

Matecumbe Neighbors



Newsletter of the Lower Matecumbe Key Association

June 2008

SEA OATS BEACH CLEAN UP A SUCCESS

By Eileen Winget

Wats off+to all the volunteers who helped reclaim Sea Oats Beach from ugly debris on Saturday, April 12. On that relaxing Islamorada morning I'm sure we all would have enjoyed having another cup of coffee or reading the newspaper, but these good people knew we have a responsibility to our community. Over 55 volunteers appeared at 9:00 AM with gloves and sun hats, ready to work. And work they did. Trash of all varieties, from perhaps several countries, was littering our shores. Bags and bags of trash were collected in an orderly fashion. With the help of Islamorada Public Works and maintenance staff, our beautiful beach is now back to normal; sparkling water and shimmering sand.

In an effort to protect our beach and as part of the U. S. Highway 1 roadway improvement project, Florida Dept. Of Transportation organized a vegetation planting event along Sea Oats Beach on this same day. Over 6000 plants such as sea oats, beach panic grass, salt grass, sea lavender, sea purslane, railroad vine, and sea oxeye daisy were successfully planted. AmeriCorps deserves a huge Thank You+for all there diligent planting efforts. The work of all our volunteers is very much appreciated.

Sea Oats Beach will not stay clean unless we continue our maintenance on a monthly basis. New debris washes up every day. I strongly suggest that we select the FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH as BEACH CLEAN UP DAY. Put it on your calendar and together wed make it happen.

SEA OATS BEACH Clean-up June 7

Starting this month the Lower Matecumbe Key Association is planning to have a beach clean up at Sea Oats Beach the first Saturday of each month. Please join us!

The beach needs all the help we can give! Bring a friend!

Time: 8:00 A.M.

Where: midway on beach about MM74.7; park on bayside

Bring: water, gloves, sunscreen, and sun bonnet

HELP WANTED!!!

Matecumbe Neighbors Newsletter:

Suggest ideas for articles ò . Or write one.

Contact Sue Miller

Sueorjay@terranova.net

Provide your email please!

If you are getting this newsletter by U. S. mail, consider providing us with your email address! Youd get your newsletter faster and it will save our association the cost of printing and postage and some time too!

Send a quick note so we can add your email to our records!

Sueorjay@terranova.net

Your email will only be used by Lower Matecumbe Key Association to keep you informed of issues affecting the island.

We use email to send reminders you may be missing!

LMK Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Demonstration Project Update

By Ron Winget, Steering Committee

An abbreviated Demonstration Project Plan was described in the March 27, 2008 LMK-EPA Decentralized Sewer Project Status Report as follows:

The EPA awarded the Village a grant for the centralized management of decentralized wastewater treatment systems under the national community decentralize wastewater demonstration project for Lower Matecumbe Key on August 30 2006. This project is proposed to be implemented at nine specific areas at the north end of Lower Matecumbe Key. The Programmatic Conditions dictated by the EPA in the Cooperative Agreement include performing a research and conceptual design phase for a pilot study in Project Area A (Robbie's Marina). After construction has been completed in Project Area A, a pilot study will be conducted over the following several months to evaluate the system. Upon conclusion of the pilot study phase, full scale implementation for the design and construction of the eight remaining areas will commence if data shows that the pilot system implemented meets the Florida and EPA's June 2010 standards for wastewater discharge. If data shows there are issues with the discharge regulations, then recommendations and adjustments will be made and the system will go through another evaluation period. As much as possible the facilities constructed as portions of the demonstration project will remain in service as components of the permanent solution to the LMK wastewater needs.

Since the last LMKA meeting on April 14 there has been some progress on the Demonstration Project and some adjustment of the schedule. The time line is as follows:

- 4/21/08 . E-Sciences delivered the Draft Pilot Project Area A Work Plan to the Village
- 5/23/08 . The Village reviewed and commented on Draft Work Plan
- 5/30/08 . E-Sciences to submit the Final Work Plan/Concept Plan to the Village
- 6/27/08 . E-Sciences to submit a RFP and other bid documents to the Village

Once accepted by the Village, the Final Work Plan/Concept Plan will be supplied to the Steering Committee for review and then sent to FDOH and FDEP for application of a construction permit. It is conceivable that construction for Project Area A (Robbie's Marina and approximately 9 homes to the south) could begin by year's end.

