# LIDO KEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION LIDO KEY MATTERS OCTOBER 2023



# Events Calendar

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

NEXT MEETING: November 18th, code enforcement : Hotel Houses

#### MEET & GREAT: SANDCASTLE RESORT:

second Tuesday of the month, 5 pm to 7:00 pm a great place to meet your neighbors, save the dates:

November 14, January 9, February 13, March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11

# **Presidents Letter**

Good morning to LKRA members

I hope everyone had a safe and great summer this year wherever you were. Over the last few weeks, I have seen numerous car carriers coming to Lido Key, which means season is starting.

We had a very hot and dry summer this year along with a storm, which caused some major flooding on Lido, and St Armands circle. Most of the damage has been repaired and business are open again.

We had our first LKRA member meeting of the season this past Saturday, and was well attended with three presentations from Mote marine on the turtles on Lido, the second was the Audubon society for our resident bird population on Lido and the final presentation was Save Our Seabirds, which is located at Ken Thompson Park across from Mote Marine. A question and answer period followed. All of the presenters did a great job.

The board has set up presentations for our meetings for the rest of the season, which will be very informative for our residents of Lido and the other island neighborhoods. Just to touch on city going on's, building is still going strong and does not seem to be slowing down at all.

There are lot of interesting articles in this newsletter and on the LKRA website www.LKRA.org. I urge you to look at it.

As always, I am very proud to be a part of this organization. I want thank all of the board members for their hard work to make this a great organization. Thanks to all the members for your support.

Hope to see around the Key in the near future!!

Carl Shoffstall President LKRA 129 Tyler Dr #102 Sarasota, FL 34236 cell: 813-967-2687 cell home/fax: 941-7061217 home/fax carl@floridaplaystructures.com

#### **Mark Smith**

### Sarasota County Commissioner District 2

On October 14th Spencer Anderson, Director of Public Works, gave a presentation to the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners and the Town of Longboat Key Commission regarding the flooding of St. Armands Key during Hurricane Idalia.

The St. Armands stormwater system was constructed by Sarasota County in 2006 for the City of Sarasota. Since that time, it has been operated and maintained by Sarasota County. St. Armands Key experienced significant flooding on Wednesday afternoon of August 30th which receded or was pumped down by early Thursday morning, August 31st.

The 2006 stormwater system was designed to prevent buildings from being flooded in a 25-year, 24 hour storm event (8 inches of rain in 24hrs) and no roadway flooding in a 3-year, 1 hour storm event (2.55 inches of rain in 1 hour). Designing a stormwater system in excess of this is not feasible due to the expected storm surge of storms events greater than 25-year, 24 hour rainfall that will overtop the island's seawalls.

The 2006 stormwater system comprised of 4 new pump stations and 1 rehabilitated pump station. Each pump station has two pumps, with one pump running pretty much constantly to pump ground water out of the system. When there is a storm event both pumps are running. Nine new baffle boxes were installed to collect suspended solids, yard debris, trash, and petroleum runoff prior to entering Sarasota Bay. Two emergency generators with their electrical control boxes were installed along with multiple new stormwater structures and piping. One-way valves were installed at each outfall to the bay to prohibit the surcharge of stormwater structures and flooding of low elevations during high tides.

The seawalls around St. Armands Key can generally withstand a high tide in Dona Bay of 2.5 feet. The King Tide and the storm surge of Hurricane Idalia produced a high tide of around 3.5 feet. Sea water came over the seawalls in places. With the bay water so high there was nowhere the pumps could pump the water. The system was overwhelmed. Consequently, three pump stations were disabled when their electrical panels were underwater. One pump station's electrical panel was destroyed by a vehicle crash on August 28th and was replaced by a mobile pump on August 29th but was also disabled during the storm by high water. One pump station on the southern end of St. Armands functioned throughout the storm.

Sarasota County has placed mobile pump stations to provide adequate flood control until new pumps and control panels can be installed in late November. The new electrical control panels will be installed higher than the original panels.

