

KEY NOTES

NEWS FROM
THE PERDIDO KEY ASSOCIATION



October 2017

International Coastal Cleanup Day

The September 16, 2017 cleanup of Perdido Key beaches and river front was a great success! With good weather helping out, about 50 volunteers spent their Saturday mornings picking up cigarette butts, plastic bags, paper cups, and other material - some hard to identify - that littered our beautiful waterfront. The beaches were not in too bad a shape, but the grooming they received will be appreciated by all who enjoy these wonderful assets. In addition, two kayaks and a jon boat gathered trash from the marshy Old River side of Perdido Key. The cleanup was cosponsored by the Perdido Key Association, the Friends of Pensacola State Parks, and Florida State Park rangers from Big Lagoon/Perdido Key State Park. The quantity and type of trash collected will be reported to the Ocean Conservancy, the coordinating body for this international event, and will become part of the International Coastal Cleanup Day annual report. Thanks to all who helped make the cleanup a noteworthy environmental event for Perdido Key.

Big Lagoon State Park Cleanup

If you missed International Coastal Cleanup Day, Big Lagoon State Park Rangers could use your help with their Saturday, September 30, 2017 cleanup event at the park. Kayaks will be provided on a first-come first-serve basis at the East Beach location of the park. For more information, call [850 492-1595](tel:8504921595).

After Irma

Perdido Key was again spared a major hurricane strike as Irwin stayed a couple hundred miles to our east and north. Along with the terrible damage caused by

Hurricane Harvey to our west and Hurricane Maria in the Caribbean, 2017 has thus far been an active and devastating year for hurricane-caused damage in the Caribbean and along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

At a recent presentation, John Dosh - the Emergency Management Manager of Escambia County - provided some interesting comments on local action during hurricane season. He suggested that, if ordered to evacuate, that people stay as close to home as it is safe to do so - avoiding the congestion of highways. On the other hand, Escambia County's emergency shelters are public schools that provide very little in the way of comfort - as he noted, the schools are "lifeboats" not "loveboats." He also pointed out that storm surge is unique to each storm; for example, the surge varied from what was predicted during Hurricane Irma's pass up Florida's west coast as the storm track changed. In addition to local websites concerning hurricane preparedness, <http://www.floridadisaster.org/index.asp> can be considered as well.

"Rebuild Northwest Florida" is a non-profit organization established after 2004's Hurricane Ivan to help homeowners "fortify their homes against hurricane force winds." Successful applicants can receive 75% of the funding needed to upgrade their property to be more storm resistant. For more information, go to <http://www.rebuildnwf.org/>.

Helping After Irma

If you would like to help victims of Hurricane Irma, the September 12, 2017 Pensacola News Journal article "How you can help with Irma recovery" by Anne Delaney at <https://myescambia.com/our-services/public-safety/beready/natural-disasters/tropical-storms-hurricanes> listed the United Way, the Salvation Army, and the American Red Cross as organizations accepting monetary donations. This would certainly be true for the victims of Hurricane Maria that followed.

There is a critical need for blood donations because of the storms. Oneblood on Davis Hwy (the BigRedBus) has exhausted its supply of blood because of Hurricane Harvey and now needs donations for victims of Hurricane Irma. For more information, go to www.oneblood.org.

The Flora-Bama has played an active role in facilitating aid to victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, including serving as a drop-off point for donations going to the Houston and Naples areas. It also partnered with Kenny Chesney in air lifting medical supplies to the Virgin Islands.

PKA MAILOUT

Hopefully you have received the 2017 PKA membership mail-out by now and sent in your membership renewal. The mail-out was late this year as the PKA Board worked through the mailing list and assembled the two member items that accompanied the renewal application. One item was a phone wallet that attaches to the back of most smart phones and provides a convenient place to put identification and credit/debit cards - perhaps freeing the brave from the need to carry a wallet. It works well for business cards as well. The other item was a vehicle magnet that should fit in various

vehicle locations, such as next to a license plate - assuming the vehicle is still made with enough steel. We hope you enjoy these items with a PKA logo; we certainly appreciate your continued membership.

October Calendar

Oct 1 - Emerald Coast Fall Volleyball Classic on Okaloosa Island
Oct 1 - Turkey Shoot at Elberta VFW
Oct 4-7 - Alabama Coastal BirdFest in Spanish Fort
Oct 7 - Pensacola Symphony Opening Night at the Saenger Theater
Oct 7-8 - Gabbert Farm Peanut Festival south of Jay off Hwy 89
Oct 8 - Oktoberfest at the Flora-Bama
Oct 12-15 - National Shrimp Festival in Gulf Shores
Oct 13-15 - Pensacola Greek Festival at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation
Oct 14 - Bridge to Bridge 5K at Three Mile Bay Bridge
Oct 15 - Russian Grand Ballet Presents Swan Lake at the Saenger Theater
Oct 17 - Songwriter Series at The Point Restaurant on Innerarity Point Road
Oct 19-29 - Pensacola Interstate Fair at the Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds
Oct 21 - Operation Dive Against Debris, Underwater and Beach Cleanup at Gulf State Park Pier
Oct 22 - Art & Wine Fest on the Pensacola Beach Boardwalk
Oct 27 - Pensacola Ice Flyers at the Pensacola Bay Center
Oct 31 - Halloween!

Blue Angels practice on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, NAS Pensacola
Bands on the Beach every Tuesday, Pensacola Beach

The following websites provide additional information about events taking place in our great Gulf Coast region:

www.visitpensacola.com/
<http://mygulfcoastchamber.com/>
www.visitperdido.com/
www.mulletwrapper.com
[www.myescambia.com\](http://www.myescambia.com)
www.emeraldcoastfl.com/
<http://alabama.travel/festivals-and-events>
www.cityofmobile.org/calendar/

Regards,

Perdido Key Association Board of Directors