

KEY NOTES

NEWS FROM
THE PERDIDO KEY ASSOCIATION



January 2022

Have a Wonderful New Year!

2021 was a memorable year for our country and Perdido Key. The local challenges of recovery from 2020's Hurricane Sally and the COVID-19 danger were substantial, but the resilience of our area was remarkable. As we look forward to the New Year, we hope to see continued progress on our island's infrastructure including completion of the Perdido Key Multi-Use Path, new crosswalk near the Eden and SeaSpray condominiums and a roundabout at the Perdido Key Drive/Johnson Beach Road intersection. We also hope for a pleasant and less turbulent tourist season. With these and other issues in mind, your PKA Board of Directors wishes you the very best of New Years!

Perdido Key in District 1

At its December 2, 2021 meeting, the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners voted 4 to 1 in favor of a redistricting plan moving Perdido Key from District 2 to District 1, effective immediately. There were seven speakers arguing against moving Perdido Key to District 1, but to no avail. District 1 Commissioner Jeff Bergosh is expected to hold community meetings in the near future to listen to area resident and owner hopes and concerns for the future. Your Perdido Key Association will continue working to keep our island a great place to live and visit and will keep you informed of redistricting and related issues as they emerge.

Multi-Use Path West Portion Completed

Construction has been completed on the Perdido Key Multi-Use Path from the west end of Perdido Key State Park to the Alabama border – about two miles. Design and engineering for the remaining approximately four-mile east portion from the west end of the State Park to the Theo Baars Bridge/River Road is completed with construction expected to begin at some point in 2022. The path has been fully funded as a

pedestrian and bicycle path, not for motorized vehicles such as golf carts or ATVs. As the path enters use in the months and years ahead, action to ensure its use by only pedestrians and bicycles will be a continuing challenge.

PKA Administrator Sarah De Lazzer Departing

It is with sadness that we say farewell to Ms. Sarah De Lazzer, PKA's Administrator for the past eight years. Sarah has been an essential part of PKA's organization playing the major role in membership maintenance, communication, finance and multiple other areas. A real estate broker and full-time condominium manager, she nonetheless remained with PKA through the difficult condominium reconstruction period following Hurricane Sally. Sarah will be greatly missed and we wish her the very best in the future.

PKA Membership Meeting Documents

Your invitation to the Saturday, February 19, 2022 PKA Annual Membership Meeting at the Eden Condominium, along with meeting agenda and proxy material, should arrive by US Mail by mid-January 2022. Please review the documents and return the proxy when possible.

January 7 Gulf Power Presentation at Hub Stacey's

The Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce's Friday, January 7, 2022 Breakfast Brief at Hub Stacey's on Innerarity Point will feature Rick Byers, the Gulf Power Community and Economic Development Manager. This should be a good opportunity to find out more about recent installation of concrete utility poles on Perdido Key Drive and River Road, the possibility of underground utilities in the future, and Florida Power and Light's (FPL) recent rate increase proposal (Gulf Power becomes FPL on January 1, 2022), among other issues. The networking coffee begins at 7:30 AM with the presentation starting at 8:00 AM; pre-registration with the Chamber is recommended.

January 8 Shred Day at Gulf State Park

Be sure to take advantage of "E-Cycling and Shred Day" from 8 AM until Noon on Saturday, January 8, 2022 at Gulf State Park Pavilion. The free event sponsored by Coastal Alabama Business Chamber and other local organizations will "securely and safely dispose of your personal documents or electronic items [but no batteries] without even having to exit your vehicle." 50 pounds of shred items are allowed; small paper clips need not be removed but please do not tape or tie bags or boxes.

Blue Angels Schedule

The Blue Angels 2022 Pensacola Beach Show will be on July 9-10 and the Homecoming Air Show at Naval Air Station Pensacola on November 11-12. The 2022 and just released 2023 Blue Angel show schedules are available at <https://www.blueangels.navy.mil/show/>.

State Park Job Opportunity

An AmeriCorps ROAR (Regional Outreach and Recruiters) position is available at Big Lagoon State Park. The person selected must be over 17 years old and will take on a variety of park related work and activities. The position offers a \$1,500 monthly stipend and \$6,195 Education Award after completion of 11 months service. For more information contact State Park Ranger Emily Price at 850 492-1595 or Emily.price@dep.state.fl.us and visit the Project ROAR AmeriCorps website at <https://www.conservationjobboard.com/job-listing-project-roar-ameri-corps-member-pensacola-florida/841313391>.

Water Salinity Report

Annual rainfall in our area in recent years has exceeded its normal 60 inches, with 2021 accumulating greater than 88 inches. Excess fresh water can lower salinity in local estuaries and other waterways and endanger biological systems such as sea grass and scallops. Lower salinity can be aggravated as development paves over natural areas that absorb rainfall and increases runoff. For commentary and data on recent salinity measurements in our area, see Rick O'Connor's fall 2021 article "Has All of This Rain Impacted the Salinity of the Pensacola Bay Area?" available at <https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/escambiaco/2021/12/20/has-all-of-this-rain-impacted-the-salinity-of-the-pensacola-bay-area/>.

Follow the James Webb Space Telescope

After years of delay the James Webb Space Telescope was launched on Christmas Day 2021, but that may have been the easy part of getting the complex instrument operational. During January 2022 multiple complex operations such as unfolding the telescope's heat shield and 21 foot mirror from their launch positions must be completed without a hitch so the instrument can explore the most ancient light of the universe. We can follow the deployment progress at NASA's James Webb Space Telescope website available at <https://www.jwst.nasa.gov/content/webbLaunch/wherelsWebb.html>.

A Great PKA Holiday Party!

Perdido Key Association members, relatives and friends had a wonderful time at the annual PKA Holiday Party on December 13, 2021 at the Seafarer Condominium meeting room. Ample beverage and food were on hand and as usual all enjoyed Alan Dennis' marvelous meatballs. With the camaraderie of old and new acquaintances, the party had a wealth of holiday good cheer.

January Calendar

Jan 01 – Polar Bear Dip at Flora-Bama and Gulf Shores and Polar Bear Plunge on Pensacola Beach

Jan 01-05 – Magic Christmas in Lights at Bellingrath Gardens

Jan 01-17 – Ice Skating at The Wharf

Jan 07 – Chamber Breakfast Brief at Hub Stacey's featuring Gulf Power Representative

Jan 07 – Pensacola Mardi Gras Kickoff
Jan 07 – Kansas in Concert at Saenger Theatre
Jan 07-09 – Pensacola Dog Fanciers Association AKC Dog Show at Escambia County Equestrian Center
Jan 07,14,15, 22 – Pensacola Ice Flyers at Pensacola Bay Center
Jan 08 – Coastal Alabama Annual E-Cycling & Shred Day at Gulf State Park Pavilion
Jan 13 – Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce Hootenanny at Flora-Bama
Jan 15 – Pensacola Symphony presents Beethoven & Blue Jeans at Saenger Theatre
Jan 22 – OWA’s 2022 Arts & Crafts Festival
Jan 27-30 – Five Flags Dog Training Club K-9 Palooza 2022 Winter Games at Escambia County Equestrian Center
Jan 30 – Big Beach Marathon & Half Marathon at The Hangout in Gulf Shores

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