

CASEY KEY ASSOCIATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to this special edition of the Keynoter. This Keynoter is being sent to all residents of Casey Key not just to members of the Association. Obviously, it is longer than usual and it covers not just what is happening on the Key today but gives you some history of the association's past and hopefully provides some insight into our future. The CKA Board felt that this special edition was necessary to help put the events of the past year into some context and to give everyone some perspective. There are so many new members to our community who are unaware of several important past events that have helped shape life as we know it today on the Key. And, there appears to be a need to remove some confusion and lack of clarity with regard to the Association itself, its purpose and role.

This past year has been both an important and eventful one for Casey Key. Not since the formation of the Casey Key Conservation District in the 1970's, have the residents been more engaged and vocally concerned about their home and quality of life on this precious strip of land.

While the issues have caused some stress and discord, our debate has mainly been on how to address them not on their seriousness and relevance to us. Unfortunately, like most debates, we have quickly set aside that which brings us together and have focused on our differences. I think it is safe to say that we all love this island and have chosen to live here over other possible choices for a reason. We are concerned about our individual property rights and those of our neighbors; we are independent thinkers and like our privacy. If you are like me, you also love sharing this bit of heaven with your families and friends. And, we are prepared to defend and protect our reasons for living here. These are some of the things that we have in common and which bring us together.

In many respects, the core issues behind today's concerns have been around for many years; private property rights, safety, the condition of Casey Key Road, the environment and the viability of our beach and little Sarasota Bay. However, several mega events converged in late 2008 and 2009 that have raised both the level of intensity and urgency making it necessary for these issues to be addressed now. The three major issues that come to mind immediately are: the county's more aggressive set of actions which threaten our private property rights, an economic climate that has affected our property values and the underground utilities project which affects us all and will cost money. As a result, the CKA Board and independent home owners and groups of home owners began to identify and consider alternative ways to address these issues. As these alternatives surfaced, others in our community expressed concern about the consequences of the alternatives being considered and the impact on the status quo which many residents would like to maintain. It is not surprising that debate and the unavoidable disagreements arose.

Much has been said and written about these issues and the agenda and motives of the Casey Key Association, its Board and other various groups outside the CKA during these debates. Some were factual and fair and a great deal were unfair and untrue. The primary purpose of this special edition, therefore, is to remind us once again of what we have in common, to put the events of the past few months into context and to ensure CKA members and non-members that the CKA and its Board have only one fundamental purpose vvvvvvv

In the following pages you will see some of the important past accomplishments, some clarity around the issues and topics being discussed today and the vision the current CAK Board has for the CKA's immediate future and set of priorities. The most significant of these is the formation of the Barrier Island League in collaboration with our sister associations on Manasota and Siesta Keys. For years we have had informal discussions and points of

coordination among us and have long recognized that we have many things in common. Like so many things these past months, events have brought certain things into sharp focus, one of which is that by working more formally and collaboratively our three Key's are in a much better and stronger position to ensure that concerns we have in common are more likely to be addressed in ways that are acceptable and responsive to us. As a result the CKA Board recently took the initiative to be the catalyst for reaching out to the associations of Manasota and Siesta Key to form this "informal/formal" League which each has enthusiastically agreed to join.

The past several months have been hard for a number of us. We have witnessed the unintended consequence of our necessary and healthy debate of neighbor disagreeing with neighbor and confusion and miss information taking center stage around how to best address the issues we have been dealt and to determine the actions we must take to sustain the integrity of our island's life style.. We trust this special edition will help all of us to continue the debate but in so doing better understand our different points of view while not forgetting what brings us all together.

For those of us leaving the island for the summer months safe travels, for those of you remaining, enjoy the beach and to all of us let's agree to work together to sustain all that is best for our Key and to focus on actually doing those things necessary to protect and enrich its environment and quality of life for all of us.

Sincerely,

*Mike*