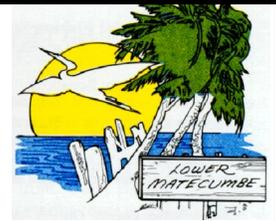


Matecumbe Neighbors



Newsletter of the Lower Matecumbe Key Association

Email Address: LMKAnews@gmail.com

January 2014

January LMKA Meeting

When: Tuesday January 28, 2014; 6:30 pm

Where: Boy Scout Sea Base,
73800 Overseas Highway, MM73.8
Administration Building

What: Advanced Disposal's Bruce Williams
talks Trash

Bruce Williams has been in charge of solid waste disposal in the Islamorada area for decades, working for several garbage haulers over the years. Our community has depended on him in so many ways. We all should recognize how lucky we are to have Bruce Williams for Islamorada.

Advanced Disposal now has a new more automated garbage collection system with all new trash cans and procedures. Bruce will be explaining changes we need to understand and answering questions about the new procedures.

Help us Brainstorm

While we are learning from Bruce, perhaps we can brainstorm a bit and find some solution to a trash problem that has long aggravated many residents- the significant number of property owners who leave their trash cans cluttering our street sometimes for days before and after pick-up days. It seems to be such a standard practice that many must think it is acceptable.

New Year.... New Energy

With 2014 here *already*, help make the new year one of improvements for LMKA. Please get involved. Come to our meetings, volunteer your efforts by joining the board, writing an article for the newsletter, helping with a beach or highway clean-up, providing feedback so the board knows what the membership is thinking!

Village Nearshore Water Meeting Topic: The Wheel Ditch

The Near Shore Water Citizens' Advisory Committee will meet on **Tuesday, January 21, 2014 beginning at 5:15 p.m.** at the Founders Park Community Center A representative of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will discuss the safety of Bucky's wheel ditch with the Islamorada.

The wheel ditch near Robbie's, known locally as Bucky's wheel ditch, is a manmade navigational channel that is a short cut through the mangroves used by so many boaters in our area.

Florida's Fish and Wildlife is attempting to measure local support before implementing changes to make this channel safer for power boats, kayaks, and canoes.

Safety measures that have been mentioned for consideration include a slow speed zone and/or extensive trimming to offer wider visibility for boaters traveling through the wheel ditch.

If you have ideas or opinions, now is your chance to be heard!

PAY YOUR LMKA 2014 DUES NOW!

Send a check to LMKA, Box 911, Islamorada 33036
\$20 per family; \$12 for individuals

Mark your Calendar

**Tuesday January 28, 2014—6:30 PM, at the
Sea Base: Monthly LMKA Meeting.**

**Tuesday January 21—5:15 P.M. at Founders
Park Community Room—Near Shore Water
meeting about the Wheel Ditch**

You are encouraged to contact the Islamorada Village Council .

Email Village Clerk, Ariana Lawson, at ariana.lawson@islamorada.fl.us and ask her to distribute the email to council. Or send an email to individual members to let them know how you feel .



Mayor, Ted Blackburn
Ted.Blackburn@islamorada.fl.us



Councilman Dave Purdo
Dave.Purdo@islamorada.fl.us



Councilman, Mike Forster
Mike.Forster@islamorada.fl.us



Vice Mayor, Deb Gillis
Deb.Gillis@islamorada.fl.us



Councilman, Ken Philipson
Ken.Phippison@islamorada.fl.us

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 Donna Gleason Vice Pres and Treasurer- Hermine Zavar Secretary Dennie Zettwoch

Board members: Rosemary Duke, Laura Lynne Kennedy, Jacquie Dozier

Newsletter: Sue Miller, editor

Email address- LMKAnews@gmail.com

The opinions in this newsletter are not necessarily the opinions of the Board of Directors of LMKA.

Bits and Pieces

Update on Department of Transportation Habitat Restoration at MM77.5

As reported in our June 2013 newsletter, FDOT began a wetland and upland habitat restoration project at FDOT-owned property at Mile Marker 77.5, a 6.56 acre oceanfront tract at the north end of Lower Matecumbe. The restoration work was for required mitigation for U.S. 1 roadwork on Grassy Key. Exotic vegetation was removed last June and was to be replaced with native trees to provide habitat for federal- and state-protected species.

