

KEY NOTES

NEWS FROM
THE PERDIDO KEY ASSOCIATION



November 2022

Become a PKA Director!

The PKA Board of Directors is looking for candidates for the Board. All PKA members are eligible to become Directors even if only part-time Perdido Key residents since Board meetings are always teleconferenced. Please contact any current Director prior to December 31, 2022 if interested. Ballots will be distributed in time for the February 2023 PKA Annual Membership Meeting when election of Directors will occur.

Commissioner Bergosh October 25 Town Hall Meeting

Escambia County District 1 Commissioner Jeff Bergosh held a Town Hall meeting at the Perdido Bay United Methodist Church the evening of October 25, 2022 with approximately 250 attendees. Speakers and those attending discussed several Perdido Key area issues, particularly concerns about construction of the Altura apartment complex at the north end of Theo Baars Bridge in Innerarity. A developer representative noted 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments will be available, rents will be about \$2000 a month with a minimum rental period of 7 months, and once completed the complex should annually generate \$700,000 in taxes. Escambia County Transportation Engineer Chris Phillips indicated traffic studies showed no substantial alteration to roadways was required because of the new development, a conclusion challenged by a number of attendees. Commissioner Bergosh stated all proper procedures were followed to allow the construction but he believed notification of neighborhoods should be added to requirements when large apartment complexes were proposed. There was also discussion on the efficacy of the roundabout being constructed at the Perdido Key Drive/Johnson Beach Road intersection and traffic safety during its construction (scheduled for completion March 2023). Other speakers included an ECUA representative who, among other issues, updated attendees on recycling issues and District 1 School Commissioner Kevin Adams who noted difficulties finding a firm to take over Warrington Middle School as a charter school. If a charter firm cannot be found, the school will be closed and its students bussed to other County middle schools, including Bailey Middle School on Bauer Road. Escambia County Sheriff Chip Simmons discussed violence in Escambia County and noted the Sheriff's Office was currently 100% staffed.

Impact Fees and Santa Rosa County

Impact fees are typically one-time payments imposed on property developers for infrastructure/service improvements needed or desirable because of the new development – the fees can be passed on to home buyers. Education impact fees were approved by the Santa Rosa County Commission in 2020 but have been held up following a lawsuit by the Home Buildings Association of West Florida and several homebuilders. Based on comments by Santa Rosa Commissioners, infrastructure impact fees are expected to be “on the table” following the November 2022 elections. For more on the issue, see the October 25, 2022 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Better buy that house now. Impact fees discussion likely back in 2023 in Santa Rosa County” by Alex Miller at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/santa-rosa/2022/10/24/santa-rosa-county-impact-fees-likely-discussion-2023/10533725002/>.

Unwinding Navy Point Oyster Reefs

Escambia County began an oyster reef project in 2017 in Bayou Grande at Navy Point where porous plastic bags of oyster shells were stacked to help mitigate beach erosion and foster creation of oyster beds to filter water and help clean local waterways. A recent assessment concluded few oysters were growing on the reefs and wave action was causing the bags to deteriorate. Long opposed by Navy Point resident and activist Melissa Pino, County Commissioners agreed to develop options to “unwind” the project. For more on this issue, see the October 7, 2022 *Pensacola News Journal* article “Amid safety and efficacy concerns, Escambia County may remove Navy Point living shoreline” by Jim Little at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/2022/10/07/navy-point-living-shoreline-project-escambia-county-unwind/8205581001/>.

Estuary Plan Approved

The Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program governing board voted unanimously on October 25, 2022 to approve its 208 page comprehensive management plan of operation. Pensacola Mayor Grover Robinson said: “The most important thing is, this will lead us down the path in which we improve upon our environment, which will improve our economy and lead to a better standard of life for our area.” Work continues to obtain National Estuary Program designation for the program. For more on this issue, see the October 30 2022 *Pensacola News Journal/Yahoo* article “Ten years of work went into plan to protect local waterways. Now real work begins.” by Tim McLaughlin at <https://news.yahoo.com/ten-years-went-creating-plan-122950274.html>.

Hurricane Cone Controversy

What is the weather map “hurricane cone” all about? It is the probable track of a tropical storm but not the limit of the storm’s potential damage. When Hurricane Ian approached the Florida coast some experts believe “too many people misunderstood the graphics, including local and state officials.” For more on the issue, see the October 19, 2022 *USA Today* article “Many people misunderstand this famous hurricane forecast graphic. It can be a deadly mistake.” by Dian Voyles Pulver and Doyle Rice at <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2022/10/19/hurricane-ian-new-criticism-for-the-cone-of-uncertainty/10529838002/>.

