



Events Calendar

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

NEXT MEETING: October 19, 2024 speaker TBD

**“Meet and Greet”
Happy Hours 5-7 pm**

**The second Tuesday of the month
at: Sandcastle Resort
June 11th at 5 PM**

Presidents Letter

To all LKRA members and supporters

As we wrap up regular member meetings for Spring 2024, I want to reflect on what a special organization LKRA is. Our meetings are well attended, our speakers are informative, and our members are both respectful and insightful in their questions. That makes putting a program together enjoyable.

As I enter my 13th year as LKRA President, I can only say thank-you to all the Board members and various committee members past and present that work so hard behind the scenes. The love all of us have for our piece of paradise is evident in everything we have and are doing. I also want to acknowledge the contribution that Ocean Properties makes to our organization by providing meeting space, coffee, and rolls that goes above and beyond. They are truly great neighbors. We are fortunate to have them.

Our next member meeting will be in October but Meet & Greets will continue the second Tuesday monthly throughout the summer. If last summer is any indication, these will be well intended. We continue to work on our legacy scholarship initiative and hope to announce more details soon.

Our “Cheeseburger in Paradise” Beach Party in April was over the top. Diane and the committee, in coordination with the Sandcastle staff created an event the 160 of us that attended will remember for a long time. **Click Here for: ["Cheeseburger in Paradise" Photo Gallery](#)**



Have a great summer. Enjoy yourselves. Be safe. See you in the fall.

Regards,

Carl Shoffstall

President LKRA

129 Tyler Dr #102

Sarasota, FL 34236. [813-967-2687](tel:813-967-2687): cell [941-7061217](tel:941-7061217): home/fax

carl@floridaplaystructures.com

Liz Alpert, Esq.

Mayor, Sarasota

Greetings everyone. I hope the month’s newsletter finds you well and happy to be on our great Lido Key even if some of you are gone for the summer. Of course, the happenings in the city don’t stop in the summer.

The city was just awarded a grant to complete a vulnerability assessment. The city had done one in 2017, but new state requirements mean that an update will qualify us for future funding at a cost sharing. The intent of the vulnerability assessment is to help the city identify and prioritize assets that are likely to be impacted by future flooding and sea level rise. A topic that I know is important to our barrier island residents.

We will be going into Phase II of our Urban Forestry Program. Phase II specifies a pilot project and urban canopy management recommendation based on data that was collected in Phase I.

The City Commission approved funding for the purchase of property across from City Hall for the purpose of building 192 units of workforce housing in our downtown. There are still many moving parts to make this happen, but this is the first step.

As always, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me with any concerns, questions, or even to report some good news. I am available via email at liz.alpert@sarasotaf1.gov or [941.228.5979](tel:941.228.5979)

Regards,

Mayor Liz Alpert

Marlon Brown

Greeting Lido Key Residents; With the recent departure of our esteemed colleague, Assistant City Engineer Dan Ohrenstein, from the City of Sarasota, we are pleased to announce that Alex Davis-Shaw, whom you all know from her tireless and exceptional work on the renourishment of Lido beach, has graciously agreed to step in as the Acting Assistant City Engineer. Alex will be undertaking this role on a part-time basis while we continue the recruitment process for a new Assistant City Engineer. The position is currently advertised and interested candidates can find more details and apply at: Assistant City Engineer - City of Sarasota. Dan, on the other hand, is taking the position of City Engineer for the City of Naples. Dan has been an invaluable team member, and his contributions over the years have significantly impacted our community's growth and success. He will undoubtedly be missed, and we sincerely appreciate all he has done for our City.

