



LIDO KEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION LIDO KEY MATTERS OCTOBER 2019

Events Calendar

All Membership Meetings held at 10:00 on the 3rd Saturday of the month:

NOTE: THE OCT. 19th & NOV. 16th WILL BE HELD AT THE SANDCASTLE RESORT

"Meet and Greet"
Happy Hours 5-7 pm

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

With a special LKRA menu!!

Presidents Letter

Good Morning members of the Lido Key Residents Association:

I hope everyone has had a happy and safe summer, wherever you spent it. We had our first member meeting of season at the Sand Castle Resort, and we had over 80 people attend. We will be back there next month (watch for dates) due to the Lido Beach Resort having a major remodel going on at this time. They are expecting it to reopen sometime in December.

We have a very good line up of programs for this year's meetings. It was a very busy summer here in Sarasota with many construction projects going on as well as new roundabouts on SR 41.

In this Newsletter there are many updates on what is going on. Meet and greets will be starting up in November (see dates) at the Holiday Inn. I hope to see everyone there.

Carl Shoffstal , President LKRA

813-967-2687 cell

carl@floridaplaystructures.com 1

Tom Barwin

Sarasota City Manager

In the disappointing but true category, those who oppose the Lido Key Hurricane Protection Plan continue to take extra ordinary measures to try to obstruct the project. But like sand making its way through the hourglass this vital, well thought out, highly vetted, well studied project moved a bit closer to reality in October when Judge McCue ruled that the City of Sarasota followed its rules, procedures and past practices in advancing this critical and long planned project.

More recently, we have spent considerable time asking Sarasota County to allow the selected contractor to allow the project to utilize a relatively small portion at the northwest quadrant of Ted Sperling Park for equipment and materials storage and mobilization to construct the project. Over the past month, we have requested on multiple occasions that this matter be placed on the Board of County Commissioners first meeting of November, scheduled for Tuesday, November 5, 9:00 am, in Venice. Although this has been an administrative procedure in the past, Siesta Key politics has come into play and the Board of County Commissioners have apparently decided to make this a Board of County Commissioners decision.

Let's hope fairness and fiscal responsibility prevail over politics because we are now entering the implementation phase of the project. Utilizing public property and Lido Key (is also a part of the county, and a major part of the county tax base and employment base) will allow the project to move forward in the most efficient and cost-effective way possible, saving hundreds of thousands of taxpayers' dollars, perhaps a million. Having to barge the groin rocks in from the Gulf or rebuild the highly eroded shoreline to bring the rocks in, only to have to than cut back into the shoreline is wasteful and redundant, not to mention time consuming and costly.

The City continues to bend over backwards to be flexible, accommodating to the park while remaining diplomatic. Let's hope our goodwill and professionalism will prevail and the OKAY will be granted in time for the project to be bid. As of this writing Siesta Key has not volunteered to pay the hundreds of thousands extra it may cost to not allow public property to be utilized for the efficient and fiscally responsible approach to implement this critical public safety and wildlife habitat project.

I have to say I have not seen anything like this in 35 years of public administration.

Stay tuned.

On another note, thanks to Lido Key residents for teaming up and partnering with the Sarasota Police Department to land a team of burglars in jail where they belong.



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 Bay project is continuing to move forward. The most immediate improvements that you will see is a "windowing" of the existing mangroves which will allow for views through the mangroves to the water.
2. The Lemon Avenue streetscape is nearing completion. The Farmer's Market will be able to move back to Lemon Avenue soon if it hasn't already by the time you read this.
3. The Commission approved has approved a master plan for Bobby Jones Golf Course which will include 27 regulation holes, a 9-hole short course, new Clubhouse, player development center, and a driving range. This will leave approximately 46 acres of park land on the property. We are analyzing the potential activities that can be added. In addition, we are working with the Conservation Foundation to explore ways to grant them a perpetual easement so that the Bobby Jones property remains public in perpetuity.
4. The Selby Gardens Master Plan will be coming before the City Commission for a vote at a special meeting on October 28.
5. The Sarasota in Motion transportation plan is looking for your input on what your would liked to see for transportation in the City. Go to sarasotainmotion.com for more information.