E-Scooters in Pensacola

Following a year pilot study, the Pensacola City Council has approved amending the city's micro-mobility ordinance to grant permanent status to its e-scooter rental program. The scooters will be operated by Veo and feature only "seated" vehicles. For more on the issue, see the October 14, 2022 *Pensacola News Journal/Yahoo* article "Permanent e-scooters win unanimous approval of Pensacola City Council" by Jim Little at <https://money.yahoo.com/permanent-e-scooters-win-unanimous-125648738.html>.

Halloween at Gulf Islands National Seashore

On Friday October 21, 2022 12 volunteers worked with park rangers from Gulf Islands National Seashore to help identify, reduce and remove seeds from many beach vitex plants found on Pensacola Beach and the Naval Live Oaks facility in Gulf Breeze. Beach vitex is an exceptionally resilient invasive species that propagates by rhizomes (spreading roots) and small black seeds that float and can survive for months. Some plants previously cut and treated had finally died while others still thrived; controlling and eradicating beach vitex is a multi-year process. Please contact Escambia County's Sea Grant representative Rick O'Connor at roc1@ufl.edu if you locate or suspect beach vitex in the Perdido Key area.

40th Anniversary of Wildlife Sanctuary

The Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida will celebrate its 40th anniversary with a free open house on Saturday November 12, 2022, from 11 AM until 3:30 PM. The public will be able to tour the facility and enjoy educational presentations by several guest organizations.

Advanced Recycling?

The plastics manufacturing industry will be building new recycling facilities using a chemically based technology to create a "circular economy for plastics" according to the American Chemistry Council – a plastic industry trade association. Environmental groups consider the project a distraction from the goal of producing and using less plastics. For more on the issue, see the October 21, 2022 *Associated Press/Chicago Tribune* article "The plastics industry says advanced recycling is a solution to the plastic waste crisis. But environmental groups disagree." by Jennifer McDermott at <https://www.chicagotribune.com/nation-world/ct-aud-nw-advanced-plastic-recycling-20221021-7yohlsmsevg7jqzodt43uqeeva-story.html>.

Gulf of Mexico Whale near Extinction

The Gulf of Mexico or Rice's whale inhabiting the northern Gulf of Mexico has only recently been classified as a separate species, but it is tragically near extinction with only 50 or so individuals remaining. For more on Rice's whale, see the October 13, 2022 *Washington Post* article "Scientists just discovered a new whale. Now they fear it may go extinct." by Bradley Lenis and Dino Grandoni at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2022/10/13/gulf-of-mexico-whale-rices/>.

Alaska's Snow Crab and King Crab Seasons Cancelled

For the first time ever the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has cancelled the Bering Sea snow crab fishery for the upcoming season because of low stocks. The red king crab fishery will also be closed as it was last year. For more on this issue, see the October 1, 2022 *Alaska*

Public Media article “Bering Sea king and snow crab seasons canceled amid population declines” by Kirsten Dobroth at <https://alaskapublic.org/2022/10/12/bering-sea-king-and-snow-crab-seasons-canceled-amid-population-declines/>.

November Calendar

Nov 01-06 – SEC Soccer Tournament at Ashton Brosnaham Soccer Complex in Pensacola
Nov 03-13 – Frank Brown Songwriters Festival on Perdido Key and other venues
Nov 03-14 – Foo Foo Festival in downtown Pensacola
Nov 04-06 – Great Gulfcoast Arts Festival at Seville Square Park in Pensacola
Nov 05 – Coast Guard Auxiliary safe boating class in Orange Beach
Nov 05 – Honeybee Festival with 5K road race and live music in Robertsdale
Nov 07 – Red, White and Birdies Golf Scramble at NAS Pensacola
Nov 10-13 – Melges US Championship sailing competition at Pensacola Yacht Club
Nov 11 – Veterans Day with various local events
Nov 11 – Ice Skating begins at The Wharf
Nov 11-12 – Blue Angels Homecoming Air Show at NAS Pensacola
Nov 11,12,19,23 – Pensacola Ice Flyers at Pensacola Bay Center
Nov 12 – Perdido Craft Fair at Innerarity Point Park
Nov 12 – Open House at Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida
Nov 13 – Pensacola Beach Art and Wine Festival
Nov 24 – Thanksgiving with various local activities including Turkey Trot 5K in downtown Pensacola
Nov 25-30 – Pensacola Winterfest in downtown Pensacola
Nov 26 – Gulf Coast Blues Festival at Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds

Blue Angels practice at NAS Pensacola November 1, 2, 8, and 9

The following websites provide additional information about events 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