



Whatever you can do or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it.
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Our Past and Future

We have shared our united voice, our volunteer spirit and our sponsorship of events enhancing our Siesta Key community. Our work has included: civic action to keep our neighborhood and residential protections intact, volunteering to maintain our healthy, clean island environment, communication and action for habitat protections of wildlife and our tree canopy, collaboration and advocacy of numerous community issues with our County staff and elected officials. Our SKA meetings shared benefit of your voices, alerting us to community needs. Every concern was addressed with a future plan in mind, with ideas and action for a solution.

For this good effort from our united SKA membership, we celebrate!

We remain mindful of need for continued action and effort. We will be advocates, good neighbors, volunteers, educators and leaders in our mission to cherish our Siesta Key home.

Please join us as we:

- Provide advocacy for our Beach development plan sequencing, traffic and parking.
- Collaborate with FDOT for the onset of our North Bridge rehabilitation project.
- Coordinate planning County staff, Beach Road drainage plan and enhancements.
- Continue with Adopt-A-Road efforts and beach/coastal cleanup planning.
- Continue with beach protection of imperiled species.
- Continue collaborative work to keep canals and waterways safe for owners, manatees.
- Maintain active intervention regarding illegal rentals in RSF neighborhoods.
- Continue actions of mutual benefit with our Siesta Key organizations and our County staff.

- Complete project development with FDOT, Midnight Pass pedestrian plan.
- Enhance homeowner protections through County post disaster redevelopment planning.
- Sponsor Siesta Key events which enhance our Beach park and support our community.

We welcome you as we begin 2012!

Catherine Luckner, President

SKA Annual Members' Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, March 10, 2012

Open at 8:00 A.M. for Coffee, Tea, Juice

Breakfast Buffet opens at 8:30 A.M.

Annual Meeting from 9:20 - 11:00 A.M.

St. Boniface Episcopal Church, Community Room

Free Breakfast for all Members; \$10 for Visitors

You may join SKA at our Breakfast Meeting

Reservations

by email: info@siestakeyassociation.com

by phone: 941-364-4880

Speaking at our Breakfast:

The Honorable Nora Patterson

Commissioner, Sarasota County

"Siesta Key Today, Planning for Our Future"

John F. McCarthy, Director

Community Services, Sarasota County

"The #1 BEACH USA Story"

Guest of Honor:

Stephen Leatherman, Ph.D., "Dr. Beach"

**** SKA contributed more than 600 volunteer hours for our community, March to November 2011 ****

SKA Working for You!

Traffic Help, Siesta Beach Event Notification Process

With collaboration with Sarasota County Park staff and support from our Sheriff's office, a process to alert Siesta Key residents and businesses to special events at the Siesta Beach park was initiated. Our Siesta Beach park has enjoyed an increase in requests for special events which increased visitors and revenue to our County. With assistance from Carolyn Brown, new County Manager for Parks and Recreation, a system of notification was instituted and is very successful. These notifications are sent to SKA as well as other organizations to share with their members. These alerts allow us to plan our travel time and increase help for traffic problems. For alerts to such events, log into our website for special notifications.

Safety, Traffic and Speed Calming

Since our summer newsletter, installation of the sleeves and foundations for **five speed calming radar signs** was completed by County Mobility Services staff. The radar signs are ready for installation. With leadership from Director Joe Volpe, SKA advocated County purchase of these speed reduction devices on Midnight Pass Road, Beach Road and Higel Avenue, all areas with high pedestrian and cycling activity.

Midnight Pass Pedestrian Islands

SKA collaborated successfully with the Siesta Key Condominium Council for review of the FDOT plan to install 10 pedestrian islands along Midnight Pass. The outcome to eliminate a design for these islands was based on traffic impediment for residents at many of the condominiums, concerns about emergency vehicle access, and pedestrian use better served by crosswalks at four locations. We applaud the efforts of the SKCC, our SKA members' and neighbors' action as well as FDOT engineering staff who responded to our shared voice. We await the FDOT modified plan, which will hopefully include recommended speed reduction from 35 to 30 mph on Midnight Pass Road between Beach Road and Stickney Point Road.

Imperiled Nesting Bird Protections

SKA provided sponsorship support and hundreds of volunteer hours for this year's Snowy Plover Beach Nesting Bird Project. This highly imperiled native bird has generated enthusiastic collaboration from residents, tourists, the County Parks and Recreation staff, Florida Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resources, our Sheriff's Department and Audubon. This project includes daily monitoring of nesting by volunteers with added benefits of daily beach cleanup from our visitors and volunteers daily. The nesting season runs between February and August and will begin anew in 2012. We invite you to share in this work during 2012.

Manatee Protections, Boating, Canal Safety and More

What began as a neighborly conversation with SKA resident Dave Thomas, opened the door to an expanding partnership effort. After reporting large numbers of regular Manatee visitors to our Grand Canal, the conversation quickly turned to their protection. Neighbors spoke of boaters speeding through canals and no wake areas in the intracoastal waterways, SKA hosted meetings with Florida Fish and Wildlife officers, County Natural Resources staff, our Commissioner Patterson, the Sheriff's Office and Sarasota Police Department and Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Our results include: free Manatee signs for posting to your dock or other locations, www.savethemanatee.org, increased canal water patrols by the Sheriff's Office and the Sarasota Police Department, the installation of a camera "watch," moveable by the Sheriff's Department where needed, and improved waterway signs in designated Manatee Protection Zones.

We hosted the **Sarasota Power and Sailing Squadron (SPSS)** for help with boater skills and understanding the special waterways around Siesta Key. After this meeting, a generous offer was made to all SKA members. To support boating safety, *free membership for six months is available to all SKA members*. During this six months, anyone may take advantage of reduced cost for America's Boating Course (ABC). You don't need a boat to belong to SPSS, www.sarasota-boating.org.

Adopt-A-Road

The Adopt-A-Road effort on November 19, 2011, led by SKA Directors Peter van Roekens and Michael Shay, again a great success. Our volunteers started with free breakfast generously provided by Village Café owners, Kay and Tommy Kavatsos. Our coverage increased yet again, extending up Midnight Pass to Beach Road. Our thanks to our continuing partners, Russell Matthes, President of SKVA, Mark Smith, incoming Chair for the Siesta Key Chamber of Commerce, and Bay Island Association President, Malcolm and Anarita Scott.

Special KUDOS for SKA Work with FPL Line Clearing Project

December 7, 2011, Board of County Commissioners meeting, SKA received special acknowledgement for our work for tree canopy protections during FPL line clearing between June and September 2011. FPL District Manager Rae Dowling and Sarasota County Natural Resources Manager Amy Meese included in their report: *The project "had the potential to be difficult given the integral nature of trees in the character of the Key and the connection residents feel to the trees. Thank you and the Siesta Key Association for creating a forum at your meetings for FPL and the County. Through the partnership of FPL, SCG, and SKA I think we were able to facilitate FPL's service reliability on Siesta Key."*

Join the SKA Board

Contact: Nominating Committee
info@siestakeyassociation.com

or

Bob Waechter, Chair
Nominating Committee
PO Box 35200
Sarasota, FL 34242

SKA New Director

In November, SKA welcomed **Ron Flynn** as Director to our Board. Ron served with our Board in the past, contributing significantly to the Turtle Beach park improvements and development of the Beach Road drainage plan. We invite you to learn more about him and our other Board members on our website:

www.siestakeyassociation.com/ska_board_bios.htm