

LIDO KEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

LIDO KEY MATTERS

JULY 2026



Events Calendar

All Membership Meetings
held at Lido Beach Resort 8th floor,
9:00 am on the 3rd Saturday of
the month:

NEXT MEETING: October 17th
9:00 AM Lido Beach Resort,
Speaker TBD

November 21st, Speaker TBD

Meet & Greet :
2nd Tuesday of the Month
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm: Site TBD

Presidents Letter

Good morning to new and existing LKRA members

It has been six months since my wife passed away, and our new puppy and I are trying to adjust to our new normal. It has been difficult, and I want to thank everyone for your thoughts and prayers. We held a celebration of life for Cindy in May at the Lido Beach Resort, where more than 200 people came to send her off to Heaven. It was a beautiful and meaningful gathering, and I am grateful to everyone who was able to attend.

As I told everyone in our last email I wasn't going anywhere and would be reengaging in issues pertaining to our key and I must say there are a lot of things coming up that will affect all of us in the near and long-term. Some of them are mentioned in this newsletter.

Some of the most current issues that are coming soon are at the July 20th commission meeting will be a discussion regarding the undergrounding of the electric on the keys. Hopefully it will get the blessing of the commission. The LKRA board is working with City and County about the problems in Ted Sperling Park with traffic, noise, overcrowding and fights.

July 11, 2026

Another major issue will be on the ballot in November elections about removing property tax, which will severely affect services provided by the city and county. Please check the website (www.lkra.org) for updated information on all issues.

According to the weather forecast it has been extremely dry, and we are in a severe drought (about 12 inches of a deficit of rain) although as I write this letter, we are getting much need rain this weekend.

I hope everyone is having an enjoyable and safe summer wherever you are. I look forward to seeing you all upon your return to Lido Key. As I say almost every time, we are the strongest neighborhood in the City of Sarasota and you being a member shows the city we are united in what we want to what goes on our Slice of Paradise!!!!.

Thank you for being a member and if you know anyone who is not a member ask them to join association, numbers count.

On behalf of the LKRA board and myself thank you for your support. I hope to see you around the Key.

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

carls@floridaplaystructures.com

Liz Alpert

Sarasota City Commissioner, District Two

Summer Updates for Lido Key Residents

As we move through another busy summer season on Lido Key, I'd like to share a few important updates affecting our community. From the City's budget planning process to hurricane preparedness and the completion of our beach renourishment project, these are issues that touch all of us and help shape the future of our neighborhood.

Budget Workshops: Your City, Your Investment

One of the City Commission's most important responsibilities each year is developing and approving the City's budget. These decisions determine how resources are allocated for public safety, infrastructure, parks, transportation, and many other services that residents rely on every day.

Commission budget workshops: July 27 and July 28 at 9:00 a.m. held in City Commission Chambers

These workshops provide an opportunity to review priorities, discuss funding needs, and ensure taxpayer dollars are being invested wisely. Residents are encouraged to follow the discussions and stay engaged throughout the budget process. Your input helps us make informed decisions that reflect the community's needs and values.

Hurricane Season: Preparation Matters

We are well into hurricane season, making this an excellent time to review your preparedness plans if you haven't already done so. Living on a barrier island offers many advantages, but it also means we must remain vigilant when severe weather threatens our area. I encourage residents to:

- Review evacuation routes and procedures.
- Update emergency supply kits.
- Sign up for local emergency notifications.
- Review insurance coverage and important documents.
- Develop a communication plan for family members.

Taking a few simple precautions now can reduce stress and improve safety if a storm approaches later in the season. As always, please rely on official City, County, and National Weather Service communications for the most current information during any weather event.

Beach Renourishment Project Complete

I am pleased to report that the recent beach renourishment project has been successfully completed. This project represents an important investment in both our environment and our community. A healthy beach not only enhances recreation and tourism, but also serves as a critical line of defense against coastal erosion and storm impacts. The restored shoreline helps strengthen Lido Key's resilience while preserving one of our most valuable natural resources for residents and visitors alike. Thank you to the many partners, staff members, and stakeholders who contributed to the successful completion of this effort. Next up is the dunes project which will enhance the resiliency of the beach renourishment.

[City of Sarasota's Beach Renourishment website](#)



Staying Connected

I appreciate the opportunity to serve our community and welcome your questions, concerns, and ideas. Working together, we can continue to make Lido Key a vibrant, resilient, and exceptional place to live. I welcome your questions, comments, and ideas. Please don't hesitate to reach out or attend an upcoming City Commission meeting. Your engagement helps make our community stronger.

