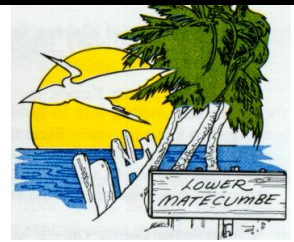


# Matecumbe Neighbors



Newsletter of the Lower Matecumbe Key Association

March 2008

## Decentralized Wastewater

At the April 14 LMKA meeting, property owners on the island will have an opportunity to learn about the Decentralized Wastewater project that has been approved for property owners from Robbie's down to Matecumbe Resort at MM76.3.

EPA has approved a grant that will provide 75% of the cost of the \$5 million project. A Steering Committee has been appointed by Councilman Don Achenberg to help oversee the project. The Village has approved a contract with consultants E-Sciences to provide conceptual design services and provide documents to put out an RFP (request for proposals) to design and build wastewater systems in nine phases, starting at Robbie's Marina.

Based on the EPA grant requirements, the project will consist of on-site systems that may be shared by multiple homeowners. Each treatment system is to be located on one or more of the properties that will be clustered together. These groups are expected to typically consist of one to four residential units. However, there may be areas where greater numbers of properties will be clustered.

At the April 14 LMKA meeting, members of the Village staff, the Steering Committee, E-Science, and vendors who have possible systems that could be utilized will present information about the project.

The cluster systems installed as part of this project must meet the standards that are mandated by the state by the July 2010 deadline.

Property owners, particularly those in the impacted area, are encouraged to attend and ask questions. LMKA plans to remain involved in this process. Affected homeowners are encouraged to join LMKA as a means of keeping better informed about the progress on this project.

## Mark Your Calendar

### LMKA Meeting

Monday April 14, 2008  
7 PM Boy Scout Sea Base  
Program: Decentralized Wastewater

### Village Council Run-off Election

**Be sure to vote: Tuesday April 8 2008**  
Or

Vote by absentee ballot (Call 852-7106)  
or Vote early at the Courthouse,  
MM88.8

## Council Election

### Seat 1

D Achenberg 1045 votes 57.39%  
P Bates 731 votes 40.14%

### Seat 2

J Borski 1005 votes 55.19%  
R Halenza 760 votes 41.74%

### Seat 3.....RUNOFF APRIL 8.....

D Boerner 777 votes 42.67%  
D Purdo 488 votes 26.8%  
J Rhyne 520 votes 28.56%

### Seat 4

Cathi Hill—uncontested

### Seat 5

R Levy 649 votes 35.64%  
M Reckwerdt 1113 votes 61.12%

**HELP WANTED!**

**Submit an article or an idea for the  
LMKA Newsletter.**

Contact Sue Miller at Sueorjay@terranoa.net

**LANDSCAPING THE "DONUT HOLE"  
ON EL CAPITAN DRIVE**

The cul de sac at the end of El Capitan Drive last Spring was in disarray, unkempt and used as a spare parking area and dog toilet.

Some of the neighbors wanted to improve the site and contacted Zully Hemeyer of Islamorada's Public Works. With her and her terrific crew's co-operation, together with volunteer assistance from three of the homeowners, the area has been planted, mulched, bordered with stones and maintained with great success.

Come admire the result! (And please pick up behind your dogs!)

Submitted by:  
Barbara Pensell, Bob DeFrain, Clare & Pat Gage

## Village Hires New Manager

On Thursday March 13 the Village Council unanimously approved a three-year employment contract with Kenneth R. Fields, to serve as the new village manager. Fields, a former manager of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, started work at Village Hall March 17.

Fields will make an annual salary of \$154,000 with a total compensation package worth almost \$200,000.

Fields has a bachelor's degree in engineering from Cornell University and a master's degree in public policy and management from Carnegie Mellon University. He was the assistant manager in Hollywood, Fla., from 1998 to 2002, and manager of the Seminole Tribe from 2002 to 2006, where his final salary was \$245,000.

Vice-mayor Cathi Hill and executive assistant Mary Swaney conducted the manager search and were congratulated by the council and residents for a very smooth process. The Council thanked Ed Kononis for filling in as acting manager until Fields was hired.

Fields is the fifth Manager to be hired by the Islamorada Council since the Village was incorporated ten years ago.

## **JOIN FIRM: Fair Insurance Rates in Monroe**

Go to [www.FIRMkeys.org](http://www.FIRMkeys.org) to join this terrific organization. It doesn't cost you anything, though your donations are appreciated. They are working diligently to assure our windstorm insurance rates are as reasonable as possible. A rate hike which could double your insurance bill is being considered and FIRM is working with the state of Florida to assure this doesn't happen!

