at the Long Boat Key Club (due to a scheduling conflict at Lido Beach Resort). We had 85 people attend and the resort did a fantastic job with food and the venue. We have the LKRA 50th year gala coming up, I think it will be a great evening of dining and dancing!

To end the letter I again must say how much I appreciate how members are involved with our association. Marlon Brown (city manager) was the guest speaker at breakfast and said what a great neighborhood we have.

Have a great day and be safe

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Marlon Brown

Sarasota City Manager

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Governor DeSantis's recently awarded the City of Sarasota with a grant of more than 10 million dollars for infrastructure projects at the Bay Park.

The federal funds awarded by Rebuild Florida will be used to help improve water quality and resiliency along Sarasota Bay, a key water body that flows back and forth into the Gulf of Mexico. The money will help fund three projects included in future phases of the 53-acre park. They include the restoration of Hog's Creek, to help treat stormwater; the elevation of Van Wezel Way, to mitigate flooding; and shoreline improvements that will help guard against erosion and future storms.

We appreciate the state's support as we work with our partners at the Bay Park Conservancy to address these important environmental challenges.

With the state legislature now in session at the capitol, your City Commissioners had the opportunity to meet with state representatives as part of the "Legislative Action Days" organized by the Florida League of Cities. It's a chance for local officials to connect with state leaders, build stronger relationships and advocate for projects and initiatives that are important to us here in Sarasota.

Some of the priorities the City Commission is focusing on this year include funding for the extension of the Legacy Trail, the development of the Bobby Jones Nature Park, the Bay Park project, water quality and transportation improvements. The City relies on outside funding sources to help supplement these big-ticket projects that are vitally important to the quality of life we enjoy in Sarasota. We're optimistic that funds will be set aside for these key projects in the final state budget. The Legislative Action Days also give us the opportunity to monitor significant bills advancing in Tallahassee that could have big impacts locally.

Marlon Brown**Sarasota City Manager**

The City Commission has approved an agreement with a provider to bring bike and scooter sharing to Sarasota. You'll be able to rent a scooter or bicycle, hop on and easily get around the city.

These types of "micro-mobility" options are very popular in cities around the country, and I believe they'll be successful here, too. We've had the benefit of learning from other cities' growing pains, and we've taken our time to carefully select a national vendor with a great reputation who will be responsive to our city's needs.

The rental company, Veo, operates in more than 35 U.S. cities, including nearby St. Petersburg. They're committed to having a locally based staff who will make sure scooters and bikes are well maintained and get placed back in the designated areas where they belong when not in use.

Veo is also focused on educating riders about safety and encouraging the use of helmets. They also make their vehicles accessible to everyone by offering a more affordable rate for low-income riders who qualify.

Through the use of technology, we'll be able to ensure the scooters can only operate in appropriate areas at safe speeds. We're working on identifying places across the City where they can be located, and we expect to roll them out in early March.

I know it will be a hit with our residents and tourists as well as users of the soon-to-be-extended Legacy Trail. But scooter and bike sharing is a great option for anyone to quickly get where they need to go and leave their car parked – and we can all agree that a little less traffic is a good thing. So, if you see me scooting around downtown this spring, be sure to wave hello!

Finally, starting March 2nd, the free open-air trolley service called **The Bay Runner** will operate between downtown and the barrier islands to help alleviate traffic congestion between downtown Sarasota and the barrier islands by offering an easy, hassle-free alternative to an automobile. With 13 pre-determined stops approximately 2-3 blocks apart in pedestrian areas along Main Street, St. Armands Circle and Lido Pavilion, the trolley endpoints will be Main Street/School Avenue and Ted Sperling Park at South Lido Beach. Hours of operation and headway times for the complimentary service will be: 8 a.m. to midnight, 7 days a week, including holidays, with a 20-minute headway time during peak hours and 30-minute during off-peak hours.

The transit schedule will be monitored and modified as necessary to provide efficient service. The Bay Runner carries 28 passengers and equipped with a wheelchair boarding lift. The trolley route map is available [here](#). An additional stop will be added near Golden Gate Point when the U.S 41-Gulfstream Avenue roundabout is completed.

The City Commission partnered with the Downtown Improvement District (DID), St. Armands Business Improvement District (BID), Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and City staff to bring this amenity to reality.

The **Sarasota Bay Runner** will have an app that tracks real time information including approximate arrival times and is available via the Apple App Store, Google Play and <https://sarasotabayrunner.com>. A QR code on Bay Runner stop signs directs users to the app as well. The service will be operated by CPR Medical Transport, the same company that runs the popular Siesta Key Breeze trolley.

Beach totes, shopping bags and other carry-ons that can easily fit within a passenger seating area will be encouraged as it is hoped people will take the Bay Runner to come and go from the beach, shop and dine.

Paratransit service also will be available through advanced registration and scheduling.

