



Boulevard Buzz

News from Siesta Key Village Association – February 2010

Update on code enforcement in the village

Sarasota County code enforcement officer John Lally attended the January General Meeting of the Siesta Key Village Association to discuss some current zoning issues.

- Lally noted that the county now has a street vendor ordinance that allows sales along roads and sidewalks with proper permitting. Would-be vendors must apply to the county zoning department for a 1-year temporary use permit. To date three permits have been issued, two in Venice and one farther south. One Siesta Key application has been made by the shrimp seller on Stickney Point Road – who must go elsewhere as that is a state right-of-way – and Perry's BBQ in front of the Old Salty Dog. Perry was turned down by the Zoning Director Brad Bailey since the business takes up parking spaces which, Bailey says, are in too short supply. SKVA president Mark Smith said that the Association has sent a letter to the county urging that no permits be issued on Siesta Key in competition with local businesses.

- Changes in the noise ordinance are almost complete. Most importantly, non-compliance with the ordinance will be a civil, not criminal, offense. Lally said bar and restaurant owners have really been working to keep noise complaints to a minimum.

- Twenty-nine businesses were written up during December for sign infractions. Lally said he had been willing to keep a low profile during the holidays but complaints to his boss had pushed him to take a harder line. Signs that are not allowed include A-frames, ones that stick in the ground, and loose banners. Signs along sidewalks or in the right-of-way will be removed. Lorry Eible, owner of Foxy Lady, noted that at this point in the economy businesses need all the help they can get. Signage on Siesta is more tightly regulated due to the Siesta Key Overlay District and she suggested that as a group of business owners should work to change it. Doing so would require working with other organizations on the Key to reach consensus.

Monthly meetings

The Siesta Key Village Association next general membership meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 2, 8:30 a.m., at Daiquiri Deck Raw Bar. All are welcome.

Join the 'in' crowd

Members of the Siesta Key Village Association work together to improve the entire village and bring people here to enjoy all the shops and restaurants. Join today and be part of those who work for a better Siesta Village. Contact Mark at 346-7205 and find out how to help.

Valentine Stroll Friday, Feb. 12

The annual Siesta Key Village Association Valentine Stroll will be held from 6-9 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 12. Participating members of the Association can pick up identifying balloons at Daiquiri Deck Raw Bar after 4 p.m. on the day of the event.

All businesses in the Village are encouraged to stay open for the event that draws hundreds of visitors. Please have Hershey's Kisses and any other refreshments for those attending. The Rose Lady will be set up in front of Daiquiri Deck.

In other Siesta Village business...

- Siesta Village Hardware is holding the first Pet Adoption event on the key on Saturday, Feb. 13, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. "Weekend of Love" will feature dogs and cats to adopt, a Smooch a Pooch booth, pet therapy teams and more, with artwork from Easter Seals. The event will benefit the Humane Society of Sarasota County, Animal Services of Sarasota County and Easter Seals of Sarasota.

- On Valentines Day, Sunday, Feb. 14, there will be a dedication of the plaque honoring Charlie Valentine, former executive director of the Siesta Key Chamber of Commerce. The dedication will be at 4 p.m. at the gazebo in Siesta Village. There will be speakers and refreshments. The public is invited.

- The new entry signs which the Siesta Key Village Association purchased for either end of the Village will be installed shortly. The signs had to be redone.

- Upcoming dates include the Crafts Fair Feb. 6 and 7; Easter Egg Hunt April 3; and Siesta Fiesta April 24 and 25.