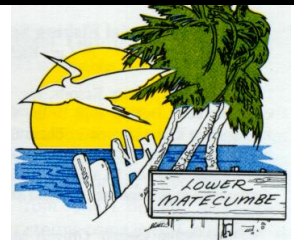


Matecumbe Neighbors



Newsletter of the Lower Matecumbe Key Association

February 2008

New Board For LMKA

At the January 21, 2008 meeting of the Lower Matecumbe Key Association, nine members were elected to the Board of Directors:

Ann Haber , Glenn Taylor, Gordon Hadley, Claire Johnson, Ted Blackburn, Dave Elbaum, Donna Gleason, Pat Gaetjens, Gretel Duncan

The Board of Directors met on January 31 and elected officers:

President Gordon Hadley
Vice Pres Donna Gleason
Treasurer Ted Blackburn
Secretary Claire Johnson

HELP WANTED!

Candidate Forum questions /Concerns to discuss at Annual Walk:

Gordon Hadley at 305-664-0621 or
gordo0621@aol.com

Wastewater Steering Committee:

Volunteer to be on the committee!
Councilman Don Achenberg
305-664-5461 or Dachenberg@aol.com

Matecumbe Neighbors Newsletter:

Suggest ideas for articles or write one.
Sue Miller
Sueorjay@terranova.net

Upcoming Events

Village Council Candidate Forum...

The forum will be held at the Boy Scout Sea Base from 7 to 9 PM Monday February 25. Get to know all of the candidates before the March 11 election. There are some significant philosophical differences in the platforms of the candidates. Understand how these differing viewpoints may affect the direction of the council in the coming years and then vote accordingly!

If you have questions you'd like to ask the candidates get in touch with Gordon Hadley. (See Help Wanted)

Candidates running for office are
Seat 1: Don Achenberg and Paul Bates
Seat 2: Jill Zima Borski and Rod Halenza
Seat 3: Dave Boerner, Dave Purdo, Jim Rhyne
Seat 4: Cathi Hill elected unopposed
Seat 5: Ron Levy and Michael Reckwerdt

Annual Walk...

The Annual Walk has been scheduled for Wednesday March 5. Join neighbors walking and talking as we brainstorm about improvements we can help facilitate on the island. We will be joined by Council members/candidates, Village staff, and a variety of representatives of government agencies.

Start at Robbies Marina at 8:30 in the morning and end at the Boy Scout Sea Base or anywhere in between! We'll shuttle you back to your car.

Wastewater News— \$115 million more debt?

The State of Florida has mandated that all property owners in the Florida Keys must meet stringent wastewater standards by July 1, 2010. When we incorporated, Islamorada adopted the Monroe County Wastewater Plan as it applies to the village. The highest priority area in the plan was North Plantation Key. Phase I of the sewer system there is operational, but has had huge problems, delaying implementation of Phase II. Phase III is awaiting funding.

An agenda item for the February 14, 2008 Council meeting is a recommendation from the Water Quality Committee asking the Council to borrow \$115 million to move forward with sewers for the entire Village, hoping that future grants can reduce that debt. A special wastewater assessment would be used to pay off the debt.

Central System for South End of Lower Matecumbe

The next priority in the Wastewater Master Plan includes Port Antigua and nearby subdivisions. That area is next in line for central sewers. Watch for additional information as it becomes available.

On-Site Wastewater for North end of Lower Matecumbe

At the north end of Lower Matecumbe, the Village has received approval for a grant from EPA to do a \$5 million centrally managed decentralized wastewater+ demonstration project. EPA will provide 75% of the cost up to \$3.8 million.

E Sciences, the Village engineers, are currently working on conceptual design for the first area (Robbies Marina) and re-searching suitable technology. The technology is expected to consist of an on-site component at each residence or business (interceptor tank or septic tank) to separate solids and liquids and perform initial stages of treatment. Instead of the effluent going into a drain field as with current septic systems, it will be conveyed to a clustered treatment component which will then treat the wastewater to the standards required, before discharging it. A cluster of homes/businesses will share the treatment component. A cluster may be several neighbors or an entire neighborhood. Availability of land for the treatment component and drainfield will be a critical issue in determining the layout of each cluster.

