

# KEY NOTES

NEWS FROM  
THE PERDIDO KEY ASSOCIATION



## May 2019

### PKA Dues on PayPal!

You can now join and renew Perdido Key Association memberships online! PKA has established a PayPal payment capability accessible through its website at <https://perdidokeyassociation.org/> near the bottom of each web page. You do not need to be a member of PayPal because PayPal accepts credit cards. Annual dues payment by check and US Mail is \$30; payment through PayPal is \$31 with the additional \$1 covering online service fees.

### Rosamond Johnson Remembrance Ceremony May 04

Please plan to attend the Rosamond Johnson Remembrance Ceremony, beginning at 10 AM on Saturday, May 04, 2019, at Rosamond Johnson Beach for a ceremony honoring US Army Private Johnson. He lost his life at age 17 while saving others in the early days of the Korean War. In support of the event, the National Park Service decided to waive entry fees on May 04 for the Perdido Key Area of the Gulf Islands National Seashore as well as Fort Pickens, Fort Barrancas, Opal Beach, and Okaloosa Beach.

### New Beach Signage Requirements

Escambia County recently updated guidance for beach activity during the upcoming sea turtle nesting season (May 1–October 31, 2019) and beyond. In addition to reiterating previous lighting and “leave no trace” requirements, the guidance emphasizes new beach front signage restrictions. Specifically, “trespassing signs are required to be placed not more than 500 feet apart along, and at each corner of the boundaries of the land; private landowners may install up to 3 single-post signs located at the base of the dune, mid-point of the beach, and at the southern corners of the property; if neighboring properties both intend to post their property, then a single-post with back-to-back signs should be utilized; modification of any current signage to meet these perimeters is required by Wednesday, May 15, 2019.” Questions regarding the policy should be addressed to Timothy Day, Escambia County Natural Resources Management, at 850 595-1144 or [trday@myescambia.com](mailto:trday@myescambia.com).

## **Fewer Hurricanes in 2019?**

With hurricane season approaching (June 1–November 30), experts predict a “slightly below-average Atlantic hurricane season” with 13 tropical storms and five becoming hurricanes. Note that last year’s devastating Hurricane Michael was recently upgraded to Category 5. For more on the 2019 hurricane season, see the April 4, 2019 *USA Today* article “Hurricane Season is Approaching. This is the first forecast for 2019” by Doyle Rice at <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/04/04/hurricane-forecast-colorado-state-forecasters-say-5-form-2019/3363430002/>.

## **Florida Struggles with Home Rentals**

Among the several controversial issues affecting Florida property owners is regulation of vacation rental homes. Homes that are rented short term to tourists can cause conflict with full-time residents because of noise, parking and other issues. How home rentals are regulated and by what level of government, e.g., state or local, can be contentious. For more on this issue, see the January 17, 2019 *Florida Watchdog* article “Florida bill would move regulation of rental homes from local governments to state” by Kyle Gibson at [https://www.watchdog.org/florida/florida-bill-would-move-regulation-of-rental-homes-from-local/article\\_d662f266-fbd3-11e7-80e9-231c30ff9a46.html](https://www.watchdog.org/florida/florida-bill-would-move-regulation-of-rental-homes-from-local/article_d662f266-fbd3-11e7-80e9-231c30ff9a46.html).

## **Navarre Explores Incorporation**

Navarre is an unincorporated community of Santa Rosa County, but some residents have renewed a push for “cityhood.” The effort is worth watching since Perdido Key is also an unincorporated community where incorporation has been discussed from time to time. For more on this issue, see the April 18, 2019 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Should Navarre incorporate? What’s behind the renewed push to make Navarre its own city” by Annie Blanks at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/2019/04/18/navarre-incorporation-navarre-area-united-leads-effort-separate-city/3378923002/>.

## **Volunteers and Citizen Science**

The April 2019 *AARP Bulletin* provided state by state comparison of the percentage of adults 65 and older who reported volunteering in the past year. Nevada had the lowest percentage at 16.8%, but Florida was fourth lowest at 18.7%; Utah had by far the highest percentage of volunteers with 45.9%. There are several opportunities on or near Perdido Key for volunteers of all ages, including citizen science projects such as shoreline profile and seagrass monitoring and organized beach and roadside cleanups. And there is much to do: the Pensacola-area Ocean Hour announced its volunteers had collected almost 18,000 pounds of trash in 2018 and 7,400 pounds through March 2019. For more on Ocean Hour cleanups, go to the April 19, 2019 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Nearly 18,000 pounds of trash was picked from Pensacola-area beaches in 2018” by Sharon Gincauskas and Barbara Mozur at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/2019/04/19/pensacola-beach-trash-picked-2018-guestview/3518457002/>.