Remaining Phases expected to be done in sequential order:

- Area B- Tarpon Point (formerly Star of the Sea)
- Area C- Davis Shores and State Park Land Base
- Area D- 6 oceanfront homes south of Tarpon Point
- Area E- Tennis Club, homes, condos on Cortez Drive, one oceanfront complex
- Area F- Columbus Drive, Stillbeach
- Area G- From south of Stillbeach to north of Matecumbe Resort
- Area H- Bayside homes from Fantasy Harbor south- 19 homes
- Area I- Matecumbe Resort and south including 12 single family homes

Continued on Page 4

One of the conditions of the EPA Agreement is implementation of a Public Participation Plan. In a March 7, 2008 letter to Steering Committee Chairman Charlie Cupper, Rick Dedman (E-Sciences) describes a Public Participation Plan that consists of the following;

- A local Steering Committee appointed to be the focal point of all project activities
- Steering Committee will help coordinate a more specific local group comprised of neighborhood captains and property owners that will participate in the demonstration project.
- Steering Committee will be involved in a public education program related to the planning, design, construction, start-up and evaluation of alternative technologies and management systems.
- All residents and property owners shall be given full opportunity to participate in the planning and implementation of the public-owned wastewater collection and treatment systems in the project area.
- Participate in the preparation of construction bidding and contract related documents, including plans and specifications for the advertisement, receipt of bids, evaluation and negotiations of the construction contract.

It is important to look at any new public utility system from the homeowner's point of view. By explaining in layman's terms the purpose of the onsite portion of the wastewater system, where it is to be located, how it works, and how maintenance is provided via Village centralized management, the public is given the opportunity to take a personal interest in the decisions to be made in their community and on their private property.

As you may know, the Lower Matecumbe Key Decentralized Wastewater System Steering Committee has been formed. The Steering Committee is presently developing relationships with associated agencies and gathering information. The Committee is working on the following action items:

- Authorize or recommend to the Village Council that the project web site be launched.
- Discuss alternatives for piping raw wastewater and/or partially treated wastewater effluent from each building lot to the final wastewater treatment and effluent disposal/reuse facility.
- Discuss treatment alternatives.
-

Once these alternatives have been narrowed down to a few, the steering committee will require a comparative analysis of the alternatives for phase 1 of the project, including costs. This will be presented to the Village Council for final approval and as a preliminary engineering report to support an application for EPA's concurrence.

If you or your neighbors have issues or questions, your first contact should be members of this committee. Their contact information is as follows;

Charles Kupper (Chairman) 305-517-5262 C9529@bellsouth.net
 Ron Winget (Vice Chairman) 305-664-5044 ronwinget@bellsouth.net
 Martin Moe 305-517-9085 martin_moe@yahoo.com
 Richard (Dick) Wilson 305-664-3866 wwoodrow@webtv.net
 Bill McDonough 305-853-9355 wmcDonough@oas.org
 Kenneth Gleason 305-664-3097 mumbainthekeys@aol.com
 Bill Parker 305-664-3152 wtparker@sigco.com
 Don Achenberg (Council Liaison) 305-664-5461 Dachenberg@aol.com
 Myles Milander (Staff Liaison) 305-664-6451 myles.milander@islamorada.fl.us

Lower Matecumbe Fire Rescue Station 19 Update

By Glenn Taylor

Have you driven by the property lately where station 19 will be permanently located? The general contractor, Homestead Concrete and Drainage Inc., has done quite a bit the past few weeks. On May 27th the contractor met with the architect, village staff and interested parties to go over the progress. There was discussion about the permits, construction, and paperwork needed to keep the project moving along. February 27, 2009 is the anticipated completion date. As long as there are no unforeseeable delays in the future, the project is anticipated to be completed on time.

We are all excited that this building is now at the "bricks and mortar" stage of construction. Our Fire Rescue crews and equipment will be in their new home and ready to continue protecting our piece of paradise in less than a year.

