

# September 2016 Key Notes

## News from the Perdido Key Association

### Perdido Key Issues

In response to a complaint by a nearby homeowner, the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners may consider closing down the helicopter pad at the Perdido Key Fire Station. The issue will be discussed at the next meeting of the Board which is on Thursday, September 1, 2016, beginning at 5:30 PM in the downtown Escambia County Office building just off Palafox Street. It is likely to be late in the meeting agenda, but the item should be of interest to many who live on Perdido Key.

Don't forget to join the PKA Board and others at this year's celebration of International Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 17! The beach cleanup will be based at the West Recreation Area of the Perdido Key State Park and will run from 8:00 AM until Noon. Bottled water and other necessary items will be provided at the site. PKA is co-sponsoring the event with the Staff of the Perdido Key State Park and the Friends of Pensacola State Parks and we would love to have a big turnout to help keep our beautiful beaches clean and healthy!

The Ocean Conservancy has developed an app that can help with beach cleanup efforts. It is available for review at <http://www.oceanconservancy.org/do-your-part/about-clean-swell.html> and some may choose to use it during the upcoming International Coastal Cleanup Day activities.

Your PKA Board of Directors established two priority items for 2016. One was to make a determined effort to increase Association membership and to develop an even broader representation of residents, property owners, and businesses on Perdido Key. Among the initiatives taken were to redesign the PKA website with a more aggressive push for new members, to send a membership solicitation mail-out to all Perdido Key residents stating the value of PKA to the island, and to develop inexpensive handout items with PKA logos for distribution at various events. Another initiative that seemed particularly effective was to have a PKA Board member attend a condominium or home owners' meeting to discuss the value of PKA to the Perdido Key community. If you believe such a presentation would be worthwhile at an owners' meeting of your residence, please contact PKA at [perdidokeyassociation@gmail.com](mailto:perdidokeyassociation@gmail.com) and we would be more than willing to participate in the event.

The second priority was to investigate the possibility of converting Perdido Key electrical utilities (electric power, telephone, and cable) from above ground to underground. Pensacola Beach has underground utilities along good portions of its main roads and Gulf Breeze has begun a program to move in that direction. Several newer developments on Perdido Key – such as Lost Key and Arbor Gate – also have underground utilities, leaving Perdido Key Drive, River Road, and Siquenza, Gongora, and Don Carlos Drives as the remaining major areas with overhead wires. Orange Beach has underground utilities along its beach highway from the Florida/Alabama border to Alabama Rt. 161 and has established a process of continuing to bury utilities as funds become available. The residents of Orange Beach support this effort through a

\$6.00 surcharge on their monthly electrical bill. Earlier this year, Escambia County officials received an estimate from Gulf Power of \$5 million to bury utilities along Perdido Key Drive from the Theo Baars Bridge to the River Rd intersection, less than half the distance to the Alabama border. It will certainly take a good deal more to bury utilities along all of Perdido Key Drive, not to mention the remaining portions of the Key. Nonetheless, the PKA Board of Directors intends to encourage officials of Escambia County and other appropriate entities to study the possibility of burying electrical utilities on Perdido Key in the near term. With approval of the Perdido Key Master Plan earlier this year and design and engineering work on a multi-use path along Perdido Key Drive to begin in 2017, we believe the time is right to move forward on this significant infrastructure project as well. Perdido Key property owners contribute substantially to Escambia County's tax revenue and one hopes that some of these funds could find their way toward burying utilities on the Key, while recognizing the many other needs of the County; some pricing flexibility from Gulf Power would also be welcomed. Acknowledging their already significant contributions to public well-being, Perdido Key residents might agree to match or exceed their Orange Beach neighbors in some fashion to support conversion to underground utilities – a project with both immediate and lasting value to the beauty and value of our beloved island.

The Board of Directors would appreciate hearing from you on these initiatives and any other Perdido Key issue you would like the Board to consider. Please do so at our PKA e-mail address of [perdidokeyassociation@gmail.com](mailto:perdidokeyassociation@gmail.com).

Have a wonderful Labor Day Holiday!

### **September Calendar**

Sep 2-4: Greek Festival, Emerald Coast Convention Center, Okaloosa Island

Sep 3: Gulf Coast Summer Fest, Jazz Edition, Community Maritime Park, Pensacola

Sep 4: Blue Angels Music's Blues on the Bay, Community Maritime Park, Pensacola

Sep 9–10: Bulls on the Beach, Professional Live Bull Riding, Flora-Bama Lounge

Sep 10: Vettes on the Beach, Casino Beach, Pensacola Beach

Sep 10: Pensacola Dragon Boat Festival, Bayview Park, Pensacola

Sep 10-11: Northwest Florida Quarter Horse Association Horse Show, Escambia County Equestrian Center

Sep 15-17: Ft. Walton Beach Barbecue Festival

Sep 15-17: The Wharf Uncorked Grand Tasting, Orange Beach

Sep 17: Florida and Alabama Coastal Cleanups, various Gulf beach locations

Sep 26: Garrison Keillor, Saenger Theater, Pensacola

Sep 30–Oct 2: Annual Pensacola Seafood Festival, Seville Square Park, Downtown Pensacola

Most Tuesdays and Wednesdays: Blue Angels practice at NAS Pensacola beginning at 11:30 AM

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

<https://www.visitpensacola.com/>

<http://mygulfcoastchamber.com/>

<http://www.visitperdido.com/>

[www.mulletwrapper.com](http://www.mulletwrapper.com)

[www.myescambia.com](http://www.myescambia.com)

<http://www.emeraldcoastfl.com/>

<http://alabama.travel/festivals-and-events>

<http://www.cityofmobile.org/calendar/>

Regards,

The Perdido Key Association Board of Directors