The original plan was to plant over 300 larger trees and over 6500 smaller native trees, shrubs and grasses. The project was being coordinated by John Palenchar, District Environmental Permits Coordinator for FDOT. John retired several months ago and now FDOT's Suzanne Travis is in charge of the restoration project. She reports that some changes have been made to the original plan, thus delays in the restoration. They found that a single effort to remove the invasive exotics was not adequate as the roots and seeds left behind allowed the exotics to return. Several more clearing efforts will be made to assure the exotics are under better control. As the rainy season approaches new native trees and shrubs will be planted, however, they have cut back on the numbers as they have observed that native plant "volunteer" seedlings are popping up on the cleared property, thus they plan a more conservative approach, allowing restoration to happen more naturally.

The property is protected in perpetuity as a preserve, with no public access once the restoration is completed. There are thick mangroves to the ocean side and a 6' high fence encloses the remaining three sides of the property. The extraordinary ecology of this property has attracted interest from several organizations. Several endangered plants were discovered and some of the seeds have been collected by environmental organizations hoping to propagate these rare species. Eventually FDOT hopes to transfer the property to the Florida Parks Department for conservation.

Adopt a Highway

LMKA is awaiting placement of a sign by FDOT, adjacent to Sea Oats Beach, crediting the Lower Matecumbe Key Association in their "Adopt A Highway" program. Our application to participate in this program was accepted. Volunteers from LMKA will be officially responsible for keeping two miles of our scenic highway cleaned up and beautiful.

Every year thousands of visitors get a glimpse of our island's beauty from their car windows as they travel along the Overseas Highway. First impressions can be long lasting. We don't want them to see the roadway cluttered with litter. We want all who travel our island to appreciate the clean, green tree-lined highway that is part of the reason we all love Lower Mat... with our section of highway representing the Florida Key's natural beauty perhaps better than any other stretch in the island chain. And that is why the Lower Matecumbe Key Association decided to Adopt-A-Highway.

VOLUNTEERS WILL:

- "Adopt" a two-mile section of a state highway
- Follow DOT safety regulations.
- Remove litter at least four times each year.
- Dedicate two years to the program.

FDOT WILL:

- Assist with safety meetings.
- Provide safety vests and litter bags.
- Pick up collected litter at specific pre-arranged locations.
- Post Adopt-A-Highway sign recognizing LMKA.

President's Corner

By Donna Gleason

Let me wish you all a belated Happy and Healthy New Year!

The Lower Matecumbe Key Association will start out our 2014 season with a "Community Service" meeting featuring Bruce Williams, of Advanced Disposal, our garbage hauler, to help us make our collection process easier and our neighborhoods neater.

LMKA has been a strong organization, with a voice in Islamorada for 28 years. As everyone knows, the backbone of a strong organization is it's "leadership team"; in our case The Board of Directors. We have 5 very committed Board Members, besides me, who are working behind the scenes to keep strength and credibility in LMKA.

However, our By Laws call for a Board of 9 members. In order to vote on any action, including elections of officers, we must fill those three vacancies. Please, if you have a desire to serve your community in a way that will enable the members of LMKA to continue to depend on us; as conservators and as a source of pertinent information, please consider "tossing your hat in the ring".

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting on January 28 at 6:30. Please be sure to fill out a name tag, which will be available at the meeting.

Membership Application/Renewal

First Name(s): _____

Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Local Address: _____

Phone (local): _____

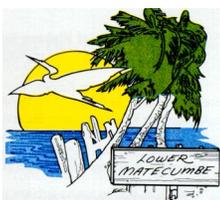
Other phone: _____

Email: _____

Provide your email please!

Get your newsletter faster and save LMKA printing/postage costs! We only use the email address to send newsletters, information and reminders about Lower Matecumbe.

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



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

*News from
Islamorada*