The Sarasota Police Department recently announced a historic drop in Part I crime in 2023. For the first time since 1967, no homicide was reported in the City of Sarasota for a full calendar year. In 2022, the Sarasota Police Department investigated seven homicides. The reductions in murders are part of a more significant decline in violent crimes. According to Sarasota Police records, the reduction in Part I crimes from 2022 to 2023 is the greatest drop in the City since 1999. Part I crimes include homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and vehicle theft. These types of crimes plummeted more than 16 percent in 2023. This highlighted the rigorous training that every police officer undergoes to fulfill their duties and the countless hours to training, exams, and ongoing education each officer goes through to progress in their roles and maintain their effectiveness. It's important for the public to understand that they are continually striving to be the most effective protectors of our city, and we wholeheartedly support our officers in these endeavors. Mayor Alpert and the City Commissioners are credited for their unwavering support for the Sarasota Police Department and remain steadfast in backing our officers, empowering them to safeguard our community and strive towards making our city the safest it can be. Congratulations to Chief Troche, the women, and men of SPD, and to our citizens who are working together to build and foster relationships that are having data-proven positive impacts on our city. We are excited to share this data proving our beautiful city is safer than it has been in years, and these motivated men and women that make up our agency contributed in some way. We continue to utilize all our resources to not only solve crimes, but to prevent them from ever occurring.”

For those of you who frequent the downtown Sarasota U.S. Post Office, construction to replace the signalized intersection of Ringling Boulevard and Pine Place with a modern roundabout began on Monday, April 29. Westbound lanes between Osprey Avenue and Rawls Avenue, including the full intersection are closed. While the intersection is closed, access will remain open to the U.S. Post Office, Sarasota County Administration Building, and adjacent properties and businesses. The City's project team is coordinating with the contractor, Ajax Paving Company, to minimize impacts to motor, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic. Replacing the signalized intersection with a modern roundabout will increase the continuous flow of traffic and contribute to safer roadways. Studies have shown that roundabouts result in 80% fewer serious crashes on average. The project will include warning lights for marking pedestrian crossings, paver brick crosswalks, a landscaped center island, and improvements to surrounding green spaces. This project will complete a string of roundabouts along Ringling Boulevard: Palm Avenue, Pineapple Avenue, Orange Avenue, and now Pine Place. Construction is expected to conclude by January 2025.

Please enjoy the upcoming Memorial Day holiday and please be safe.

Marlon Brown City Manager

Carter Weinhofer

Your Observer

What to know as turtle nesting season approaches

Sea turtle nesting season officially begins on May 1. But nests may start appearing earlier like in recent years. With that in mind, the town of Longboat Key's "Flip a Switch, Save Our Turtles" initiative will soon be in effect.

That means that any lights that are visible from the beach need to be turned off or shielded. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission encourages people to turn off any lights that aren't necessary at night during nesting season. Alternatively, turtle-friendly bulbs and fixtures can be installed. That includes replacing high-intensity bulbs, like iridescent, with amber, orange or red LED bulbs with the lowest wattage possible.

During nesting season, the town also requires property owners to remove temporary structures from the beach every night from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. Failure to comply with these regulations during nesting season could result in code enforcement violations.



Longboat Key Turtle Watch's free public turtle walks will begin on June 1.

Earle Kimel

Sarasota Herald-Tribune

First sea turtle nest of season found on Venice Beach

Mote Marine Laboratory's Sea Turtle Conservation and Research Program (STCRP) documented the first local sea turtle nest of the 2024 season on Sunday, April 28, on Venice Beach, marking the beginning of a crucial period for sea turtle conservation, according to a news release.

The first nest was laid by a loggerhead sea turtle, a threatened species protected under federal law. Loggerheads are the most common species on southwest Florida nesting beaches, followed by endangered green sea turtles. In recent years, Sarasota County has also hosted a handful of endangered Kemp's ridleys, among the smallest and rarest sea turtles.

From April 15 to Oct. 31, the organization's Sea Turtle Patrol conducts daily monitoring during the nesting season. Each day, they volunteers survey 35 miles of beaches, from Longboat Key to Venice, for the nests. Each nest is marked with yellow stakes and flagging tape. The effort involves Mote staff, interns and more than 300 volunteers. Monitoring began April 15. This marks the 43rd year for the monitoring program.



Mote’s research shows that nest numbers have increased on local beaches in recent years. In 2023, Mote reported 4,284 nests from Longboat Key to Venice.

On the nesting beaches, light from waterfront properties can disorient nesting female turtles and their young, who emerge at night and use dim natural light to find the sea. Beach furniture, trash, and other obstacles can also impede sea turtles and their young.

Mote advises people to shield or turn off outdoor lights that are visible on the beach from May through October. Close drapes after dark and stack beach furniture at the dune line or, ideally, remove it from the beach.



