

KEY NOTES

NEWS FROM
THE PERDIDO KEY ASSOCIATION



January 2020

More RESTORE Funds for the Perdido Key Multi-Use Path!

Several PKA Directors, Perdido Key Chamber representatives, and other interested parties met with Escambia County officials on December 9, 2019 to discuss progress toward the Perdido Key Multi-Use Path. Among the information shared at the meeting was that the Path will be ADA compliant; there are no special plans for lighting as yet; the PATH will be 8 ft wide because of environmental and funding constraints/trade-offs and will have a center stripe; a park and benches could be added at a later date as long as they are on "sod" and not Perdido Key beach mouse sand habitat; and, the mice should have no problem crossing the path. Construction should begin in September 2020.

The most exciting information passed on at the meeting was that the east portion of the Path should now be fully funded by the RESTORE program (from Deepwater Horizon disaster). The west portion from the Alabama state line to Perdido Key State Park has been fully funded for design and construction whereas the east portion from Perdido Key State Park to Gongora Drive/River Road was fully funded for design but only partially funded by the RESTORE program for construction. The planned increase to complete the east portion will be from \$960,000 to \$4.5 million and can use your support. It is included in the [RESTORE Act Draft Multi-Year Implementation Plan Amendment 1](#) that has a 45-day public comment period that began on Friday, December 20, 2019 and runs through Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 11:59 PM. Public comments can be submitted in the following ways: by the [Online public comment form](#); in person at the MYIP Amendment 1 Public Comment Meeting, Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 5:30 PM, Central Office Complex, 3363 West Park Place, Room 104; by e-mail to RESTORE@myescambia.com; and, by USPS mail "Attention - Escambia County Natural Resources Management -RESTORE, 221 Palafox Place, Pensacola, FL 32502." (Information drawn from Escambia County Community and Media Relations

December 20, 2019 e-mail titled "Public Comment Period Opens for RESTORE Draft MYIP Amendment 1")

All comments are encouraged. It would be terrific if those interested in the Perdido Key Multi-Use Path are able to attend the 5:30 PM January 14, 2020 public comment meeting at the Escambia County Central Office Complex!

PKA Holiday Party

Many PKA members and friends helped begin the holiday season at the annual PKA Holiday Party held on December 9, 2019 at the Seafarer Condominium meeting room. Wonderful food and good conversation were in ample supply.

Holidays in Park at Big Lagoon State Park

The 2019 "Holidays in the Park" celebration held at the Governors Pavilion in Big Lagoon State Park on December 7 was a great success. Approximately 100 children of all ages attend the event conducted each year by the Friends of Pensacola State Parks and local State Park Rangers. Holiday lights, popcorn and hot cocoa, a warm fire in the fireplace, plus a visit by Santa and local fire fighters were enjoyed by all.

Last Chance to help with the PKA 2020 Property Owner Survey

PKA conducts a property owner survey about every five years, with the 2015 survey available on the PKA website at <https://perdidokeyassociation.org/>. The PKA Board of Directors is finalizing questions to be used on the 2020 survey planned for mailing in early-February 2020. There is still time, however, to incorporate additional question suggestions so please forward your ideas to any PKA Director or to perdidokeyassociation@gmail.com.

PKA Annual Membership Meeting Reminder

Just another reminder to place the PKA Annual Membership Meeting on your calendars. It will be from 10 AM until Noon on February 29, 2020 at the Eden Condominium. The 2019 Annual Meeting minutes are available for review on the Archive page of the PKA website at <https://perdidokeyassociation.org/> and will be voted on for approval at the 2020 annual meeting.

Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce Leadership

The Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce announced new leadership at its Annual Meeting & Awards Brunch on November 22, 2019. Tracy DeVack of Navy Federal Credit Union took over as Chairman of the Board of Directors from Jim Beran of Gilmore Services while Dana Pagador will continue as President of the Chamber Staff; Marketing and Communications Manager Emily Etscheid, however, will be leaving the staff in January 2020. The Chamber also revealed a positive balance sheet as it began its 35th year celebration.

Prescribed Burns and Local Forests

Florida State Park rangers are conducting “prescribed burns” of forested areas in Big Lagoon and Tarkiln Bayou State Parks. As the *Pensacola News Journal*’s December 26, 2019 article “Prescribed burns are needed for forest health” noted, Smokey Bear may have been too effective in his message to prevent forest fires, a message changed to “Only you can prevent wildfires” almost 20 years ago. A camper or hiker started forest fire could be terrible, but a prescribed burn begun by trained professionals serves two purposes: “It promotes regeneration and regrowth like natural fires do. It also clears out fuel for wildfires, which gives firefighters a much greater chance of containing them.” If you detect a bit of burning wood smell in the air while driving on Gulf Beach Highway or Bauer Road, it is most likely the result of good forestry management in action. The article is by Jack Payne, the University of Florida’s vice president for natural resources and agriculture, and is available at <https://www.pnj.com/story/opinion/2019/12/26/prescribed-burns-needed-protect-forest-health-guestview/2737588001/>.

Blue Angels 2020 and 2021 Schedules

The updated 2020 and preliminary 2021 Blue Angels performance schedules are available at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/2019/12/16/blue-angel-2020-air-show-schedule-updated-preliminary-2021-schedule-released/2642763001/>. The 2020 Pensacola Beach show will be on July 11 and NAS Pensacola homecoming show on October 16-17. The December 16, 2019 *Pensacola News Journal* article on the schedule (“Blue Angels 2020 air shows updated and preliminary 2021 schedule released”) noted the Blue Angels are expected to fly the F-18 Super Hornets in 2021, the team’s 75th anniversary season.

Have a Wonderful New Year!

January Calendar

Jan 01 – Polar Bear Events at Flora-Bama, Gulf Shores, and Pensacola Beach
Jan 04 – Pensacola’s Mardi Gras Kick Off in downtown Pensacola
Jan 04,10,11,24,25 – Pensacola Ice Flyers at Pensacola Bay Center
Jan 11 – Pensacola Beach 10K, 5K, and Half-Marathon
Jan 11 – Snowbird Fest 2020 at Orange Beach Event Center
Jan 12 – Jaripeo Mexican Rodeo at Escambia County Equestrian Center
Jan 14 – RESTORE Draft Multi-Year Implementation Plan Amendment 1 Public Meeting
Jan 16 – Snowbird Hootenany at Flora-Bama
Jan 16 – Science Hour: Algal Toxins on the Emerald Coast at Main Pensacola Library
Jan 18 – PKA Adopt-A-Highway cleanup of Rt. 98, meet at Greer’s CashSaver market
Jan 21 – Snowbird FLY-In at National Naval Aviation Museum NAS Pensacola
Jan 25 – Audubon Birdwalk at Shoreline Park in Gulf Breeze
Jan 26 – Big Beach Marathon and Half Marathon in Gulf Shores
Jan 30 – Travis Tritt at the Saenger Theater Pensacola

The following websites provide additional information about Gulf Coast events

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

<https://myescambia.com/>

<http://mygulfcoastchamber.com/>

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

<http://mulletwrapper.net/>

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

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

Perdido Key Association Board of Directors