Warm regards,

Liz Alpert, City Commissioner, District 2

liz.alpert@sarasotafl.gov

[941-228-5979](tel:941-228-5979)

Debbie Trice: Property Tax Structure**Sarasota Mayor**

Hello Everyone,

July 2, 2026

When May turned to June, we happily welcomed our new City Manager, Karie Friling, as she moved into her office in City Hall. Karie shared that during her first week she had a breathtaking 54 meetings with Commissioners, department directors and staff as she started to get to know people and processes. She also visited City facilities as diverse and spread out as parks, utilities and solid waste handling. Within just a few days of her tenure, though, the Florida State Legislature approved placing an amendment on the November 3rd ballot that would significantly alter the property tax structure throughout Florida and affect what services may be paid for with property taxes. The only tax untouched in the proposed amendment is public schools. To say that the City Manager's and your City Commissioners' focus and priorities suddenly changed is an understatement!

Property taxes are the largest single source of funding for City operations. Over half the General Fund (51%) comes from property taxes, and public safety (Sarasota Police Department) expenditures use close to half (48%) of the Fund. The outcome of the November referendum could have such a significant effect on whether and how the City can deliver essential services that we can't wait until November to start considering potential adjustments. Consequently, the City Manager has instructed department heads to look for efficiencies and new revenue streams, and to identify services and programs that can be reduced. The bottom line is: if this Constitutional Amendment Referendum passes — with at least 60% approval statewide — changes will have to be made. This will be our primary discussion as the City Commission holds budget workshops on July 27 and 28. If the referendum passes, it would go into effect January 1, 2027 and impacts would start with the Fiscal Year 2028 budget. We must begin planning now. Florida law limits the information that local governments may provide concerning state ballot measures. Our City is addressing FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) on our website at www.SarasotaFL.gov/PropertyTaxes. Information will be updated as it becomes available. Are you interested in having one of us talk to your neighborhood group on facts about the referendum and/or the City's budget? Send an email to neighborhoods@SarasotaFL.gov.



As you start thinking about the referendum, there are two things to bear in mind: Savings and Costs. The referendum will save Homesteaded Property Owners money by increasing their homestead exemption. The resulting reduction in property tax revenue will force local governments to adjust their budgets, possibly with a combination of reduction in services, imposition of new fees, and a millage rate increase. Those new costs will likely affect everyone. Wondering what could be affected? Property taxes fund everything from the police department to parks and recreation, street maintenance and repairs, landscaping, and administrative staff. Certain special-purpose property taxes are collected in limited areas to support The Bay Park, Downtown Improvement District, Golden Gate Point Streetscape Special District, and General Obligation Bond Debt. By the way, we don't know yet what services Sarasota County might decide to eliminate, start charging the City for, or transfer to the city without providing funding.

All my best to you,

Debbie Trice, Mayor

[City eyes cuts ahead of potential voter approval of property tax change Click to Link](#)

3 Sarasota restaurants make famed MICHELIN Guide

The famed MICHELIN Guide, which has been spotlighting some of the world's best restaurants and hotels for more than a century, has finally added a few Sarasota dining spots. Started by the French tire company of the same name in 1900, the MICHELIN Guide can instantly elevate a restaurant's profile and help turn it into a destination for travelers from around the world. Having three restaurants recognized by MICHELIN roughly five years after its anonymous inspectors began visiting Florida is something all Sarasotans should take pride in. Michelin's recognition system has expanded over the years beyond its famous one-, two- and three-star ratings, which are awarded to restaurants rather than chefs. Additional distinctions now include Bib Gourmand, Green Star and Selected, or recommended, status.

Lucky 8 restaurant in Sarasota honored by MICHELIN Guide as Bib Gourmand. Located in Sarasota's Southside Village, Lucky 8 earned a Bib Gourmand designation, which recognizes restaurants that offer strong quality and good value. Chef and co-owner Mark Majorie's Lucky 8 is a love letter to the Cajun comfort food of his native New Orleans. From the muffuletta and po' boys to the gumbo and collard greens, it's hard to go wrong with anything coming out of Majorie's kitchen, including his outstanding rendition of cochon de lait ("suckling pig").

Tralia restaurant in Sarasota added to MICHELIN Guide. Fresh off winning our best pizza restaurants in Sarasota poll that concluded in April, Tralia was added to the MICHELIN Guide under its recommended category, listed as "Selected" on the [guide's website](#). Last year's runner-up in our best pizza poll, Tralia began as a popular pop-up before opening its brick-and-mortar location at 6566 Gateway Ave. in Gulf Gate. Today, it serves distinctive sourdough-based Detroit-style square pizzas as well as equally impressive thin-crust rounds.

