

September 1, 2023

Tolomato Owners' Newsletter

Introducing the new Tolomato Owners' Email System and Web site

We are pleased to announce that a new email system and web site have been developed by and for Tolomato Owners and is available today! It is not associated with the TIPOA Board of Director's system.

Soon, information that should be shared among owners will be sent to you from the email address tolomatoowners@gmail.com. You may use the same email address to contact the system administrators. Please adjust any email or spam filters accordingly. tolomatoowners@gmail.com will gradually replace the email service that has been providing non-Board newsletters etc.

A new web site www.tolomatoowners.org is also ready for you. This new site is specifically for owners and residents. In addition to a place to post notices of events, pictures, general news, ask for help etc. it has a Blog feature "Island News" that allows owners to post serious information or just plain fun stuff and provides the ability for other owners to comment.

All functions of the web site are available for all to read. The Blog though will require your registering, so that comments when added, are attributed to real people. We hope the Blog will provide a mechanism for open communications and for distributing information and opinions, with kindness, and minimal oversight. It will be largely self-policing however the system administrator reserves the right to take down posts that are hurtful, or untruthful in nature.

Importantly, the new system will provide a forum for this fall's TIPOA Board of Directors elections. Candidates will have the ability to post their resumes and will have a chance to provide, amend or defend their positions on various issues important to owners. There are several other owner requested changes to the election system that we can accommodate.

If you don't currently receive non-Board of Directors notices and newsletters, and wish to receive them or want to make sure you are on the new mailing list, please send a note to tolomatoowners@gmail.com

The first event is already on the calendar.... the **End of Summer Picnic.... September 30, 2023**. Please register, please attend, and please add any events or fun stuff that you would like to invite people to, or you need help with.

And the first serious conversation has been posted... **Hurricane Preparedness - Were we Ready for Idalia? What is next?** This conversation is waiting on your comments and suggestions.

Why a new Web site, and email system? We, the owners of Tolomato need information and the ability to exchange thoughts and ideas. Tolomato Island is a land full of high achievers, people with real knowledge and experience. Their worries, their suggestions, their skill, and knowledge should be

considered. Further a vehicle for private event planning is much needed. Both are an inherent part of the new web site.

Open communications between owners, or groups of owners, discussing suggestions, offering critiques, offering news, or planning events, and fun stuff are not accommodated on the official Tolomato Island Property Owners Association web site, tolomato.org. It is a closed system serving the Board of Directors. The new email system and web site are not designed to replace the official system it is however designed to exchange information thoughts and ideas.

Ok, why not put the effort into fixing the official system? Perhaps it could be fixed, but information is controlled, edited, and censored.

Unlike the official system, the Tolomato Owner's systems have been developed and paid for by generous owners, who have no agenda except for giving us a voice. We appreciate their generosity and hope to use their investment wisely.

Lastly, many of us want to be left alone to enjoy the beauty of the place in which we live or hope to live. We have no desire to fill our time with the seemingly petty politics. Whether owners choose to act on something important to them, or participate in some event, it is their choice, but it is always a good idea to be informed.

In all that transpires on Tolomato it is important to know that we are all neighbors and that we have the ability through good communications to work through any issues, celebrate our successes, and enjoy each other's company.

We appreciate your attention.