

KEY NOTES

NEWS FROM
THE PERDIDO KEY ASSOCIATION



October 2021

PKA named Chamber Member of the Month

The Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce selected the Perdido Key Association (PKA) as its September Member of the Month. At the monthly Chamber Business After Hours meeting at the Sunset Grill, Chamber Board Chairman Jim Beran presented PKA President Charles Krupnick and Vice President Connie Walker with the award and stated: "The Chamber chose PKA for the award in recognition and appreciation of their dedication to protecting the lifestyle that all who live, work and play in Perdido Key have grown to love." "They are a real asset to our community and we are happy to provide this well-deserved recognition." The Perdido Chamber Business After Hours is held the third Wednesday of every month.

A Good Cleanup of Perdido Key Beaches!

International Coastal Cleanup at Perdido Key State Park was a success despite rainfall during half the cleanup period. Almost 30 volunteers gathered multiple bags of trash and other debris to help keep Perdido Key beaches clean and safe from the Perdido Key Area of Gulf Islands National Seashore to the Alabama border. The annual event was organized by the Perdido Key Association, Friends of Pensacola State Parks, and local Florida State Park officials; sponsors Flora-Bama, The Perdido Key Sports Bar & Restaurant, and Vacasa vacation rentals helped fund t-shirts distributed to participants.

More Homes on Lost Key?

Builder Lennar hopes to add 90 housing units to Lost Key. Some Perdido Key residents are concerned about the possible environmental damage, trash buildup, congestion and other problems from more construction in what some believe is an already overbuilt location. One of the first steps in the development process was submission of the proposal to the Escambia County Development Review Committee with comments

required from County officials by September 22, 2021; public comments were not entertained but may be made as the proposal moves forward.

Johnson Beach Road Reopened

Sand covering Johnson Beach Road at the Perdido Key Area of the National Seashore has been removed by heavy equipment and access restored for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists. Piles of sand now lie on the side of the road and will hopefully begin building dunes to keep strong winds from covering the road again.

Sheriff Simmons Brief

Sheriff Chip Simmons was the featured speaker at the September 3, 2021 Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce Breakfast Brief at Hub Stacy's. He covered a variety of topics including his strong belief in the use of body cams by his officer, the Sheriffs' Office successful recruitment efforts, initiatives like the reopened Perdido Precinct and the need for more "speed trailers." He also took questions on budget issues, golf carts on Perdido Key pedestrian/bicycle paths and law enforcement presence to assist with beach parking and access issues.

Perdido Shop Hop

With the holidays approaching, please consider participating in the Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce's "Perdido Shop Hop." It is a good way to support local businesses and get into the holiday spirit! The event will run from November 27 until December 15, 2021 with various business sponsorship opportunities available. More information is available from Dee Marie Fisher at 850 380-5542 and at <https://files.constantcontact.com/2e50abe7401/564ba0a4-af79-490e-856b-de32ebdad99b.pdf>, but be alert for further information from the Chamber on how to participate as the commencement date approaches.

OLF-8 Plan back for Escambia County Review

Escambia County's plan for OLF-8 development was approved by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and is now at the Escambia County Planning Board to create an ordinance that will "write the plan into county code, including such specifics as the phasing of the project, allowable uses of the land and development limits." Progress comes after years of dispute on the extent of land to be assigned for commerce, commercial and residential development. For more on the issue, see the September 10, 2021 *Pensacola News Journal* article "State OKs Beulah OLF-8 plan, county planning board to move into final stages of design" by Emma Kennedy at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/2021/09/10/florida-oks-beulah-olf-8-design-county-planning-board-draft-zoning/5770397001/>.

County Moving Away from Sector Plan

Escambia County's 2011 Mid-West Sector Plan (now called "Optional Sector Plan") was an attempt at long-term planned growth of the largely undeveloped county land north of I-10. Along with a possible town center in Cantonment, creating infrastructure and

attracting industry, the plan attempted “to preserve the character of already established rural neighborhoods, as well as environmentally sensitive areas like wetlands.” But some landowners determined the plan limited their development opportunities and beginning in 2016 applied for “opt-outs” from the county, a process challenged by community activist Jacqueline Rogers. Reportedly Escambia County Planning Board member Tim Pyle noted “that each opt-out the county has granted made sense on an individual level but the picture changes when looking at the entire plan” while District 5 Commissioner Steven Barry said “the process had become too burdensome for landowners and the whole sector plan should be scrapped.” Shifting from the sector plan to standard zoning for the area will be difficult and likely contentious. For more on this issue, see the September 23, 2021 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Why Escambia County is dismantling the sector plan guiding growth in the north end” by Jim Little at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/escambia-county/2021/09/23/escambia-county-dismantle-sector-plan-guiding-growth-north-end/5813269001/>.