In summary: The stormwater pumping system is designed for rainfall events not tidal and surge conditions caused by hurricane events. The flooding conditions receded or were pumped down within 24 hours. New control panels will be installed higher. The seawalls around St. Armands Key would need to be raised to prevent flooding from a similar tidal event.

There is a good chance residents of Lido Key will not be able to evacuate through St. Armands Key once the storm is upon us. Please evacuate before the storm hits.

Mark Smith

### **Ringling Bridge Rehab Begins October 31st!**

The Ringling Bridge will be undergoing a regular maintenance project over the next 2-3 months. Traffic lanes will shift throughout the project and at some points (usually at night) a lane may be closed. More details follow:

#### From FDOT:

Beginning in late October, the Florida Department of Transportation will begin a brief regular rehabilitation project on the John Ringling Causeway Bridge. Work will mitigate the effects of our aggressive coastal environment and severe weather along with strengthening the bridge structure. Work will also extend the bridge's service life and maintain its operational reliability.

To minimize the impact to our community and enjoyment of the area, the normal two lanes of traffic and the posted speed limit will be maintained with lane closures predominantly overnight, but day lane closures are allowed. The transit and bike lane will temporarily be closed for the duration so two lanes of traffic can be maintained. Marine traffic should be unaffected, although barges will be in the water so crews can work underneath the bridge. Alternating pedestrian detours will be needed when deck sealing is performed. Residents near the bridge can expect noise from equipment as well as lights during overnight hours.

Click for More Information and Review FDOT's Project Fact Sheet

# The best things to do in Sarasota, Lakewood Ranch, Longboat for Oct. 26 to Nov. 1

#### Click Here

# **Geri Chaffee**

#### October 25, 2023 Dreamers Academy

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Tom and Geri Chaffee bought their Lido home 23 years ago. They have served on their condo board and its various its committees throughout their residency at the Lido Ambassador. Over the past five years, Tom and Geri have focused on helping Sarasota County Schools close the achievement gap of its vulnerable student populations, most of whom reside in north County. Although most know Sarasota for its beaches, tourism, and many luxury amenities, other statistics do not get as much play. Close to 50% of Sarasota's 47,000 students come from low-income families, with 90% concentrated in schools north of Clark Road. In fact, most of these schools have become what is known as majority-minority schools, where most students are low-income and racially and ethnically diverse, with many of them non-English speaking. Historically, Sarasota had not achieved any learning gains with about 30% of its student population. "If you are black, Hispanic, and/or low income, you are likely to reach 8th grade reading below grade level, with even worse scores in math and science," said Geri. "This borders on criminal mismanagement of taxpayer funds if, after nine years in the system, they cannot reach grade level."

When the district rejected their proposal to fund a dual language pilot program in one local school, the superintendent recommended that Tom and Geri apply for a charter school. "We had no idea what that meant, but we worked closely with the Florida Department of Education to establish **Dreamers Academy**, which opened in 2021," said Tom. The school has already achieved astounding academic outcomes in English and Math, surpassing all surrounding Title I schools serving impoverished children. This year, **Dreamers Academy** completed the construction of a <u>brand-new educational campus</u> with an innovative school building custom-designed to maximize achievement with the dual language immersion model. The Florida Finance Development Corporation, the state agency awarding state bonds, reported that it was the <u>first time they had ever financed a new school</u>. Florida Education Commissioner Manny Díaz, Jr. cited the school's success and applauded its work in finding the school a new permanent home. "The dual language learning model is a proven success. When a child can speak two languages before middle school, there are nearly <u>limitless opportunities</u> for educational achievement," Diaz said.

Despite all the academic success, some substantial needs still require fundraising and help from friends and family.



Dreamers Academy Founder Geri Chaffee celebrates its new school building with Sarasota County Commissioner Mark Smith (District 2, which includes Lido Key), his wife and educa<on advocate Esther Quilmes, Sarasota School Board members Bridget Ziegler and Tom Edwards, and local community leaders.

