

KEY NOTES

NEWS FROM
THE PERDIDO KEY ASSOCIATION



December 2021

Redistricting Final Vote on December 2

Escambia County Board of County Commissioners will conduct a final vote on the redistricting plan that shifts Perdido Key from District 2 to District 1 at their regular meeting beginning at 5:30 PM on Thursday, December 2, 2021 (Agenda Item 10. Public Hearing, V). It is the last opportunity to make our voices heard regarding the change, whether by e-mail or phone call to Commissioners prior to the meeting or by personal appearance at the meeting. In the three Town Hall gatherings held by District 2 Commissioner Doug Underhill the week of November 15, many participants were worried about the shift – including residents of District 1. Concerns include rapid population growth and infrastructure needs elsewhere in District 1 that may make Perdido Key priorities less likely to be met and possible compromise of Perdido Key's Master Plan and endangered species/environmental protection programs that help manage the island's development. The change also does not reflect the "traditional redistricting principle" of "geographical compactness." Escambia County Commissioners should follow the principle "first, do no harm"; they have no valid reasons for moving Perdido Key to District 1 – a move that could "do harm."

Consider Becoming a PKA Director

As mentioned in last month's "Key Notes," the Perdido Key Association's 2022 election cycle is ongoing and the PKA Board is looking for additional candidates to become PKA Directors. Directors serve three year terms and are expected to attend monthly Board meetings as well as assist with PKA initiatives. The Board has teleconference capability so it is not a problem to be a Director even if Perdido Key is not your full-time residence. PKA Secretary Mae Dean is the Chair of the Nominating Committee, so please contact her or any Board member if you are interested in becoming a candidate. Voting for Board members, if necessary, will be held at the Perdido Key Association Annual Membership Meeting in late-February 2022.

PKA Holiday Party on Monday, December 13

Please join the Perdido Key Association Board of Directors at the annual PKA Holiday Party from 6 to 9 PM on December 13, 2021 at the Seafarer Condominium Meeting Room. The Seafarer is located at 16401 Perdido Key Drive just east of the Crab Trap Restaurant. Food and beverages will be provided.

Perdido Key Shop Hop

The Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce's "Perdido Shop Hop" has begun! As posted on the Chamber website: "Pick up your Passport [at any Sand Dollar partner] to explore the Perdido Area extending all the way from Pensacola through Perdido Key in Florida and Orange Beach to Gulf Shores Alabama. Explore Shops, Businesses and Restaurants in the Perdido Shop Hop happening Nov. 27th through Dec. 15th. Support Local Businesses and Win Amazing Gift Baskets in time for the Holidays!" For more information go to <https://business.perdidochamber.com/events/details/2021-perdido-shop-hop-25869?calendarMonth=2021-11-01>.

More Construction on Perdido Key

The "Serenity" development being built by DR Horton is located just off River Road between Semmes Road and the Arborgate subdivision and extends eastward to the Lost Key Golf and Beach Club. Construction is well along on the subdivision's many single-family homes along Gardenglen Drive and adjacent streets.

Sea Turtles Released on Perdido Key

Two loggerhead and one Kemp's Ridley sea turtles were released to the Gulf of Mexico from Perdido Key on November 11, 2021 following their rehabilitation at the Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park on Okaloosa Island. All had been injured by fishing hooks or other fishing gear and weighted about 100 pounds. For more on the event, see the November 11, 2021 *Pensacola News Journal* article "Three 100-pound rehabilitated sea turtles released at Perdido Key Thursday" by Emma Kennedy at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/pensacola/beaches/2021/11/11/three-rehabilitated-sea-turtles-released-perdido-key-thursday-morning/6388681001/>.

Red Tide and Manatee Concerns

The red tide (*karenia brevis*) has been gradually moving north from Southwest Florida into Panhandle waters in recent months. Some fish kills have occurred near Destin but the latest readings show very low concentrations of red tide in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties. 2021 has been a terrible year for manatees with over 1,000 deaths, many from starvation due to seagrass loss from pollution. "For the first time, we've had such a large number of manatees that have literally starved to death," said Pat Rose, an aquatic biologist and executive director of Maitland-based Save the Manatee Club. On a more positive note, as of November 1, 2021 there have been 135 manatee sightings in the Pensacola Bay area. For more on manatee, go to the November 17, 2021 *USA Today* article "Florida surpasses grim milestone of 1,000 manatee deaths in 2021,

starvation a large factor” by Max Chesnes at

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/11/17/florida-manatee-deaths-2021-starving-seagrass-loss/8654284002/>.

Pensacola a Good Place to Retire

Pensacola was ranked #10 by *U.S. News & World Report* in its 2021-2022 listing of “Best Places to Retire.” Other listed Florida locations included #1 Sarasota, #2 Naples and #3 Daytona Beach. For more on the rankings, go to the October 19, 2021 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Best places to retire: Pensacola makes top 10 on U.S. News Best Places list” at

<https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/pensacola/2021/10/19/best-places-retire-pensacola-makes-u-s-news-world-report-list/8510385002/>.

Seafarer Gift to PKA

At the November 8, 2021 PKA Board of Directors meeting, Director John Rossman – also Facilities Manager of the Seafarer Condominium – presented a \$1,000 check to the Perdido Key Association from the Seafarer Owners Association as a gesture of support for the work PKA does to help maintain the quality of life owners and residents of the island enjoy. PKA president Charles Krupnick accepted the gift on behalf of PKA and expressed the Association’s gratitude for the generous donation.

December Calendar

Dec 01-15 – Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce Shop Hop

Dec 01-24 – Winterfest in downtown Pensacola

Dec 01-31 – Magic Christmas in Lights at Bellingrath Gardens through January 05

Dec 01-31 – Ice Skating Rink at The Wharf through January 17

Dec 03,16,26,30 – Pensacola Ice Flyers at Pensacola Bay Center

Dec 04 – Lighted Boat Parade at Pensacola Beach

Dec 04 – Trans-Siberian Orchestra at the Saenger Theatre Pensacola

Dec 11 – Lighted Boat Parade from Lulu’s to The Wharf on Intracoastal Waterway

Dec 11 – Pensacola Christmas Parade

Dec 11 – Bay Minette Christmas Festival

Dec 11-12 – Holly Days on Main Festival at The Wharf

Dec 17 – The Nutcracker at the Saenger Theatre Pensacola

Dec 18 – Flora-Bama Make it to the Line Run/Walk

Dec 25 – Christmas

Dec 31 – Flora-Bama New Year’s Eve Bash

Dec 31 – Pensacola Symphony Orchestra Presents Celebrate the New Year!

Dec 31 – New Year’s Eve Fireworks at OWA

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](#)