

KEY NOTES

NEWS FROM
THE PERDIDO KEY ASSOCIATION



March 2017 Key Notes

News from the Perdido Key Association

Perdido Key Issues

PKA Annual Membership Meeting

The Perdido Key Association (PKA) held its 2017 Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, February 25, 2017, at the Eden Condominium. Special guests included District 2 Escambia County Commissioner Doug Underhill and Sea Grant Extension Agent Rick O'Connor.

Featured speaker Superintendent Daniel Brown of the Gulf Islands National Seashore spoke about the challenges facing the Park Service and the National Seashore. The current hiring freeze and likelihood of federal budget cuts may put a strain on services. He discussed recent issues at the Perdido Key Area of the National Seashore, including a ban on primitive camping because of trash and equipment left behind and inappropriate personal behavior. He noted that in the coming years the current practice of parking along Johnson Beach Road will be ended and that parking will be shifted to dedicated lots with new and higher dune crossovers. Superintendent Brown also discussed the Army Corps of Engineers practice of dumping sand dredged from Pensacola Harbor to Gulf waters beyond where the sand could assist in Perdido Key beach renourishment. While placing it closer to the Perdido Key Area of the Gulf Islands National Seashore was tried at one time, it was more expensive than dumping the sand at sea - noting that the Corps of Engineers has been under congressional mandate to minimize expenses. Commissioner Underhill and members of the audience engaged in further discussions on this topic since dumping sand from dredging has been offered as one the alternatives to beach renourishment for Perdido Key beaches - along with dune renourishment. Commissioner Underhill indicated he was working to ensure the dredged sand was dumped where it would do the most good. Superintendent Brown's presentation provided an excellent alternative perspective on the issues facing beach communities like Perdido Key and was much appreciated by those in attendance. A more complete report on the meeting will be posted on the PKA website.

Dune Renourishment Just About There!

About 80% of beach front property owners have agreed to Escambia County's plan to use \$500,000 of FDEP/ Deepwater Horizon settlement funds to plant sea oats and other appropriate vegetation on Perdido Key dunes, providing an excellent opportunity for the project to move

forward. County officials would like to get those who have not yet signed onto the project to do so as well to ensure good access to beach dunes. Assuming project approval by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, planting could begin within a year. If you are a beach front property owner and have not signed up - please check out the program at <https://myescambia.com/our-services/natural-resources-management/water-quality-land-management/perdido-key-habitat-conservation-plan/perdido-key-dune-restoration-project> or contact Matt Posner (mjposner@myescambia.com/[850 595-0820](tel:850-595-0820)) as soon as possible.

Hang in There - Perdido Key Drive Resurfacing is Almost Done!

You still need to give yourself plenty of time when traveling on Perdido Key Drive during the day since portions of the road will be one-lane only, but there is finally an end in sight! Workers are putting down the final coat and restriping the road, so the resurfacing project should be completed within two weeks!

Old River Trail Cleaned Up!

On Saturday, February 11, 2017, Friends of Pensacola State Parks volunteers and Florida State Park and Fish and Wildlife officials hauled out several bags of trash, chunks of lumber and discarded trash cans from the vicinity of the Old River Trail. The one-way trail begins at the end of Laffite Reef (the road just to the west of the Perdido Key Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center and Fire Station) and runs for a half mile or so near the Old River toward River Road. With a couple of parking spaces available at the entrance, the trail provides a unique opportunity to view the river and inland portions of our wonderful island.

RESTORE Funding and the Perdido Key Multi-Use Path

The Escambia County Board of County Commissioners has included the Perdido Key Multi-Use Path as one of ten projects likely to be forwarded to the US Department of the Treasury for RESTORE funding. The RESTORE program has monies obtained from penalties levied as a result of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster that can be used by counties like Escambia that were significantly affected by the oil spill. County documents show that \$800,000 may be requested for the project. For more on the issue, see Pensacola News Journal February 9, 2017 article "Escambia County commissioners discuss RESTORE, jail plans" at <http://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/escambia-county/2017/02/09/restore-and-jail-plans-moving-forward/97692722/>.

Perdido Bay Sacred Heart Clinic Nearing Completion

Construction of the Sacred Heart Health Systems outpatient clinic on Sorrento Road is about 75% complete, according to the February 10, 2017 Pensacola News Journal article "Sacred Heart clinics in Perdido Bay, Tiger Point near completion." The article noted the facility will have "advanced diagnostic imaging, full-service laboratories and adult rehabilitation services," "primary care physicians, walk-in care and specialty services," plus "specialists in orthopedics and OB-GYN." For more on the new clinic, go to <http://www.pnj.com/story/money/business/2017/02/10/sacred-heart-clinics-perdido-bay-tiger-point-near-completion/97709254/>.

PKA Facebook Page

The Association is preparing to establish a PKA Board-sanctioned Facebook page. Another Perdido Key Association page continues in operation that is not approved by the PKA Board of Directors. If you are interested in helping to manage the new PKA Facebook page, please contact any member of the Board of Directors.

March Calendar

March 1: Stargazing at Gulf State Park Pier
March 1-7: Replicas of Columbus' Pinta and Nina at the Perdido Key Oyster Bar
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Paint and Wine at Artworks Gallery, Villagio Town Center, Perdido Key
March 1-April 30: Destin Cobia Tournament
March 2: Harlem Globetrotters at Pensacola Bay Center
March 3-5, 9-12, 17-19: My Fair Lady, Pensacola Little Theater
March 3, 4, 18, 19, 31: Ice Flyers at the Pensacola Bay Center
March 4-5: Gulf Coast Renaissance Faire, Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds
March 11: America's Boating Course, Legendary Marine, Gulf Shores
March 11-12: Gulf Breeze Celebrates the Arts, Gulf Breeze High School parking lot
March 17-19: Fairhope Arts and Crafts Festival
March 23-26: The Wharf Boat and Yacht Show, Orange Beach
March 24-25: Brandon Perdue Rodeo, Escambia County Equestrian Center
March 25: Flora-Bama's Beach Run/Walk for America's Warriors
March 27: Coffee with the Artist, Talis Jayme, Perdido Key Visitors Center
March 28-29: Blue Angel Practice, NAS Pensacola

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
www.myescambia.com
<http://www.emeraldcoastfl.com/>
<http://alabama.travel/festivals-and-events>
<http://www.cityofmobile.org/calendar/>

Regards,

Perdido Key Association Board of Directors