"The kids are thriving academically, but we don't have a playground," said Geri. "If you want to be part of this incredible journey, we encourage you to help us with even a small donation towards this current need."

To learn more, go to <u>www.dreamersacademy.org</u> or call/text Geri at 941-867-0779. Or, to help with a donation, please go here -<u>LINK</u>.



The newly built 40,000 sf elementary school on 5 acres is the first school built in Sarasota County in 15 years, located at 2146 Myrtle Street in the historic Newtown neighborhood.

## Jim Ludwig, Treasurer

Lido Key ResidentsAssociation

**Lido Beach Pool:** The City of Sarasota has reduced the hours for the Lido Beach Pool due to a shortage of available lifeguards. Until further notice, the pool will be closed Monday – Thursday, and open Friday – Sunday from 10:00 am to 4:45 pm.

**Meet and Greets:** We have moved locations for our Meet and Greets from the Holiday Inn to the Sandcastle. The Holiday Inn is closing for major renovations and will be rebranded as part of Ocean Properties' "Opal Collection". Because we have a lot of residents here year-round the Board has provided Meet and Greet sessions through the summer and fall. The May and June events were extremely well attended. The Sandcastle offers both "happy hour" drink and food specials. Mark your calendar for the upcoming opportunity to meet neighbors and friends. (2nd Tuesday of the Month): November14, 2023 and December 1, 2023.

**The LKRA Scholarship Fund "Protecting, Preserving and Enhancing":** The Scholarship Committee of the LKRA Board has been working with Sarasota's Booker High School and Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium to identify need-based students that are interested in pursuing environmental education in anticipation of a career. The LKRA Board has authorized the Committee to award up to \$3000 annually to qualified student(s). Our first award was announced in August for a student starting classes or internship fall of 2023.

The goal of the Board is to administer this fund much like an endowment so that monies earned from investments can keep the awards going in perpetuity. Details of establishing this Fund will be taken up by the Board in an upcoming meeting. For those wanting more information or to contribute to the LKRA Scholarship Fund, please see on website (Donate (lkra.org). LKRA is a is a 501(c)(3) non-profit.. For those wanting more information or to contribute to the LKRA "Protecting, Preserving and Enhancing" Scholarship Fund, please see on website (Donate (lkra.org). LKRA is a is a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

**Website:** The LKRA website About <u>(lkra.org)</u> continues to be the go-to place for all things LKRA. It is updated as news happens, sometimes more than once daily.

**Membership:** LKRA Membership is open to everyone. Whether Lido Key is your homestead, a favorite spot to spend the season, a great place to vacation or just a place you care passionately about, we welcome you! If you live or own property on Lido membership allows you to vote in association matters. All others are considered associate members and enjoy all membership benefits. Your annual membership fees cover the cost of hosting our Monthly Meetings and Meet and Greets. They also cover our Email, Newsletter and Website and other association expenses.

Our 2023 membership numbers are up due to an influx of new members, but we still have a number of 2022 members that have not yet renewed. In addition, our Condo Associations, usually very supportive, are also not renewing at their usual pace. If anyone reading this is on the Board of a Condo Association, check and see if the Association's 2023 LKRA dues have been paid.

# Bay Runner 250,000 Rider

#### **Observer Staff**

A Lido Key resident was celebrated as the 250,000th passenger on Sarasota's Bay Runner trolley service, which was launched in March 2022. **Fran Seminerio** was honored at the John Ringing Boulevard/St. Armands Circle trolley stop, presented withy a swag-filled backpack. Seminerio rides the Bay Runner weekly. "Transporting a quarter of a million passengers in just 18 months is impressive," said Parking General Manager Broxton Harvey in a release. "Sarasota residents and visitors want convenient, affordable transportation options for the first or last mile of their trip. With the Bay Runner, riders are leaving the car behind and getting to their destination in a safe, fun way while doing their part to help reduce traffic." The Bay Runner provides free service on a fixed route between downtown along Main Street, over the John Ringling Bridge, around St. Armands Circle, to Lido Beach and Ted Sperling Park. Hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays and 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

City of Sarasota Parking General Manager Broxton Harvey celebrating with Lido Key resident, Fran Seminerio, as the 250,000th Bay Runner rider.