The EPA demonstration project is expected to include all improved properties from Robbies Marina south to about MM760 approximately 150 homes, several businesses and a couple motels. The project has been broken into 9 areas, each potentially demonstrating different technology. If all areas are done sequentially it is anticipated that all areas will be operational in 40 to 60 months. The current projections indicate the cost per household will be approximately \$30,000. Residents will pay \$7500 of that. If projections are underestimated, 100% of additional costs will be paid by property owners.

Councilman Don Achenberg is heading up a Steering Committee for this project. There are several openings on the committee. Residents in the affected area are encouraged to participate. Contact him at 305-664-5461 or Dbachenberg@aol.com if you are willing to serve on the committee.

Public participation is a critical part of this process. In addition to the Steering Committee, according to initial plans, there will be numerous public hearings, a website, regularly monthly mailings, an email list, workshops, a survey, and ads in the local media. Councilman Achenberg plans to keep us all updated as well. A mock website for the project can be viewed at www.esciencesinc.com/other/village. In the near future the Village website should have links to the wastewater project information: www.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 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@terranova.net

Small Town Police Department

An objective of the Islamorada police department is to maintain a local police force that is community-oriented, dedicated to the principles of community policing and committed to building police-community partnerships.

There are several programs that the department has implemented that demonstrate this effort.

Trespass Warning Program is available to both businesses and property owners in the village. The police department provides a village trespassing sign that is placed on the property. The owners sign an agreement that the police department is to act as their agent to warn people who are trespassing to leave the property immediately. If the owner is not present, the police are authorized to take enforcement action without a need to first call the owner. Contact Lt. Tom Brazil at 853-7021 if you would like to participate in this program. The signs are free but the police department has limited availability of signs. They appreciate donations to allow for the purchase of additional signs.

Vacation House Checks - if you are going to be out of town and would like to have the police department drive by periodically to check your property, call Leah Zimmerman, Administrative Assistant, at 853-7021.

Another service available in Islamorada is boating safety enforcement. There are two fulltime marine officers budgeted this year as well as a third officer and vessel for enforcement activities during peak times and events.

Changes in Roadway Maintenance

The Village Public Works Department is the group, headed by Zully Hemeyer, that maintains all public rights of way, public buildings and grounds, parks, and bike paths, just to name a few of their responsibilities. In the past, mowing of the right of way of the Overseas Highway was contracted out. The rest of the work was done in house. This year, for the first time, the Public Works department has its own village employees mowing along U.S. One. And taxpayers got to see an \$85,000 decrease in mowing costs when the new budget was approved last September. In fact, the amended Public Works budget for 2006-2007 approved total expenses of \$778,214. The expenses projected in the 2007-2008 budget was dropped to \$602,528.

Besides the cost savings, there are numerous added advantages of having the work done by Village employees. The equipment can also be used for maintaining the 151 Village roads through neighborhoods, where right of way trimming is done annually. Previous contracts were limited in their scope. When there are issues with maintenance now, we don't have to look to a contract to see whether we should expect more, we can ask for more!

If you have concerns or ideas that you think should be considered, contact Zully Heymeyer at the Village 305-852-6933. Better yet, Zully is likely to be walking with our Association on March 5 - join in the Annual Walk and talk to Zully face to face. She's worked hard for us since the Village was young!

President's Corner

By Gordon Hadley

LMKA is still alive and is still strong!

LMKA has spent the last year focusing on the completion of the permanent Lower Matecumbe fire station. The end appears to be in sight. The fire station construction bid will be awarded this month. Construction is scheduled to take about one year.

But, new battles loom ahead. The Village of Islamorada has set its site on Lower Matecumbe Key to be the next island to have sewers installed. LMKA will remain keenly interested in all phases of this project.

Issues that we have spear-headed in the past remain prominent. Wastewater, bike path maintenance and landscaping, and preservation of Sea Oats Beach, to name a few, will continue to be areas of concern.

Ongoing events, such as, the bike path walks, candidate forums, and regular LMKA meetings round out the efforts of LMKA to keep our island a tropical paradise.

Congratulations to the all of the new Board of Directors. I think this is going to be an exciting and productive Board.

Please stay in touch with all the topics that affect our island and stay involved with keeping LMKA alive and strong.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

First Name(s): _____

Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Local Address: _____

Phone (local): _____

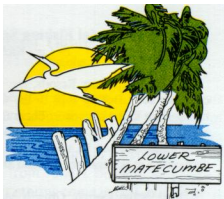
Other phone: _____

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!!!**