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.



It's a blessing to live where we do. As a Sarasota County Commissioner, I take great pride in not only the beautiful, world-class amenities like our parks, preserved lands and libraries, but also our responsible financial stewardship, investment in capital improvement projects and focus on being the premier community in which to live, work and play.

But, even as we celebrate Sarasota County we must also keep in mind that it needs be protected. After all, the health of our bays, beaches and estuaries reflect not only where we are now, but the kind of world we are leaving for future generations.

Water is the lifeblood of our county and our state, which is why it's a top priority for our commission.

After watching dead marine life wash up on our shores during what seemed like a never-ending battle against red tide, coupled with learning that our utilities system needed some much-needed upgrades, our board realized that serious steps had to be taken in order to help protect our most valuable resources, including:

- Hosting a regional Water Quality Summit in June, which brought together experts from around the state, both public and private, to push the discussion beyond our own county and learn how we can all work together.
- Approving upgrades to our Bee Ridge Water Reclamation Facility, both long and short-term solutions, including transitioning to an Advanced Wastewater Treatment process in the near future.
- Enacting a FOG ordinance – which stands for fats, oils and grease – that aims to reduce potential blockages in our system and prevent breaks within our utilities lines.

In addition, we work to remind the community of the efforts to protect and enhance water quality through ongoing programs including:

- The continued transition of more than 10,000 septic systems to central sewer as part of the Phillippi Creek Septic Replacement Program.
- Investment in large-scale infrastructure projects like Dona Bay and the Celery Fields, which reduces flood risk and stormwater pollution, and supports long-term drinking water supply.
- Comprehensive, long-term water quality monitoring of bays and creeks to monitor their health and identify potential risks. As we look forward, we will continue to be responsible stewards of the public's trust, and fight for the environment. It's a battle that will never truly end, but we can measure our victories by what we do collectively to protect our community. By working together, we can ensure that Sarasota County will remain a paradise that we can enjoy not only right now, but for many years to come.

We have a lot to be thankful for, and it's both my honor and privilege to serve as your representative.

Christian Ziegler

Sarasota County Commissioner



David Conway, Deputy Managing Editor of The Observer

Pavilion Update

Sunday, Sept. 29 was, for some Lido Key beachgoers, the end of an era: the final day the signature lobster roll was served at the Lido Beach Restaurant.

The next day, the concession stand was shuttered, so the city could begin a series of planned renovations to the Lido Pavilion. Although the closure is temporary — the concession is expected to reopen in December — the departure of restaurant operator Seabreeze Concessions is not.

A city committee selected ALA Restaurant Inc., the operator of Bevardi's Salute Restaurant on Lemon Avenue, as its recommended vendor for operating the concession. City staff will negotiate a contract with the company to bring to the City Commission for final approval.

Before making a selection, the city rejected Seabreeze's application for being incomplete, a spokesman confirmed.

The City Commission had previously approved a lease agreement with a private group selected to renovate and run the pavilion property, but the board agreed to terminate the deal in February. The city is now working on internally undertaking more modest renovations.

Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Fogle said the scope of work includes restroom improvements, new furniture and the construction of a shaded patio. Fogle also said he hoped the work could be complete over the course of the next year.

The work on the concession area includes the installation of a new vent hood and an aluminum roof. The city intends to fund the Lido renovation effort with \$1.25 million in sales tax funds that were previously allocated for pavilion improvements.

Carl Shoffstall, the president of the Lido Key Residents Association, said people living on the barrier island were upset to learn Seabreeze would not continue running the concession stand. Sarasota County selected Seabreeze to operate the Lido Beach Restaurant in 2008, and when the city assumed control of the Lido Pavilion in 2011, officials authorized a new contract with the vendor.

After a pair of extensions, Seabreeze's contract expired Sept. 30 of this year.

Despite some displeasure about the future of the restaurant, Lido residents had previously urged the city to move forward with plans to refurbish the pavilion property and singled out the restrooms as a particular point of concern. Shoffstall said he was hopeful the improvement project would move forward swiftly. He said Lido Key residents would be monitoring the work as it progresses.