Focaccia Sandwich + Bakery in Sarasota makes MICHELIN Guide. Located at 2300 Bee Ridge Road in Sarasota, it also earned a spot in the MICHELIN Guide under its recommended category. Opened in early 2024, Focaccia describes its bread as "made in house every single morning with clean ingredients and organic flour," noting that a single loaf requires 52 hours to produce. The bread can be purchased by the loaf, of course, but the bakery's menu also features an enticing lineup of breakfast and lunch sandwiches, including a porchetta piled with fennel, house giardiniera, roasted garlic aioli and arugula.

Brief Update on our Utilities Undergrounding Project

The City has successfully concluded contract negotiations with its selected consultant. This firm also successfully managed Longboat Key's recent undergrounding project.

The agreement, along with associated project financials and any required budget amendments, is anticipated to be presented to the City Commission in July/August 2026 for consideration. If approved by the City Commission, Phase I of the project will commence. This includes mapping existing utilities, developing preliminary cost estimates, identifying potential easement needs, and evaluating project implementation considerations.

There will be multiple opportunities for public input and resident education regarding the project, its costs, schedule, and potential impacts.

Before final design and construction, the City anticipates seeking public support through a community survey, vote, petition process, or other method consistent with City Code, applicable Florida Statutes, and any direction provided by the City Commission. We expect that will be in 2027.

The City Commission would then need to approve moving forward with subsequent phases of design and construction. If the Commission does not approve proceeding, the project would not advance beyond the initial evaluation phase.

We remain optimistic and will keep you updated. Thank You!

LKRA Board of Directors

Madison Bierl

the Observer

Find nearby food trucks with App: FoodTrukt

FoodTrukt is completely free for consumers to locate food trucks. In order to use the app as a food truck owner, there are three options:



Free (which includes weekly schedule publishing, "I'm here" GPS broadcasting, customer reviews and more)

\$4.99/month (includes ability to reply to customer reviews, daily notices and specials, priority map placement, full analytics dashboard, and social cross-posting)

\$14.99/month (includes a catering inquiry inbox and messaging, Pin always visible above clusters on map, event creation and join event requests, premium support, and more)

FoodTrukt can be found on the app store on Apple and Android devices as well as on the web.

Dana Kampa

the Observer

Losses from hurricanes Helene and Milton were felt community wide on the barrier islands, and one of those losses was a favorite gathering spot for Lido Key residents. High winds tore down an outdoor watering hole that neighbors and longtime visitors had visited for decades to swap stories and sip on craft cocktails. Now, the **Lido Key Tiki Bar is officially open**, and The Ritz-Carlton Members Beach Club celebrated the year-and-a-half rebuilding journey with a grand reopening on June 20 with about 200 guests.

Juan Cordoba, director of Beach Club operations, explained that the longer rebuilding timeline



stemmed from the extent of the storm damage. The 9 feet of storm surge brought 5 feet of sand to the area. Because the winds blew the structure down and pushed back the bartop, planners weren't able to rebuild in the exact same location, meaning it couldn't be grandfathered in like other buildings. Cordoba said it was among the area's half-dozen early staple bars, including the Red Barn and Bahi Hut. It opened originally under the Azure Tides Hotel, before The Ritz-Carlton Members Beach Club bought the property in the early 2000s.

The renovation comes with a few changes, including updates to the menu. Cordoba said the

bar wanted to offer the classic beach-inspired, rum-based drinks, but also branch into other specials, like gin-based "Lido Bloom" with passion fruit, aperol and prosecco. The Tiki hut itself still has the classic aesthetic, though they did make changes like installing new TV screens for sports fans. Per local beachside building regulations, the thatched rooftop was built by indigenous Americans, and the intricately woven pattern stands out under the canopy. Cordoba summarized simply, "We're glad to be back."

Wade Tatangelo

Herald-Tribune

Sarasota named America's best town to visit in 2026 by CNN

CNN Travel released its annual list of America's Best Towns to Visit on Wednesday, July 1, spotlighting 10 destinations that it says often fly under the radar. "What really pushed Sarasota to the top of the list was that it offers the best of both worlds," Marnie Hunter, a senior producer for CNN Travel, told the Herald-Tribune in an emailed statement. "You have these incredible beaches, but you also have a rich arts and cultural scene. Add in The Ringling's circus legacy, and it becomes a destination that's both beautiful and fascinating." Sarasota ranked above places such as New Haven, Connecticut (No. 2), Greenville, South Carolina (No. 3), and Bethlehem, Pennsylvania (No. 4). The ranking highlighted Sarasota's mix of arts, history and coastal beauty, praising the city's cultural institutions, unique heritage and celebrated beaches.