# **Carter Weinhofer**

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#### Your Observer

#### 'Sarasota Bay's water quality is the best it's been in 8 years'

That's what Executive Director of the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Dave Tomasko said in his most recent director's note. But while it may be a good time to reflect on the positives, it's not time to take a break. We can't let the water quality slip away again, Tomasko said. He explained that in a recent meeting with colleagues at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, he was told that FDEP would be releasing their "Draft Impaired Waters List" and "Draft De-List List."

The lists summarize bodies of water that are considered out of compliance with water quality standards, and conversely those that are improving so much that they can be taken off the list. From the conversation, he learned that Sarasota Bay, Roberts Bay, Little Sarasota Bay and Blackburn Bay will all be delisted for nutrient pollution. Simply put, the algae in Sarasota Bay has decreased so much that the water meets the standards to be considered "good quality." "If you go out in the bay, you can tell the difference compared to where we were a few years ago," Tomasko said.

#### Science talk

The main nutrient in question is chlorophyll-a. A higher amount of chlorophyll-a in the water is an indicator of more algae in the water. Chlorophyll is the molecule found in all plants that allows the organisms to absorb sunlight and photosynthesis. Nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus feed the algae. If you want your lawn to be greener, you add nitrogen and phosphorus, Tomasko said. Likewise, if you wanted the bay to be more green than blue — meaning more algae than clear water — you would add more nitrogen and phosphorus. The first part of that analogy is part of the problem: fertilizers containing nitrogen and phosphorus are common culprits of runoff issues. More algae is like putting a blanket on your front lawn, Tomasko said in another analogy. The blanket suffocates the vegetation by preventing sunlight from reaching what lies below it. Which is precisely what algae overgrowth does to seagrasses. Seagrasses are important bases for ecosystems, providing food sources for fish, crabs, manatees and sea turtles. Two of the most common seagrasses found around Florida, turtle grass and manatee grass, are named after the animals that consume the species as a main food source.

Tomasko said he's already seeing these important seafloor forests recovering. Between 2014 and 2018, Tomasko said the lower part of Sarasota Bay lost about 30% of its seagrass coverage. This was mostly related to a couple of very wet years, and problems with overwhelmed wastewater treatment facilities. The biggest decline in recent years, according to Tomasko, occurred between 2018 and 2020 in the upper part of the bay, just southeast of Sister Keys. About 2,000 acres were lost. This is believed to be associated with the red tide event that began in 2017, and had major impacts on the bay's water quality. Tomasko and colleagues with SBEP have been tracking that area for the last couple years, and have been seeing the potential for recovery. Around mid-September, Tomasko said the amount of seagrass was impressive. They found an abundance all over the place. Although aerial data of seagrass coverage won't be taken for another year, Tomasko is hopeful. "We think it's going to be a huge increase, maybe multiple hundreds of acres," he said. "It was one of my best days out in the field."

#### Big-ticket fixes, big payoff

Tomasko and scientists with Sarasota County agree that the most impactful reasons behind this good news are the improvements on the larger scale: upgraded stormwater and wastewater infrastructure. A few examples Tomasko pointed out in his director's note include the Bee Ridge Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades of over \$250 million, the county's wastewater treatment plant improvements, the Celery Fields project and ongoing stormwater retrofit projects at the Bobby Jones Golf Course. Heather Bryen has been with the county stormwater and water quality team since 2011, and has seen a lot of improvement projects big and small. "They're very committed to putting their money where their mouth is and getting the job done," Bryen said. Tomasko said the hundreds of millions of dollars that local governments are spending on wastewater and stormwater improvements are paying off by reducing the inflow of nutrients.