Pygmy Sperm Whale Visits Lower Matecumbe Key

By Glenn Taylor

On February 23, 2008 Islamorada Fire Rescue (Station 19) was dispatched to the area of MM 75.4 oceanside, for a report of a beached whale. When the crew arrived, sure enough there was a large mammal flailing in about 3 feet of water with the tide going out.

All appropriate agencies were notified and staffing from the Marine Mammal Conservancy arrived and determined that the whale was a pygmy sperm whale weighing approximately 900 pounds, sex undetermined. With the aid of the water for buoyancy and 10 volunteers, we were able to surround the whale, named Gage, with a tarp and move the animal to a boat ramp. The whale was transported by truck to Key Largo and treated. The whale's condition was described as critical. Experts said that the rehabilitation success rate for this type of whale isn't very good. Unfortunately, the whale expired a week later.

That is not the only call Station 19 has responded to recently. There have been numerous medical emergencies, a hazardous material spill, and a number of motor vehicle accidents since the whale beaching.

Soups to Nuts... some food for thought

Sojourn: No word yet on when the public hearing on the high density re-zoning of the Sojourn property will be scheduled. Council plans to have another executive session to discuss litigation strategy before the public hearing.

Traffic Calming: Earlier this year, Safety Harbor requested the Village install speed humps on their roadways. The Village discussed numerous ideas to calm traffic on roadways through subdivisions. More research is underway by village staff before the Council establishes a policy to help neighborhoods who are having traffic issues.

Golf Cart Ordinance: Some Port Antigua residents are hoping the Village will pass an ordinance making golf carts legal in their subdivision. The council agreed that before any subdivision has public streets approved for golf carts the homeowners association for the subdivision must pay several thousand dollars for a golf cart traffic study.

Recycling: The Council is planning an effort to improve upon our dismal recycling statistics. Please do your share to diligently recycle appropriate waste. It is such an important issue! We all need to do better.

Village Projects: Look for major new local facilities: a \$906K bath house, \$1.188 million community center, and \$5 million dollar marina upgrades at Founders Park along with \$1.628 million Lower Matecumbe fire station are underway all with completion dates within a year. A \$362,650 design contract has been approved for a fire/police station with village offices above it at Founders Park, at estimated cost of \$5 million, to be completed by Oct 2009. A future fishing museum and 130 seat auditorium/council meeting room on the Southwind property is being considered.

Current Village debt is approximately \$21 million (including \$7 million for the sewer taxing district.) Additional debt has been approved for projects now in the planning stages. The sewer projects will add debt for the sewer districts.

The entire county remains under pressure to meet the July 1, 2010 deadline when all homes and businesses are required to meet new guidelines for wastewater. The cost to sewer Islamorada is expected to be well in excess of \$150 million. The village has approved a \$3.2 million North Plantation Key sewer system extension and the \$5 million wastewater project on upper Lower Matecumbe. Sewering the lower end of Lower Matecumbe is next.

President's Corner

By Gordon Hadley

Some people say 'I don't like Florida because there aren't any seasons'

I say they're wrong, we have plenty of seasons: tourist season, lobster season, dolphin season and the season we are in right now, the dreaded hurricane season.

Yes, it's that time again. Time to check your hurricane preparedness. Have you stocked up on extra batteries for the radio and flashlights, stock-piled plenty of bottled water, made a 'once-over' inspection of your hurricane shutters? Have you prepared a packet of your important papers, including medical prescriptions, in case you have to evacuate? How about a quick look at any of your trees that might need trimming? Are you prepared to secure your boat?

And once you have all that preparation behind you, it's time to sit back and enjoy the flat seas and warm summer breezes of our island paradise.

Lower Matecumbe Key Association wishes everyone a safe and happy summer.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

First Name(s): _____

Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Local Address: _____

Phone (local): _____

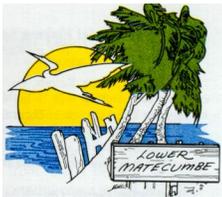
Other phone: _____

Email: _____

We only use the email address to send newsletters, information and reminders about the Lower Matecumbe Key Association

**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!!!**