[CNN travel Click to Link](#)

The LKRA Scholarship Fund Please Help Us Reach Our Endowment Goal of \$100,000

The **Lido Key Residents Association (LKRA) Scholarship Fund** is designed to provide financial assistance to students pursuing degrees and training in marine biology, environmental science, wildlife management, conservation, and related fields. By reducing financial barriers, this fund will empower passionate individuals to focus on their studies and develop the skills necessary to safeguard vulnerable species and habitats.

Your generous support will directly impact on the lives of future conservationists, researchers, and advocates who are committed to protecting marine ecosystems and shore bird populations. Contributions to the LKRA Scholarship Fund will help cover tuition, research opportunities, internships, and hands-on field experiences, all of which are essential for preparing students to meet the complex challenges facing our coasts.

From our members generous donations, the LKRA Scholarship Fund has awarded \$12,000 in scholarships to participants in Mote's Intern Program, \$3000 in each year, 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026

Phase 1 Endowment Goal - \$100,000

LKRA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and is now in a fundraising effort to endow the LKRA Scholarship Fund. Once we reach our **Phase 1 target of \$100,000**, [Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium](#) (Mote) has committed to serving as our partner, as well as being the custodian and investor of the fund. LKRA will establish a Scholarship Oversight Committee, which will collaborate with Mote, establish a Selection Committee, and determine the available scholarship amount for distribution each year. **Our goal is to raise the money and turn the program over to Mote. In the interim, LKRA has set up a separate bank account for this fund.**

To Donate to The LKRA Scholarship Fund [\(byBankcard\)](#) – Click Here
Mail In Donations To:

Lido Key Resident's Association
PO Box 884
Sarasota FL 34230

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

Editor: Bruce Abramowitz

Contributing Articles: Carl Shoffstall; Debbie Trice, Sarasota Mayor;
Liz Alpert, Esq., Sarasota City Commissioner, District Two;
Wade Tatangelo, Sarasota Herald-Tribune; ; Dana Kampa, the Observer;
Madison Bierl, the Observer; Bruce Abramowitz; Jim Ludwig

Please Join or Renew Your Membership Now



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.

2026 LKRA Membership Dues (remain):

- Individual Household (Residence, Condo or Apartment) - \$30
- Condo Association, Hotel or Business - \$50

New and Renewal Memberships made after October 1st are good through the following calendar year. Your annual membership dues cover the cost of hosting our Monthly Meetings and Meet & Greets. They also cover our Email, Newsletter and Website expenses, offsetting expenses for Special Events and funding charitable contributions and other association expenses. Our new **Scholarship Fund** is funded strictly through donations.



2026 HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Proudly Encouraging Meaningful Community Involvement Since 1972

Membership Dues: \$30.00

(PLEASE PRINT)

☐ Lido Key Resident or Property Owner	☐ 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: _____

LKRA sponsors Meet & Greets on the 2nd Tuesday each month. This neighborhood social event runs from 5 - 7:00 pm at various locations with happy hour 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 9:00 am at the Lido Beach Resort. Our Annual Breakfast precedes the February Meeting. Again in 2026 LKRA will throw a Beach Party (April 10th). Our newsletter *Lido Key Matters* (published 3-5 times a year) is emailed to all members and is viewable 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). or mail completed Membership Application and your check made out to:

LIDO KEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 884 SARASOTA, FL 34230

ONLINE PAYMENT LINKS FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS
AND MEMBERSHIP [*Click to link*](#)



2026 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: _____

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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)). or mail completed
Membership Application and your check made out to:

LIDO KEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 884 SARASOTA, FL 34230

**ONLINE PAYMENT LINKS FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS AND
MEMBERSHIP** [Click to link](#)

COALITION OF CITY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

[Link to CCNA's City Commission Candidate Forum held June 6,](#)

LIDO BEACH POOL & PAVILION ISSUES

Temporary Pool Closure [*Click to Link*](#)



BOARD MEMBERS and COMMITTEES

President – Carl Shoffstall CarlS@Floridaplaystructures.com Scholarship Fund, CCNA traffic calming committee, City Parks and Recreation and Environmental advisory board

Vice President – Jay Elsasser jay@JABETECH.com, Beach and Dunes

Secretary – Katherine Kussy KWKUSSY@gmail.com Events, Nominations

Treasurer – Jim Ludwig, jhludwig@comcast.net Website, CCNA Board 1st Vice President, Membership, Scholarship

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Director - Scott Ashby rscottashby@aol.com CCNA alternative delegate

Director - Michael Jaspan michael@safemoneyadvisory.com Membership

Director - Dave Rayner daverayner@aol.com

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