Blue Angels Homecoming Show on Pensacola Beach

Because of COVID-19 at NAS Pensacola, the November 3-6, 2021 Blue Angels Homecoming Show will take place on Pensacola Beach this year. Escambia County District 4 Commissioner representing Pensacola Beach noted “This is a loss for the base, but I think it’s a great opportunity for our community and especially Pensacola Beach.” For more on the decision, go to the September 2, 2021, *Pensacola News Journal* article “Surprise! The Blue Angels 75th anniversary show moves to Pensacola Beach in November” by Emma Kennedy at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/military/blueangels/2021/09/02/blue-angels-homecoming-air-show-moves-to-pensacola-beach-75th-anniversary-november-4-7-2021/5687937001/>.

Navarre Beach a “Best Place to Live”

Navarre Beach came in 34th on the “2021-2022 Best Place to Live in the United States” list by *Money*. The magazine pointed to the several environmental initiatives and beach activities available in the area as well as the reasonable cost of living and growing job opportunities. For more on the issue, see the September 17, 2021 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Navarre among best places to live in the US? These experts say so!” at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/navarre/2021/09/14/money-names-navarre-florida-one-best-places-to-live-us-2021-2022/8331179002/>.

It’s almost Halloweed!

As temperatures cool into October, environmental officials like Rick O’Connor and volunteers will be working to remove invasive plants for our area. “Halloweed” on Saturday, October 30 plans to remove plants like beach vitex from Gulf Islands National Seashore, Naval Live Oaks, and Pensacola Beach. To help with this year’s Halloweed, contact Rick O’Connor at roc1@ufl.edu. Perdido Key has patches of beach vitex and cogon grass. Listed as one of the “Top 10 Worst Weeds in the World,” cogon grass 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 <https://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/plant-directory/imperata-cylindrica/>.

More Days of 122°F

A recent study found that the number of days each year where temperature somewhere on earth has reached 50° C (122° F) has increased from an average of about 14 days between 1980 and 2009 to 26 days between 2010 and 2020. The extreme heat is felt predominantly in the Middle East and Gulf regions, but over time additional areas of the world are being affected. For more on the issue, see the September 13, 2021 *BBC* article “Climate change: World now sees twice as many days over 50C” by Becky Dale & Nassos Stylianou at <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-58494641>.

October Calendar

Oct 01-31 – Destin Fishing Rodeo
Oct 02 – Zarzaur Law Santa Rosa Island Triathlon on Pensacola Beach
Oct 06-09 – Alabama Coastal BirdFest 2021 at Spanish Fort
Oct 09 – Pensacola Dragon Boat Festival at Bayview Park
Oct 09 – Pumpkin Patch sale at Blue Wahoos Stadium
Oct 13 – The Beach Boys at the Saenger Theatre Pensacola
Oct 15 – Zoo Brew Toast for Tamarins at Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo
Oct 15-31 – Halloween at OWA each Friday, Saturday & Sunday
Oct 16-17 – Jubilee Festival of the Arts in Daphne
Oct 16-17, 29-31 – Horse Shows at Escambia County Equestrian Center
Oct 21-31 – Pensacola State Fair at Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds
Oct 23 – Regional Roundup at Blue Angels Elementary School
Oct 23 – Pensacola Rose Society Rose Show and Sale at Pensacola Garden Center
Oct 29 – Perdido Key Chamber Halloween Edition Flicks at Baars Field
Oct 29 – Amy Grant at the Saenger Theatre Pensacola
Oct 30 – Pensacola Race for Inclusion Benefitting Special Olympics at Bayview Park
Oct 30 – Pensacon HalloweenFest at Museum Plaza Pensacola
Oct 30 – Hall-o-Wharf at The Wharf
Oct 31 – Flora-Bama Halloween Party and Costume Contest

Blue Angels practice at NAS Pensacola October 20,26,27

Bands on the Beach every Tuesday evening at Gulfside Pavilion, Pensacola Beach until the end of October

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>

Perdido Key Association Board of Directors