If you encounter a nesting turtle or hatchlings, remain quiet and observe from a distance. Fill in holes that may entrap hatchlings on their way to the water. Do not approach nesting turtles or hatchlings, make noise, or shine lights at turtles, and do not use flashlights or fishing lamps on the beach.

Also, do not encourage a turtle to move while nesting or pick up hatchlings that have emerged and are heading for the water.

For questions about any sea turtle code or ordinance, contact code enforcement staff from each municipality. The public can view Mote’s weekly counts of sea turtle nests within the patrol area at www.mote.org/2024nesting.

Andrew Warfield, Staff Writer

Your Observer

Free parking in Sarasota garages reduced to one hour

Among the multiple changes the Sarasota City Commission recently adopted to the city’s paid parking program, three of them required a legislative public hearing to amend the city code.

On March 4, City Parking Division staff gave a presentation to the City Commission recommending proposed changes to the parking program which received approval for all but the three required amendments to the code. Those changes included:

That parking meters accept credit card payments only.

To keep the exemption from paid parking and parking time limits on Sundays and holidays, while clarifying that public safety-related parking enforcement may still occur.

Reducing the initial free parking period in city-owned parking garages from two hours to one hour.

It was determined by staff that no businesses would be impacted by the amendments, but would result in a potential of \$150,246 in additional revenue from individual users.

That revenue is projected as a result of a reduction of the grace period — or free parking — from two hours to one hour in city-owned parking garages, prompting debate among commissioners divided over that issue.

ABC7 Staff

Plastic bags no longer accepted for curbside yard waste pickup

Plastic bags are no longer an option to contain yard waste for residential curbside pickup within the City of Sarasota. The City's yard waste contractor, Veransa Group, will no longer process yard waste contained in plastic bags, prompting the policy change.

Alternatives to plastic bags include: paper bags, reusable containers and tied bundles or stacks placed curbside for collection.

Yard waste placed curbside must meet these specifications:

Bundles: 48-inches or less in length tied with compostable twine and weighing 50 pounds or less.

Paper bags, reusable containers: weighing 50 pounds or less when filled

An education campaign is underway and will include City staff meeting with residents and neighborhood associations to discuss the change. A notice will be included in utility bills and a public service announcement will be shared with the community.

“The majority of our residents already are using paper bags or reusable containers for their yard waste,” said Todd Kucharski, Public Works General Manager. “With a reusable container, there’s a savings for residents in the long run since they don’t have to continually purchase plastic bags for weekly yard waste pickup. As this new policy is implemented, our Solid Waste team will be available to answer any questions or concerns.”

Plastic bags containing yard waste and placed curbside for collection will be deemed improperly prepared and will not be collected or will require a special pickup with an additional fee.

Yard waste collection questions and requests for a special pickup should be directed to the Solid Waste Division of the Public Works Department: [941-263-6170](tel:941-263-6170).

Earle Kimel

Sarasota Herald-Tribune

League of Women Voters will host July forum for Sarasota County hospital board candidates

The League of Women Voters of Sarasota County will host a candidate forum for the Sarasota County Public Hospital Board primary on July 11. The nine-member public hospital board sets policy for the Sarasota Memorial Health Care System, which includes all Sarasota Memorial Hospital campuses, related healthcare facilities and clinics and First Physicians Group. This year's primary is Aug. 20.

The partisan hospital board races had historically been low-profile prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, which prompted a “Health Freedom” slate of candidates to run for four of five seats in 2022. That movement resulted in the 2022 election of three of four “health freedom” candidates to the board and an ensuing upheaval in meetings dealing with the hospital's approach to COVID care and, more recently, a push to embrace vaccine skepticism. If two like-minded candidates win seats this year, that would create a majority of health freedom/medical freedom proponents on the nine-member board.

Who will be eligible to speak at the forum?

This year, a group of “medical freedom” candidates have filed to run for the board, as has another medical freedom advocate, Dr. Stephen Guffanti, whose complaints about how he was treated while a COVID-19 patient at SMH helped fuel the push in 2022.