"We'll see what happens over the next couple of months," Shoffstall said.

While the concession is closed, the city said a food truck will be stationed at the pavilion most days of the week offering food and beverage service. Fogle said the city would be working to provide on-site and online updates about the renovations at the pavilion.

"We have signage at Lido," Fogle said. "We'll have things posted on our website and social media sites to continue to keep everybody posted on the project."



WORK ON THE MURT TRAIL FROM THE BRIDGE TO ST ARMANDS

Daniel Ohrenstein

Assistant City Engineer

Drivers traveling on the John Ringling Causeway to and from St. Armands Key can expect limited lane closures beginning this week as work starts on the new Coon Key Multi-Use Recreational Trail (MURT).

The City, in partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation, will be constructing a 10-foot-wide, multi-use trail that extends from the Coon Key Bridge to St. Armands Circle. The trail will provide an improved, safer multi-modal transportation option for pedestrians and bicyclists that connects the barrier islands with downtown and the future extension of the Legacy Trail.

As part of the project, crews will be removing Australian pines, an invasive species that can easily be toppled during a storm due to their shallow root system, presenting a serious safety hazard along this evacuation route. A total of 223 Australian pines will be removed and replaced with 246 new trees of various native species as part of the project.

Crews will begin tree removal on the south side of John Ringling Causeway, then move to the north side. To ensure the safety of workers and motorists, vehicular traffic will be reduced to one lane on whichever side of the road the crews are working. This work is anticipated to be completed by early December. Construction of the trail will follow and is not expected to significantly impact traffic.

The MURT project also includes the replacement of a 16-inch water main on the north side of the road, storm drain replacement and the installation of three bus shelters. The entire project is expected to take about 11 months to complete.

The total project cost is \$1.89 million, with about \$830,000 funded by an FDOT grant.

For more information, contact Assistant City Engineer Daniel Ohrenstein at 941-263-6520.



Canopy Tree Program

There are 2 Community Canopy tree programs. The idea behind both programs is to help - expand the urban canopy while reducing residents' energy bills. Unfortunately, one has just been completed. In conjunction with the Arbor Day Foundation, the city has offered 2 free trees per household, on a first-come, first-serve basis, while supplies last.

It was posted on the News tab of the City's web site on Friday, October 4, as well as written up in several publications. It's obviously a popular program. All available trees were reserved as of 5 p. m. Monday, October 7.

This is the sixth time the program has been run, so if you have any interest in planting a new tree or two on your property, you should stay in touch with the office of Sustainability Manager Stevie Freeman-Montes at City Hall. The program apparently runs in the fall. It's funded by the City's tree replacement fund, which provides a portion of tree removal permit dollars. You can click on www.arborday.org/sarasota to see a list of the available trees and how the process worked this month.

There is also a tentative plan for the City to rollout another Tree Canopy Pilot Program to encourage homeowners to plant more mature canopy trees. Basically, the city will provide up to \$ 500 towards the purchase price, contingent on the homeowner investing a minimum of \$ 100. The homeowner will select the tree and vendor and be responsible for maintaining the tree. This was announced by Lou Costa at the October CCNA meeting with a detailed handout. However, there has been no additional information on timing and contact names, which will probably be available at the next CCNA meeting. Jason Bartolone, the Communications Specialist at the City (941-928-3988 email jason.bartolone@sarasota.gov) (a great resource for any City information), is aware of the latter program but as of the first week in October, had no details.

Sarasota In Motion

We all have an opportunity to weigh in on the future of transportation in the City. It's all connected to the first citywide transportation master plan and will serve as a playbook for how the city invests in transportation infrastructure. Go online at www.sarasotainmotion.com and zoom in on specific streets, intersections and routes and post comments and ideas, as well as get more information. Or, email sarasotainmotion@sarasotafl.gov.

