

KEY NOTES

NEWS FROM
THE PERDIDO KEY ASSOCIATION



November 2023

Perdido Incorporation Initiative Moves Forward

On October 26, 2023 Escambia area's Florida legislative delegation voted unanimously to approve draft legislation to create a new municipality in the area proposed by the "We Are Perdido" initiative. Large crowds spoke for and against the proposal at the meeting of the delegation held at Pensacola State University. As the We Are Perdido website states, following the approval: "The next step in that process is a continued review of the feasibility report in local subcommittee, an update of all budget projections using FY 2024 data, followed by more committees prior to arriving on the [Florida] House floor for a vote in the January/February 2024 legislative session. If it passes in both the House, Senate, and the Governor's desk, citizens of Perdido would for the very first time in history have the opportunity to vote on becoming a town." The action follows an active couple of weeks where the initiative was discussed at the October 19, 2023 Escambia Board of County Commissioners meeting and permission given to "We Are Perdido" leader Steve Brendtro for the organization to liaison with County departments on how interlocal agreements can be crafted; the County has such arrangements with the City of Pensacola and Town of Century. There was also a recent meeting of a group opposed to incorporation called "Stop Perdido City." For more on these developments, see the October 24, 2023 *Pensacola News Journal* article "State, County Leaders question if incorporation initiative is ready to go to voters" by Mollye Barrows at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/escambia-county/2023/10/24/incorporate-perdido-plan-not-ready-for-ballot-opponents-argue/71288088007/> and the October 27, 2023 *Pensacola News Journal* article "Perdido incorporation clears major hurdle on path toward referendum" by Jim Little at <https://news.yahoo.com/perdido-incorporation-clears-major-hurdle-092544175.html>; for the "We Are Perdido" website, go to <https://weareperdido.org/>.

Beach Access RESTORE Funds Comment Period

Escambia County's proposed "Restore Act Multi-Year Implementation Plan Amendment 3" includes a request for "Perdido Key Public Beach Access - Property Acquisition and Construction." The \$3.6 million request states in part: "Potential amenities include public parking and a dune walkover with observation platform. Undeveloped areas may be enhanced through habitat restoration to maximize benefits to the endangered Perdido Key beach mouse.

A near-shore artificial reef may be designed and permitted for increased recreational opportunities and to improve fishery habitat for snorkeling, diving or fishing. Public access infrastructure provides connectivity and access to the artificial reef, allowing for the resources to be enjoyed by the public.” Along with the 75 foot public easement issue affecting many beachfront property owners, the proposed RESTORE amendment could have a significant impact on Perdido Key’s future. The public comment period for the proposal extends to December 1, 2023. For more information on the proposal and submitting comments, go to <https://myescambia.com/our-services/natural-resources-management/restore/multi-year-implementation-plan>.

River Road Closure Update

River Road closure for through traffic will begin on November 1, 2023 following a postponement from the previous October 16 date to resolve last minute concerns. Repair work will replace the culvert running underneath the roadbed and construct a conventional pedestrian/bicycle multi-use path in place of the current wooden bridge.

Rapid Progress on Perdido Key Multi-Use Path

The Perdido Key Multi-Use Path is growing at lightning speed as workers construct multiple portions at once, including south of the roundabout at the Perdido Key Drive/Johnson Beach Road intersection and in Perdido Key State Park. The path will be terrific for Perdido Key!

Controlled Burns

Florida State Park personnel are conducting controlled burns at various locations in Big Lagoon State Park and Tarkiln Bayou Preserve State Park, rain and wind conditions permitting. Controlled burns remove debris and unwanted plants and help rejuvenate soil in forested areas, among other benefits. Drawn from *National Geographic* education article “Controlled Burning” at <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/controlled-burning/>.

Estuary Job Openings

The Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program has positions for “Operations Manager” and “Assistant Project Coordinator.” For more information, go to <https://www.ppbec.org/get-involved/careers>.

New Perdido Key Subdivision Controversy

A development called “Isabella” is being considered for both sides of Johnson Beach Road near the Perdido Key Drive intersection. According to Commissioner Bergosh’s blog, the 41 unit subdivision has not yet been approved but a nearby HOA has expressed concern about its local impact.

Jimmy Buffett Tribute

The Perdido Key area and much of the country were stunned and saddened by the sudden passing of Jimmy Buffet. Many in our area have attended his performances and appreciated his free Orange Beach concert during the depths of the 2010 Deep Water Horizon oil spill disaster. His fans should enjoy Fran Thompson’s article on him “Did you know Jimmy Buffet” in

the September 7, 2023 *Mullet Wrapper* at <https://mulletwrapper.net/did-you-know-that-jimmy-buffett/> as well as the 24 page *Mullet Wrapper* supplement on Jimmy Buffet at [file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/MeetingOfTheMindsWelcomefinal%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/MeetingOfTheMindsWelcomefinal%20(1).pdf).

Beach Access and a New Restaurant

If you have been curious about the new complex of buildings on the beach across from Publix in Orange Beach, they are the culmination of an agreement between two owners of the Flora-Bama and the City of Orange Beach. Rather than the many condo units previously planned, the space now houses Orange Beach's first public beach with free access to Orange Beach residents (most public beaches in Orange Beach are Alabama State Park "pay-to-park") and the Coastal restaurant complex. For more on the new development, see the December 17, 2022 *OBA* article "New Beachfront Restaurant Opens in Orange Beach" at <https://www.obawebsite.com/new-beachfront-restaurant-opens-in-orange-beach>.

November Calendar

Nov 01-05 – SEC Women's Soccer Tournament at Ashton Brosnahan Soccer Complex
Nov 02-13 – Foo Foo Festival at multiple locations in downtown Pensacola
Nov 03-05 – Pensacola Greek Festival at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Pensacola
Nov 03-04 – Blue Angels Homecoming Show at NAS Pensacola
Nov 04 – Fairhope Veterans Day Parade
Nov 06 – Red, White, and Birdies Golf Scramble at NAS Pensacola
Nov 09-19 – Frank Brown Annual Songwriters Festival at various locations
Nov 10,11,18,22 – Pensacola Ice Flyers at Pensacola Bay Center
Nov 11 – Gulf Islands National Seashore Free Fee Day
Nov 11 – Heron Trot Run/Walk at Big Lagoon State Park
Nov 11 – Perdido Area Community Holiday Craft and Vendor Fair at Innerarity Point Park
Nov 12 – Pensacola Beach Art and Wine Festival
Nov 14 – Mannheim Steamroller Christmas at Saenger Theatre in downtown Pensacola
Nov 17-Jan 15 – Ice Skating Rink at The Wharf
Nov 19-Dec 24 – Pensacola Winterfest in downtown Pensacola
Nov 23 – Thanksgiving
Nov 30 – Annual Snowball Derby at Five Flags Speedway Pensacola

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