#### Can't stop, won't stop

Though good news is worth celebrating, Tomasko urged it's not time to say it's good enough — this area has already made that mistake once before. This time, Tomasko hopes bay residents have learned lessons from the past. "It's the re-restoration," Tomasko said. "We already did it once and then we let it slip away, and now we're trying to get it back again." In the mid-90s, Tomasko said a similar increase in water quality occurred. But, locals let that slip away due to the pressure of massive population growth, aging infrastructure, wetter weather and warming waters. Now local officials are ensuring that everyone can do their part.

Some things are easier to implement. One of the most important ways people can help is to not be a part of the problem: by not overfertilizing lawns, not blowing grass clippings into the bay or drainage and to pick up after dogs. By taking those suggestions into consideration, people can help prevent nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus from entering the water system. And some of these solutions are actually money savers. Using less fertilizer is less expensive.

Tomasko's recent meeting with FDEP colleagues served another purpose — to set even higher standards for the bay's water quality. Sarasota Bay Estuary Program will be pursuing a reasonable assurance plan for Sarasota Bay, in collaboration with local governments, FDEP and the EPA. The reasonable assurance plan, Tomasko said, will propose stricter water quality standards. Higher standards aren't meant to set the bay up for failure though, he said. It's to ensure that the millions of dollars going into stormwater and wastewater projects aren't put to waste — and to make sure the water quality doesn't decline again.

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

Editor: BruceAbramowitz

Contributing Articles: Carl Shoffstall; Mark Smith, District 2 Sarasota County Commissioner; Bruce Abramowitz; Kath Kussy; Jim Ludwig; Carter Weinhofer, Your Observer; Observer Staff; Geri Chaffee, Dreamers Academy;

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Maintain & Finalizing Mailing List: Cindy Shoffstall

# West Nile Virus

Observer Stall

#### Mosquito-borne illness warning issued for Sarasota County

The Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County has issued a mosquito-borne illness advisory following a single confirmed human case of West Nile Virus. The case occurred in early September and has been treated. Laboratory confirmation was recently received.

Residents should be aware that a risk of transmission to humans exists. Surveillance indicates that there has not been an increase in mosquito-borne disease activity in sentinel chicken flocks or mosquito pools. Still, DOH-Sarasota reminds residents and visitors to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes and to take basic precautions to help limit exposure.

Sarasota County Mosquito Management Services takes steps year-round to reduce mosquito populations and mosquito-borne illness, including larvicides and adulticides. Staff surveyed and treated all the areas at risk and increased treatments by foot, truck and aircraft. Missions have been conducted on a continuous basis where needed.

Residents are encouraged to protect themselves from mosquito bites by draining and covering standing water on their property, wearing repellant and wearing long loose-fitting clothing. The DOH has posted a video on West Nile for citizens to review at <u>Sarasota.FloridaHealth.gov</u>

For more information on Mosquito Management Services, mosquito-borne illness, spray missions or to submit a service request, call 311 or visit <u>SCGov.net/mosquito</u>.



# Kathy Kussy

#### Secretary Lido Key Residents Association

#### Join us this season at the <u>Sandcastle resort</u> for the LBRA meet and greet events

This year's meet and greet events will be held at the Sandcastle resort on the second Tuesday of each month from 5:00-7:00. All are welcome to attend. It's a wonderful opportunity to get to know your Lido neighbors and stay abreast of what's happening here on Lido. Mark your calendar for the events happening this season.

November 14 January 9 February 13 March 12 April 9 May 14 June 11

#### Annual elections for members of the LKRA Board

Annual elections for the LKRA board are conducted each February. Anyone wishing to run for the board must notify Kathy Kussy at <u>kwkussy@mail.com</u> or a board member. Open nominations will be held at the November Membership meeting with all nominations ending on November 30. The board members whose terms are ending are Jim Ludwig, Tim Malaney, Beth Dilworth, Jessie Hayre, Heidi Brandt, and Scott Ashby. So far have all agreed to run for another term, so we have the same number currently running as are open. If we need to do a ballot election they will be sent out to all members in January by email or mail if necessary. Ballots can be returned by mail or brought to the February membership meeting. Only one ballot per household will be accepted. The Board members for 2023 will be announced at the February breakfast meeting.