US 41 Roundabout at Fruitville

The Phase 1 construction is scheduled to start this month. Traffic will be shifted to the west side of US 41 while crews begin construction during nighttime hours of utility and storm drain crossings. There are 5 Phases and the project will continue 1 year through October 2020. The most complete and detailed explanation and justification of the total project is best seen in a PowerPoint presentation. If you have not seen it, you can get a copy from LKRA. Email Cindy (cindys@floridaplaystructures.com).

It would appear that the City and contractors' suggestions to visit their website are premature. www.us41fruitvillroundabout.com comes up as "Website Coming Soon". As of this moment an email to info@us41fruitvillroundabout.com has not been answered.

Utilities Department Master Plan Summary

As one might imagine, with many of the drinking water distribution and wastewater collection systems 50 years old, there are opportunities and necessities for upgrades. It is noted that some buried piping dates to the early 1900's. There are 5 recommendations each for drinking and wastewater that equate to a total capital improvement investment of \$ 298.5 Million from FY20 to FY30. To cover this expense, it is projected that the average water and sewage rates will increase 3.5 % each year or a total of 46 % over the 11 years. For a more comprehensive explanation, the presentation made to CCNA is available from Cindy (cindys@floridaplaystructures.com) or from the office of Bill Riebe, PE, CGC – Utilities Director bill.riebe@sarasotafl.gov, 941-263-6200.

Arlington Park Neighborhood No High-Density Resolution

This is the main neighborhood issue that might be of interest to Lido Key residents. The Arlington Park Neighborhood Association approved a No High-Density resolution, including a proactive neighborhood planning approach, which they are submitting to City Staff, the Planning Board and City Commission, as well as CCNA for that organization's support. They are opposing 2 spot zoning requests that involve high-density apartment developments that are incompatible with their traditional 4 dwelling units per acre zoning. They say the approach drastically reduces the opportunity for community input. They are asking that all City entities delay all high-density land use decisions and zoning district language rewrite decisions until an updated Arlington Park Neighborhood Action Plan can be prepared in cooperation with the City Planning staff and community input. With the construction of many larger, multi-room homes on Lido Key, and the challenges experienced by Lido Shores residents with the short-term rental phenomenon, this might be an issue that LKRA members would like to discuss.

Camille Schwab

Vice President LKRA

Hello Lido Key Resident Association Members,

It's been a warm wet summer. The first thing you will notice is the landscape work on John Ringling Blvd. Removal of the Australian Pines has started, and a beautiful new St Armand Gateway Sign is in place. The most significant change on the Circle is Alvin's Store demo. It will be nice to have a fresh new face on the block. The Pavillion is closed now for renovation, and the beach needs sand. We are planning fundraisers to support the renourishment project, and I can use your help. The Association has shown support for the All Faiths Food Bank in the past by volunteering and food contributions. If this is cause you would like to support or have another cause you would want us to consider, please reach out to me anytime.

I look forward to seeing you as well as hearing from you soon.

Camille Schwabe

Community Night Home Raiders - Now in Lockup

At least two adults have been charged and removed from Lido Key today after confirmation of their involvement in a series of local raids.

This information was shared by participating police officers, comments from local residents and even a few vacationing visitors who had been victims of the intruders. More specific and confirming reports will probably come from Sarasota PD tomorrow.

These break-ins have been occurring during the past week as the intruders have been canvassing the local neighborhoods and taking advantage of the many unlocked doors. One security camera provided shots of a woman and her white bulldog (named Maggie) only a few days ago.

After confirming reports from other local residents, a more concentrated “neighborhood watch” was implemented by a few locals and the police officers were focused and ready to pounce.

Well, today it happened! The two primary adults have been arrested and apparently a lot of stolen property has been removed. Names and more specifics will soon be made available.

At one point there were 8 SPD patrol cars/vans on site and they attempted to make contact with all nearby neighbors. They were surprised and disappointed when they discovered that many local homes were left totally unsecured. “At least 6 homes were unlocked on each of the 3 streets that I helped to check. It’s alarming at how many people leave their home and their autos unlocked” remarked one of the participating officers.