Marlon Brown

City Manager

Marlon.Brown@sarasotaFL.gov

[Slide Show presentation](#) at Annual Meeting held on Saturday February 19, 2022

Eric Garwood, Managing Editor

Your Observer

Bobby Jones trails to close to allow initial golf course restoration

Nature and exercise trails at Bobby Jones Golf Club will close to allow initial work to begin on the renovation of the golf course, the city said this afternoon. Renovated golf course could be open by November.

Closed to golfers since the early weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic and reopened in mid-2020 as a series of nature trails, Bobby Jones is in line for a restoration of its original 18 holes, designed nearly a century ago by renowned golf course architect Donald Ross, who designed some of the United States' most iconic courses.

Under current construction timeline, the 18-hole regulation course could reopen in November, with a shorter, nine-hole adjustable course ready for play by January 2023. The city said the nature trails could reopen when the 18-hole course does. In addition, a player development center, large driving range, short-game practice area and clubhouse featuring a restaurant will be built. Golf course architect and city consultant Richard Mandell said the restored course would trace the path of holes 10-18 of the two courses known at Bobby Jones as the American and British sides, which is the track of Ross' original design. The course is expected to measure 6,715 yards and play to a par of 71.

City Commissioners in January approved plans for the renovation, which cuts in half the number of regulation holes but also sets aside about 150 acres for a nature park on the site. City leaders approved a \$20 million bond to finance the work and an agreement with the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast to partner on a conservation easement for the entire 261 acre property. The Southwest Florida Water Management District approved a \$1.5 million grant for a wetlands and water quality improvement project on the site. The conservation easement agreement means the land will remain protected in perpetuity.

Blake Fussell, Staff Writer

Your Observer

Micro transit is coming to the city of Sarasota

City commissioners approved a deal with an e-scooter and bike-sharing provider with hopes to launch service in the city by March. Chicago-based Veo will serve as the city’s exclusive provider of rented e-scooters and both traditional and power-assisted bicycles in portions of the city.

“We’re overjoyed to be bringing these convenient, safe and cost-effective transportation options to Sarasota,” said Mayor Erik Arroyo. “Having a micro-mobility program will help fill in the gaps in our transportation network for first-mile and last-mile trips to help our citizens get where they want and need to go. I’m looking forward to this transformative and successful partnership with Veo.”

Veo will bring about 400 scooters and about 50-75 bicycles to the city. Rental costs for scooters will be \$1 to unlock them via a mobile app, and 37 cents a minute. Bike rentals will be 50 cents per half hour. Through its Veo Access program, the company also offers discounted rates to low-income users who qualify. Veo was the winner of three companies bidding for the deal with the city.

For more information, visit veoride.com or contact the City of Sarasota Parking Division at 941-263-6475.



Alex Davis Shaw

Sarasota City Engineer Retired

Lido Beach Dunes Project

With state and federal grant funds the City of Sarasota is planning a dune construction project on Lido Beach. The goal is to add another layer of protection for the beach and adjacent properties in the area where new sand was added with the recent re-nourishment. The City recently made a presentation to the LKRA members ([see slide show](#)). The next phase of the project is to reach out to all of the property owners to review details and get support for the project. Following that would be design and permitting approximately a 4-month process, then another 3 months for bidding and 2-3 months construction.



The beach committee has no current news. We are waiting for the beach loss measurement calculations to come back from the corps but they are not complete yet.

Ben Franklin Drive solar street light replacement program has begun. For City slide presentation click [here](#).



Initiative announced to improve health of Sarasota Bay, other estuaries

Chiles Group CEO and Gulf Shellfish Institute Board Member Ed Chiles had quite the backdrop to announce the launch of a five-year initiative to help restore three national estuaries. Chiles announced the launch of “All Clams on Deck” at his Mar Vista Dockside Restaurant in Longboat Key. It is Chiles’ plan to raise a total of \$22.5 million for the environmental betterment of Charlotte Harbor, Sarasota Bay and Tampa Bay.

“We will look at all of the areas in these three national estuaries, and say, ‘Where is the best area for clams?’ and ‘Where is the best area for seagrass?’” Chiles said. “We don’t want to put seagrass in an area where it doesn’t have a great chance of being successful.”

All Clams on Deck seeks to get support from the federal government, state government, nearby municipalities and Tampa Bay area residents to restore 650 acres of seagrass. The idea is to strategically plant nursery-grown seagrass into areas where it’s died off. The group also seeks to create 30 high-density clam restoration sites.

It is Chiles’ goal to obtain \$15 million from the federal government and \$2.5 million in state funding to accomplish the initiative. Chiles said the initial plan is to evenly split the \$15 million in federal money between the three estuaries. He said once more data is collected, scientists will help determine which areas need more care.

