

KEY NOTES

NEWS FROM
THE PERDIDO KEY ASSOCIATION



November 2021

Consider Becoming a PKA Director!

The Perdido Key Association's 2022 election cycle is approaching and the PKA Board will be creating a Nominating Committee shortly to solicit Director candidates. After candidates are determined, ballots will be sent to PKA members approximately 30 days prior to the PKA Annual Membership Meeting in late-February 2020 when voting will take place. If you are interested in becoming a PKA Director candidate, please contact any current Director. As stated in the PKA purpose, your participation can help “promote the welfare and orderly development” and “maintain the natural beauty of the community known as Perdido Key, Florida.”

Proposed New District for Perdido Key

The October 05, 2021 joint meeting of the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners and Escambia County School Board members approved a first draft of new district boundaries that moves Perdido Key and the Innerarity peninsula from District 2 to District 1. Commissioners and School Board members will meet again on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, beginning at 5:01 PM, at the Escambia County Government Complex, 221 Palafox Place, to finalize the draft. Public comments would be welcome. For more information, go to the following *Pensacola News Journal* articles by Jim Little: September 15, 2021 “Officials clash over district boundaries for District 1 and 2” at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/2021/09/14/escambia-county-commission-clashes-over-redistricting-district-1-2/8332034002/> and October 6, 2021 “Escambia County redistricting: First draft puts Perdido Key in District 1” at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/escambia-county/2021/10/06/escambia-county-redistricting-first-draft-puts-perdido-key-district-1/6014557001/>.

Escambia County Government Change Proposal

A group of “business leaders, former public officials and concerned citizens” are working to change Escambia County’s form of government to a “charter county,” i.e., one with

“broader self-government powers” than the current form. The group will make its proposal at the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners “Committee as a Whole” meeting on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, beginning at 9:00 AM. With more than 50% of respondents in the 2020 Perdido Key Property Owner Survey in favor of pursuing Perdido Key incorporation, county governance change proposals should be followed closely. For more on the issue, see the October 8, 2021 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Group wants to change Escambia government” by Jim Little at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/2021/10/07/new-charter-form-government-escambia-county-pitched-group/6021062001/>.

Perdido Key Beach Access #4

Construction has begun on the new beach access location just east of the Crab Trap restaurant on Perdido Key. According to an Escambia County news release, the new site will have a “permeable concrete parking lot with 35 parking spots, installation of an ADA-compliant AccessMat dune walkover and educational signage about protected wildlife.” As a designated Perdido Key beach mouse habitat, the site will have fencing to “prevent pedestrian and vehicular trespass on protected habitat areas.” For more on the project, see the Escambia County October 20, 2021 news release “Escambia County to Break Ground on New Perdido Key Beach Access #4” at <https://myescambia.com/news/news-article/2021/10/20/escambia-county-to-break-ground-on-new-perdido-key-beach-access-4>.

Concrete Utility Poles on River Road

Gulf Power is replacing several wooden utility poles along River Road with concrete ones. According to an April 2021 Gulf Power news release about an earlier pole replacement along Jackson Street: “Concrete poles are wind-rated at 140 mph and have a longer lifespan than wood poles, which will help during storm season to reduce the number of outages.” For more information, see the April 15, 2021 Gulf Power news release “Improving reliability: Gulf Power transmission project to replace wood poles with concrete in Pensacola” at <https://www.gulfpowernews.com/reliability-transmission/>.

OARS Festival a Success

The first annual OARS (Outdoor Adventure and Recreation) Festival held at Bayview Park drew a nice crowd on a gorgeous day. Several paddle races were held while sponsors and vendors promoted outdoor activities such as paddle boarding and kayaking. Other booths offered displays and discussion on environmental and educational topics such as wildlife habitat, recycling, estuary projects, and fossils found in the Gulf Coast region.

What is the Florida State Bird?

It’s the northern mockingbird but State Senator Jeff Brandes of St. Peterburg would like it changed, saying: “... Florida should have a state bird more representative of the area, rather than one that’s already shared by four other states. Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee,

and Texas have all also designated the northern mockingbird as their state bird.” For more on the issue, see the October 1, 2021 *WFTV* article “Does Florida need a new state bird? At least one lawmaker thinks so” at <https://www.wftv.com/news/local/does-florida-need-new-state-bird-least-one-lawmaker-thinks-so/M4WAN3FJYBBA3PYY3XX6QDZ6AU/>.

Peanut Butter Challenge

Organizations including UF/IFAS and the Florida Peanut Federation are again sponsoring the Peanut Butter Challenge where the community can drop off unopened jars of peanut butter to help feed families in need. Donation sites near Perdido Key include Holy Spirit Catholic Church on Gulf Beach Hwy and Perdido Bay United Methodist Church on Innerarity Point Road. Donations accepted through November 24.

November Calendar

Nov 03-06 – Blue Angels Homecoming Show at Pensacola Beach
Nov 04-11 – Frank Brown International Songwriters’ Festival at various venues
Nov 04-15 – Foo Foo Festival in downtown Pensacola
Nov 05-07 – Great Gulf Coast Arts Festival at Seville Square
Nov 06 – Veteran’s Day Parade in Fairhope
Nov 06-07,20-21 – Horse Shows at Escambia County Equestrian Center
Nov 06,13,19,20,24 – Pensacola Ice Flyers at Pensacola Bay Center
Nov 11 – Pensacola Women’s Half Marathon at Palafox Pier
Nov 12 – Ice Skating Rink at The Wharf through January 17
Nov 13 – Perdido Holiday Craft and Vendor Fair at Innerarity Point Park
Nov 17 – Mannheim Steamroller Christmas at Saenger Theatre
Nov 20-21 – Creek Indian Fest at Creek Tribal Grounds in Milton
Nov 25 – Thanksgiving Day
Nov 26-28 – Gulf Coast Blues Fest at Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds
Nov 26 – Magic Christmas in Lights at Bellingrath Gardens through January 05
Nov 27 – Kaiser Coastal Half Marathon, 5K and 1 mile run at Orange Beach
Nov 27-30 – Shop Hop in Perdido Key Area through December 15

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