- Arrested adults are thought to be 7-day rental participants
- The white bulldog was unarmed and will be processed with care
- No injuries were involved
- Police Officers said repeatedly they were greatly aided by the video footage captured by a few resident security cameras.

Additional information will be provided as it becomes available and all are encouraged to pass this message around to all who live, work and play in this wonderful place. Unsecured homes and autos serve to invite local participation by too many unsavory people. Please encourage all to use their locks and to keep those security cameras running.

By Mike Adkinson
A neighbor who cares!

**LOCK YOUR
DOORS!!**



Paul Robbins

Lido Beach Update

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) previously requested bids for the Lido Key Beach Renourishment project, but the bids were too high. The ACOE will be requesting new bids during 1st Quarter 2020 with the project projected to begin next summer. Please note this is a projection and all dates could change. Please note that the Sarasota County Commissioners still have not decided whether Ted Sperling Park can be used as a staging area for the Lido Key Beach Project.

The Federal Case - The group Save Our Siesta Sands 2 (SOSS2) is suing the Army Corps of Engineers in Federal Court to stop the project to renourish the Lido Key Beach. The LKRA was not granted standing of right by the Federal court. We have participated in a voluntary fashion, but our lawyer has advised against participating.

The Civil Case – Was recently settled in favor of the City of Sarasota and the Lido Key Beach Residents Association. Siesta Key Association is appealing. The Florida Department of Administration Hearings (DOAH) proceedings approved the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s permit for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) project to renourish Lido Beach in May 2018.

The Legal fees that LKRA still owes our legal team is \$140,000. We are asking everyone for their help and please donate now.

City Parking Phone App Link



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.

Programs Speakers

October and November meetings will be held at the Hemsley Sandcastle Resort

October 19th: Bill Waddill – Bay front update

November 16th: Jerry Fogle – Parks and Recreation and Pavilion update

No December Meeting

Remaining Meetings at Lido Beach Resort at 10am 8th Floor

January 11th: Steve Cover – Planning Director will give city planning update

February 15th: Breakfast meeting **9am**. Jeff LaHurd will give another History of Lido/Sarasota presentation

March 21st: TBD and April 11th: TBD

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

Editor: Bruce Abramowitz

Contributing Articles: Carl Shoffstall, Cindy Shoffstall, City Mayor and Commissioner Liz Alpert, Esq, Count Commissioner Christian Ziegler City Manager Tom Barwin, Scott Ashby, Heidi Brandt, Bruce Abramowitz, Deputy Managing Editor of The Observer David Conway, Camille Schwabe, Paul Robbins,

Printer Liaison: Cindy Shoffstall

Maintain & Finalizing Mailing List: Cindy Shoffstall

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.

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.

Heidi Brandt

Membership

Official 2020 membership starts on January 1st. Our updated membership total is 849 members. Many of you have already paid. There are still a number of people who haven't paid for 2019 membership. If you are unsure of your current status, contact us for an update. THE YEARLY MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR 2020 is \$30. The membership application is on the next page of this newsletter. If anyone is questioning payment for 2019 they can feel free to email me heidimbrandt@gmail.com

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

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>

BOARD MEMBERS and COMMITTEES

President – Carl Shoffstall CarlS@Floridaplaystructures.com

Vice President and CCNA Rep – Camille Schwabe camilleschwabe@michaelsaunders.com

Secretary and Events Committee – Katherine Kussy KWKUSSY@gmail.com

Treasurer – Tim Malaney lidotim@yahoo.com

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Director Website - Jasbir (Jessie) Hayre jessiehayre@gmail.com

Beach Committee – Paul Robbins probbinsfabrics@aol.com Jay Elsasser jay@JABETECH.com

Newsletter Mailing & Delivery: Cindy Shoffstall

2020 LKRA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

2020 DUES: \$30.00 Annually Per Household

PLEASE PRINT:

Member Name: _____

Spouse/Partner: _____

Condo (if applicable): _____

Email Address: _____

Lido Key Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mailing Address (if different): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #1: _____ Phone #2: _____

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

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

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

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

RETURN FORM TO:

LIDO KEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 884

SARASOTA, FLORIDA 34230