Chiles said he’s been working to launch All Clams on Deck since April 2021. He said he could hear within the next 90 days about whether the Gulf Shellfish Institute receives the \$15 million in federal support. Chiles said he would seek the advice of the group’s federal lobbyists on the best course of action and he urged nearby municipalities and individual residents to contribute funding toward All Clams on Deck.

“My heart is in this because I grew up here,” Chiles said. “My pocketbook is in this and all of us are in this because this is everybody’s business.”

Since last year, Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Executive Director David Tomasko has spoken with the Observer about more than 2,000 acres of lost seagrass in Sarasota Bay alone. Tomasko mentioned three reasons about the importance of having a healthy bay: Quality of life; the local economy and the example of the East Coast’s Indian River Lagoon and its poor environmental health and starving manatees.

“(It was) literally the worst year on record for manatees. (More than) 1,000 of them dead, more than 10% of (the) population, and the main reason why (2021 was) such a bad year is they’re starving to death in the Indian River Lagoon because their seagrass resource, their food, is down 95% because the water quality has gotten so bad,” Tomasko said. “And that is just not what I think anyone wants to see Sarasota Bay become: the next Indian River Lagoon.”

Red-light camera renewal before City Commission

City commissioners are scheduled to vote on the second of three potential one-year contract extensions with the city’s red-light traffic camera provider. Since 2018, 20 Sarasota intersections have been equipped with gear from Red Speed Florida LLC. The city pays Red Speed \$3,500 a month for each of the installations, a total of \$70,000 monthly or \$840,000 annually. In 2019, the city’s revenue from the cameras was \$955,066. Revenue fell to less than half in the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic to \$408,751 in 2020 and \$780,636 in 2021. According to a city document prepared by the Sarasota Police, a similar figure is projected for 2022.

Where are the cameras?

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| There are 20 red-light cameras in the city: | Southbound Beneva Road at Fruitville Road |
| Southbound and northbound S. Tuttle Avenue at Bahia Vista Street | Northbound and southbound Tamiami Trail at Bee Ridge Road |
| Eastbound Bahia Vista Street at S. Tuttle Avenue | Westbound Bee Ridge Road at South Tamiami Trail |
| Northbound Washington Boulevard at Fruitville Road | Southbound N. Lockwood Ridge Road at Fruitville Road |
| Eastbound and westbound Fruitville Road at N. Washington Avenue | Westbound Fruitville Road at N. Lockwood Ridge Road |
| Northbound and southbound N. Tamiami Trail at University Parkway | Southbound N. Tuttle Avenue at Fruitville Road |
| Southbound N. Washington Boulevard at 17th Street | Eastbound Fruitville Road at N. Lockwood Ridge Road |
| Northbound Tamiami Trail at Siesta Drive | Northbound and southbound Tamiami Trail at Bahia Vista Street |

In a memo to City Manager Marlon Brown requesting the one-year extension, Acting Police Chief Rex Troche said fees for the service are offset by the revenue the devices generate, and the cameras are key to traffic safety at the 20 intersections around the city.

“Photo enforcement of red-light violations improves safety by increasing compliance of drivers stopping at red lights, providing 24 hours a day, 365 days a year unbiased traffic enforcement and produce a record of evidence that is not easily disputed,” he wrote.

The city originally agreed to a three-year deal in January 2018 with the option of three one-year extensions. The extension under consideration is the second and would expire in 2023. According to Florida law, red light camera photographs must be reviewed by a police officer before a citation can be issued. Typically, red-light citations do not result in punitive license points, but the fine is \$158. The red-light camera renewal is part of the commission's consent agenda, which typically is voted on with other topics and not subject to discussion.

*Join the Lido Key
Residents Association
for our*

50th
Anniversary Gala

Celebrating 50 Years Protecting, Preserving
and Enhancing our piece of paradise



\$60.00 *Per Person*

5:30 - 9:30 Thursday March 31st
Holiday Inn - Lido Key

Reception, Dinner, and Dancing
Music by "Joined at the Hip"

Entree Choice:

- Grilled Beef Tenderloin
- Crab Stuffed Grouper
(vegetarian option available)

Cash Bar

Cocktail Attire



Register On-Line @
www.LKRA.org

**Tickets are Limited. Exclusive
registration for Active Association
Members until March 1st**

LKRA's 50th Anniversary Gala is a celebration of the past accomplishments of Lido Key residents, our neighborhood association and our community involvement since 1972. The gala will include cocktails and music starting at 5:30 pm, followed by dinner, dessert and dancing! This is an event you will not want to miss. We understand the planning committee has a few surprises up their sleeve. Be sure and sign up now because the event space is limited.

Heidi Brandt

Membership

There are currently 466 household and 770 members.

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.

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

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2022 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 Heidi Brandt heidimbrandt@gmail.com or visit www.LKRA.org. You can also join and pay for membership with a credit / debit card from our website.

2022 Resident Meetings: January 16, February 19 (includes Annual Member Breakfast). March 19, April 16, June 18, August 20, October 15, and November 19

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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