For those who are not interested in a board position at this time but might be interested in the future, or those of you who would like to help out by serving on a committee, let us know of your interest. We are always eager to get others involved and there is always a lot to do.

#### LKRA membership information

LKRA membership is open to everyone. If you live or own property on Lido membership allows you to vote in association matters. All others, associate members, enjoy all other membership benefits such as newsletters, regular emails from the association and city, informative membership meetings, reminders of upcoming events and ongoing information on our website. Individual households can join for only \$30 a year. Payment forms and information can be found on our website at <u>lkra.org</u>. You can also join at any of our membership meetings on the third Saturday of each month at 10:00 held at the Lido Key Resort.

# **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 <u>website</u> and send us your email address.

Lido Key Residents Association	BUSINE	2024 CONDO ASSOCIATION, HOTEL OR BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION oudly Encouraging Meaningful Community Involvement Since 1972			
			Membership Dues: \$50.00		
(PLEASE PRINT)	)				
Condo Association, Hotel or Business New Renewing					
Name:					
Address:					
			Zip:		
Website:					
Contact Name #1:			Phone:		
Position:		Email	:		
Contact Name #2:			Phone:		
Position:		Email			

LKRA sponsors Meet & Greets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday each month. This neighborhood happy hour runs from 5 - 7:30 at the Sandcastle with exclusive pricing on drink and food options. LKRA holds Membership meetings with guest speaker(s) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of October, November, January, February, March, and April at 10:00 am at the Lido Beach Resort. Our Annual Breakfast precedes the February Meeting. Again in 2024 LKRA will throw a Beach Party (April 5<sup>th</sup>). Our newsletter *Lido Key Matters* (published 3-5 times a year) is emailed to all members and is available on our website.

Questions? Email Jim Ludwig <u>lidokeyresidents@gmail.com</u> or visit <u>www.LKRA.org</u>. Join and pay for membership with a bankcard at <u>Join (lkra.org)</u>.

Please mail completed Membership Application and your check made out to:

LIDO KEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION PO BOX 884 SARASOTA, FL 34230 2024 HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Residents Proudly Encouraging Meaningful Community Involvement Since 1972
Association

Lido

Key

		Membership Dues: \$30.00
(PLEASE PRINT)		-
Lido Key Property Owne	er or Resident Me	ember New Renewing
Associate Member		New Renewing
Member Name:		
		_ Phone #1:
Spouse/Partner:		
Email: #2:		_ Phone #2:
Local Address:		Unit:
City:	State:	Zip:
Mailing Address (if different):		
City:	State:	Zip:

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Please mail completed Membership Application and your check made out to:

LIDO KEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION PO BOX 884 SARASOTA, FL 34230

# **BOARD MEMBERS and COMMITTEES**

President – Carl Shoffstall <u>CarlS@Floridaplaystructures.com</u> Vice President – Jay Elsasser jay@JABETECH.com, Beach and Dunes Secretary and Events Committee – Katherine Kussy<u>KWKUSSY@gmail.com</u> Bylaws, Scholarship, 50 Year Gala Treasurer – Jim Ludwig, jhludwig@comcast.net Chair of Hotel House Committee, CCNA Representative, Website Director Membership – Heidi Brandt <u>heidimbrandt@gmail.com</u> 50 Year Gala Director Newsletter – Bruce Abramowitz<u>bruceabramowitz@gmail.com</u> Director and CCNA representative - Scott Ashby<u>rscottashby@aol.com</u> Director – Beth Dilworth Scholarship, Bylaws Director - Tim Malaney<u>Timlido65@gmail.com</u> Director - Jasbir (Jessie) Hayre jessiehayre@gmail.com Director - Diane Sterner <u>Sunzdayz2@gmail.com</u> Beach Committee – Paul Robbins<u>probbinsfabrics@aol.com</u>

Newsletter Mailing & Delivery: Cindy Shoffstall cindys@floridaplaystructures.com

#### ONLINE PAYMENT LINKS FOR LEGAL FUND DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

https://lkra.org/membership

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