Currently one of the four seats on the ballot is a universal primary, with Republican incumbent Hospital Board Chairwoman Sarah Lodge challenged by medical freedom candidate Tanya Parus. If no Democrat files for that seat prior to June 14, that race will be decided in August. Democrats Alan Jerome Sprintz, John A. Lutz and George Davis filed for At-Large seats 1 through 3 respectively.

Those filings create a closed primary for At-Large Seat 1 between incumbent Sharon Wetzler DePeters and medical freedom candidate Tamzin Rosenwasser; a three-way closed primary for At-Large Seat 2 between Kevin Cooper, Guffanti and medical freedom candidate Dr. Kendra Becker-Musante; and a closed primary for At-Large Seat 3 between Pam Beitlich, who will retire from her role as executive director of Women & Children’s Services at Sarasota Memorial Health Care System, and medical freedom candidate Mary Flynn O’Neill, who is the sister of former President Donald Trump’s first national security advisor Michael Flynn.

The forum will feature only the nine Republican candidates. It has been scheduled for 5:30 to 7 p.m. July 11 for Frances T. Bourne Jacaranda Library, 4143 Woodmere Park Boulevard, Venice.

The forum will be followed by a 30-minute meet-and-greet session. for those present.

Registration is required and will be available after June 14 at the League’s website: <https://www.lwvsrq.org>.



Nicole Rissler Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Director, (PRNR)

Operations - PRNR

Lighted message board at the entrance of the park was deployed with nesting shore birds message displayed.

Coordination with Audubon and volunteers to educate park visitors about shore bird nesting areas and protection measures.

County staff engaged multiple commercial business operators, mostly jet ski operators, and educated the representatives on the park rules and ordinance. Additional No Commercial Activities signs were posted. Australian pine and Brazilian pepper workday on North Lido completed.

Partnerships - SPD notes:

SPD is investigating a rule similar to that which is on Anna Maria Island that prohibits launching motorized vessels from the beach. This is just in the fact-finding stage.

SPD is aware of the advertised/unpermitted event being advertised to take place on South Lido on May 25, 2024. SCSO is also aware.

SPD marine units will be patrolling throughout the Memoria Day weekend. SCSO Marine units will also be patrolling throughout Sarasota County waterways.

SPD will have additional officer patrolling throughout the key throughout the Memoria Day weekend.

SPD will deploy lighted messaging boards at key intersections to help guide beach traffic and limit backups.

Recent assistance from SPD.

Present within the park boundaries and marine unit visible from shore, April 13th and 14th.

Present within the park boundaries on April 20th and 21st and periodically closed the main gate when parking resources were exhausted. SPD Social media post informed citizens of parking status through the weekend.

Present on April 27th and 28th with two officers posted at the main entrance of the park. Officers periodically closed the main gate when parking lot reached capacity. SPD social media post informed citizens that parking at South Lido and Lido Beach were full and to consider other transportation options. Marine officers engaged a large group of jet skiers that had an unpermitted jet ski race at South Lido.

Outreach - Media inquiry on 4/26/24:

Notes for the South Lido Beach (shared with communications)

The Lido Key Residents Association meeting was held on Saturday, April 20th. Officers from SPD and Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources were present. I presented park updates at the request of LKRA.

County code does not prohibit the anchoring of motorized watercraft at park sites, but mooring is limited to loading and unloading. Moor or Mooring means the act of docking, beaching, landing, intentional grounding, tying-off or otherwise securing a Vessel. Moor or Mooring does not include Anchoring. Sarasota County Sheriff's Office Animal Services patrols the park for dogs in the park or off leash. Dogs are not permitted at South Lido Beach though service animals are.

Outreach - LKRA presentation notes:

What We Manage on Lido Key: North Lido and Lido Beaches

Both parks are City owned and portions are managed by the County. County staff manage events, removal of invasive plants on the beach, trails, and amenities with in-house and contractual services.

Quarterly inspections occur with City/County staff and additional quarterly inspections are completed by a County inspection team. County completes quarterly lighting inspections and sea turtle nesting season lighting inspections. County coordinates with Mote Marine and Audubon for beach nesting turtle and bird monitoring and protection. County coordinates with FDEP and FWC for permitted maintenance and improvement activities that occur on the beaches to include large events, vegetation management, and beach raking. Small amenities like benches and waste receptacles are installed by County with direction from the City. The commemorative/memorial plaque program is operated by the City.