### **Lower Matecumbe Key Association Statement of Purpose**

**The Lower Matecumbe Key Association, Inc. shall actively work to preserve and enhance the quality of life and environment through participation and democratic process by the residents.**

**Goals shall include:**

- 1. Monitoring activities such as zoning and construction.**
- 2. Communicating with all members to alert them to potential problems or opportunities.**
- 3. Coordinating the efforts of the individual neighborhood associations on common objectives.**
- 4. Providing an open forum for presentation and discussion of issues.**
- 5. Taking appropriate action on behalf of the membership.**

**Board of Directors:**

**President Gordon Hadley: 305-664-0621; gordo0621@aol.com**     **Vice Pres Donna Gleason**  
**Treasurer Ted Blackburn**     **Secretary Claire Johnson**

**Board members: Ann Haber, Glenn Taylor, Dave Elbaum, Pat Gaetjens, Gretel Duncan**

**Newsletter: Sue Miller, sueorjay@terranoa.net**

## Will Annual Walk Bring Results?

March 5 was a gorgeous day for the Lower Matecumbe Key Association Annual Walk. It brought together numerous residents, Village staff members including both the Acting Manager, Ed Koconis, and the future Village Manager, Ken Fields, representatives of the fire department, police department, and public works. Four members of Council plus four other candidates for council seats all walked with residents from Robbie to the Boy Scout Sea Base. LMKA President Gordon Hadley methodically went through a list of suggested improvements as the group walked south. Residents added to the wish list.

Among the improvements requested were a number of safety features along the bike path. Where the bike path is part of a wider access road, a bike path delineation needs to be painted. There are several areas where pedestrians and bike riders are not visible to vehicles entering and exiting U.S. One. Better signage is needed.

While a major landscaping effort was made several years ago, residents would like more shade trees. President Hadley again suggested that our right of way would be the perfect place to plant trees that are donated to the Village.

Several areas along the bike path are scheduled for paving within the next few weeks: MM 75.1 is an area that floods during heavy rains and has been damaged by a construction project that is now complete. At MM76.3 there is a section of the bike path that will be widened to accommodate vehicular traffic where there are four or five homeowners who need to use a stretch of the path for access.

As a result of the Walk, the Public Works department is putting up several stations where owners can get doggie bags to clean up after their pets.

## New Lower Matecumbe Fire Station

Construction of the Lower Matecumbe Fire/EMS Station is scheduled to begin in the next month. The contract with Homestead Concrete & Drainage Inc. was approved by Council on Thursday March 13. According to the contract the Village will pay Homestead \$1,158,742 which includes all labor, material, and equipment required to construct the two-bay single story fully operational fire station located at 74070 Overseas Highway. The proposed new building is a 3,341 square foot reinforced masonry structure on pilings and includes new electrical, mechanical, plumbing, fire protection, landscaping and irrigation, as well as site civil requirements for water, sewer, paving and drainage. The building will have a painted stucco finish and a standing seam metal roof. The council also agreed to pay an additional \$39,000 for a cistern on the property.

The amount spent to date on the project is \$301,545 which includes land purchase and clearing, architectural and engineering costs, and \$139,560 for an ambulance. The costs for furnishings, contingency and construction administration is estimated at approximately \$128,700. Thus, the overall project cost will be approximately \$1,627,988. No fire equipment was itemized by the Village as part of this total cost of the new Fire/EMS station, but we have had the benefit of a fire engine and an ambulance at rented space on Gulfview Drive for several years now.

LMKA, and particularly Gordon Hadley and Glenn Taylor, were instrumental in keeping this capital project on track. As a result of having a Fire/EMS Station on Lower Matecumbe, we can all feel safer. In addition, the fire insurance rates have gone down Village-wide because of this third fire station. Everyone in the Village is now within 5 miles of a fire station.

# President's Corner

By Gordon Hadley

Our six year battle to have a permanent fire/rescue station on Lower Matecumbe Key is finally nearing an end. Construction of Station 19 should begin soon.

Having paramedics and firefighters moments away has made all of us safer and more secure. We now have the same level of emergency care that the rest of Islamorada has enjoyed for over 10 years.

Station 19 is the most important addition to Lower Matecumbe Key, ever! In its 3 years of existence at the temporary site, it has produced positive results in the hundreds of emergency responses. And, will continue to benefit the community long into the future.

LMKA is proud to have made this possible.

The drive to have a timely and adequate emergency response system, on Lower Matecumbe Key, began with LMKA's membership voicing their desires. It grew into a movement and finally a reality.

LMKA's projects and island-wide enhancements have always been membership driven, and will continue to be so. Your opinions and voices are important and make up LMKA's direction. It is vital that you stay involved.

Future concerns; such as sewers, storm water projects and uncontrolled development to name a few, are just some of the issues looming ahead. Please continue to take an interest in your island paradise.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**First Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Local Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone (local):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

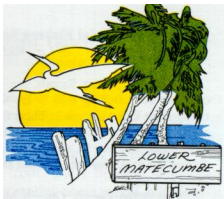
**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Save paper—get your newsletters by email**

- Do not use email except to send notices, newsletters and LMKA information.

**Make check payable to  
LMKA P. O. Box 911  
Islamorada, FL 33036  
Family \$20; Single \$12**

Share your newsletter with a neighbor.  
Invite them to join.



**Lower Matecumbe Key Assoc  
P. O. Box 911  
Islamorada, FL 33036**

**News From  
Islamorada!!!**