## **Invasive Cogon Grass on Perdido Key**

Cogon grass is an invasive species from Southeast Asia recently spotted on Perdido Key. Listed as one of the “Top 10 Worst Weeds in the World,” it is a perennial grass with varying color and “long, fuzzy-white seed heads” that can spread readily and displace native plants. For more on cogon grass, see the University of Florida Institute for Food and Agricultural Science article “*Imperata cylindrical*” at <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/plant-directory/imperata-cylindrica/>.

## **More on Offshore Drilling**

While many Floridians and public officials oppose drilling for oil and gas off Florida’s coasts, others continue its advocacy. Representatives of the American Petroleum Institute visited Pensacola in April to support “environmentally responsible access to our offshore energy resources.” Former US Senator James Webb spoke at a Pensacola Bay Center luncheon on April 4 and noted, among other arguments in favor of offshore energy production cited in the *Pensacola News Journal* article, that it would “free the U.S. from potential harmful entanglements with foreign power, and [provide] American citizens with jobs and opportunity.” For more on this issue, see the April 5, 2019 “Explore Offshore visits Pensacola to build support for offshore oil industry” article by Kevin Robinson at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/2019/04/05/jim-webb-promotes-explore-offshore-offshore-drilling-pensacola-visit/3355139002/> and the April 24, 2019 *USA Today* Network-Florida Editorial Boards article “Turning the Toxic Tide: Permanently ban offshore drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico” at <https://www.pnj.com/story/opinion/editorials/2019/04/24/permanently-ban-offshore-drilling-near-florida-turning-toxic-tide/3539734002/>.

## **Pensacola is “Strongest Town” but also 2<sup>nd</sup> in Fraud**

After several weeks of competition, Pensacola emerged victorious among 16 communities by defeating Portsmouth NH in the final round of the 2019 Strong Town Contest. The Strong Towns nonprofit organization encourages development “that allows America’s cities, towns and neighborhoods to become financially strong and resilient.” At about the same time, Florida’s Chief Financial Officer and State Fire Marshal Jimmy Patronis announced that 18 of the top 50 cities for fraud reports were in Florida, with the Miami/Fort Lauderdale Metro area first and the Pensacola Metro Area second in the state. For more on the “Strongest Town” see the April 12, 2019 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Pensacola wins 2019 Strong Town Contest; crowned world’s ‘Strongest Town’” by Kevin Robinson at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/2019/04/12/pensacola-wins-2019-strongest-town-contest-chuck-marohn/3446296002/>; the April 17, 2019 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Pensacola metro area ranks No. 2 in the state for fraud” by Caryn Shaffer is at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/2019/04/17/pensacola-ranks-no-2-state-fraud/3490358002/>.

## **PKA Board Meeting May 20**

Because of scheduling conflicts, the May PKA Board of Directors meeting will be held on May 20, 2019 instead of May 13 (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month). The Board will meet as usual at the Seafarer Condominium meeting room.

## **May Calendar**

May 01-05,16-20,28-31: Blue Wahoos at Blue Wahoo Stadium  
May 02-04: Burning Up the Beaches car show in Destin  
May 03: The Grand Event, music, silent auction, etc., Coastal Art Center Orange Beach  
May 03-04: Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival, Foley Soccer Complex  
May 03-05: NCAA National Collegiate Beach Volleyball Championship, Gulf Shores  
May 04: Rosamond Johnson Remembrance Ceremony, Rosamond Johnson Beach  
May 04: Race to the Top at Turquoise Place Orange Beach to benefit Special Olympics  
May 05: Cinco de Mayo  
May 11: Regional Roundup of hazardous waste, Rt. 98 across from Navy Hospital  
May 12: Mother's Day features at local restaurants  
May 16: Red, White, and Birdies Military Classic Golf Tournament  
May 16: Science Hour "Aquatic Preserve and Restoration Program" Escambia County Central Office Complex  
May 17-19: Hangout Music Festival 2019 in Gulf Shores  
May 25: Graffiti Bridge 5K Race, Pensacola  
May 25: Memorial Day Weekend Fireworks at OWA  
May 26: Jaripeo Mexican Bull Riding/Festival at Escambia County Equestrian Center  
May 27: Memorial Day  
May 31: Flicks on the Field by Perdido Key Chamber at Pensacola Greyhound Track  
May 31: Grand Fiesta Parade in Pensacola

Blue Angels practice on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at NAS Pensacola  
Bands on the Beach Tuesdays at Gulfside Pavilion Pensacola Beach

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

Perdido Key Association Board of Directors