Lido Beach

County manages the open beach and dunes only to include events/reservations for the reservable open space locations on the beach. Dune protection project at Lido, using sand fencing, is preserving those areas well and allowing for regrowth (shoreline stabilization). Two beach wheelchairs are available through the lifeguards – free on a first-come basis.

Lifeguard services are through Sarasota County Emergency Services.

South Lido Beach and Ted Sperling Nature Park (TSNP)

Site improvement projects: Planning for Australian pine removal from the parking lot followed by a phased parking lot improvement/maintenance plan implementation. We have many volunteer groups that help with park cleanups and invasive plant management. The frequency varies.

Park ambassador program at TSNP

Aquascopes recently deployed at TSNP

Next Couple of Weeks – Clean-ups and Invasive Plant Removal

Emily Briner

Sarasota Shorebird Steward Coordinator

Lido Weekly Beach Nesting Bird Update 5/9/2024

What a week for Lido it has been! Starting with our North Lido Skimmers !

On Tuesday, I was able to count over 1,000 individuals in our Skimmer colony! It is getting larger by the day. I believe I saw at least 4 birds sitting on eggs this morning but in a crowd so large it was hard to tell! I'm hoping to get a definite yes on incubating eggs within the next few days. The sand is definitely flying within the posting as these birds continue to mate and scrape in preparation for more eggs to come. We have been able to install some additional signage in both English and Spanish at this site allowing everyone to learn about these amazing seabirds! More signage was added to several posts of the enclosure and I am planning to expand it south tomorrow as it seems the colony is encroaching on the postings southern border. More crow effigies will be put in place soon but the 2 currently in place seem to be doing the job well!



Now for our Least Terns on South Lido. They are still trying their best to defend against the Fish Crows coming from the park. They have been seen sitting on eggs but it is unclear if any are still there. FWC is aware of the situation and will be communicating over the next several weeks discussing possible solutions. The good news is last count was 125 Least Terns on the ground with many others by the waterline and in the air! There is also plenty of evidence of mating behavior and scraping. Regardless of the issues, these little birds are remaining fearless and resilient!



As always, if you have any questions about our local Beach Nesting Birds or are interested in becoming a Shorebird Steward, don't hesitate to reach out! I can't wait to see what wonderful updates await you and I next week. Thank you!

Emily Briner
Sarasota Shorebird Steward Coordinator
[440-865-1700](tel:440-865-1700) emily.briner@audubon.org

Audubon Florida, Sarasota, FL.
FLbeachbirds.org





2024 CONDO ASSOCIATION, HOTEL OR BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Proudly Encouraging Meaningful Community Involvement Since 1972

Membership Dues: \$50.00

(PLEASE PRINT)

Condo Association, Hotel or Business New Renewing

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Website: _____

Contact Name #1: _____ Phone: _____

Position: _____ Email: _____

Contact Name #2: _____ Phone: _____

Position: _____ Email: _____

LKRA sponsors Meet & Greets on the 2nd 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 3rd 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 5th). 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 lidokeyresidents@gmail.com or visit www.LKRA.org.
Join and pay for membership with a bankcard at [Join \(lkra.org\)](http://Join.lkra.org).

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

LIDO KEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 884 SARASOTA, FL 34230

ONLINE PAYMENT LINKS FOR MEMBERSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND

<https://lkra.org/membership>

<https://lkra.org/donate> scholarship Fund



2024 HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Proudly Encouraging Meaningful Community Involvement Since 1972

Membership Dues: \$30.00

(PLEASE PRINT)

Lido Key Property Owner or Resident Member New Renewing
 Associate Member New Renewing

Member Name: _____

Email: #1: _____ 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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Questions? Email Jim Ludwig lidokeyresidents@gmail.com or visit www.LKRA.org.
 Join and pay for membership with a bankcard at [Join \(lkra.org\)](http://Join(lkra.org)).

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

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 PO BOX 884 SARASOTA, FL 34230

ONLINE PAYMENT LINKS FOR MEMBERSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND

<https://lkra.org/membership>

<https://lkra.org/donate> **SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

The best things to do in Sarasota, Lakewood Ranch, Longboat for May 9-15

Your Observer

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

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