



**Pay attention, it's now Peak Hurricane Season!**

**Town Initiatives - Snapshot**

**Hurricane Preparedness.** The 2020 tropics activity has been unprecedented and up to “N” for Hurricane names! Please have a safe place to go if an evacuation order is issued. Public sheltering is a last resort and remains complicated with COVID-19 active transmissions still occurring locally. Check out the Town’s website at [www.longboatkey.org](http://www.longboatkey.org) for hurricane preparedness info and remember to monitor local weather for storm threats.

**COVID-19.** We are in month 6 of the pandemic. On August 31<sup>st</sup> our Commission extended the mandatory mask ordinance an additional 90 days through November 30<sup>th</sup>. Even though positive test results are trending down over the past 30 days, there are still a number of active cases on the mainland that we are monitoring. We continue to keep our beach access parking closed, as well as some other amenities, and activities. We update our restrictions every two weeks with the next update after the Labor Day weekend.

**Town Facilities and Public Meetings.** Town Hall remains closed for walk-ins, with in-person visits by appointment only. The format of all September Commission, Board, and Committee Meetings will continue as virtual meetings utilizing Zoom, as well as Town website livestreaming of Commission Meetings.

**New Police Chief.** Retiring Police Chief Pete Cumming will be recognized at the September 29<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting. Kelli Smith a 29-year police veteran and current Chief of the NAU Police Department in Arizona has accepted a conditional offer to be the next Police Chief. Start date will be set after her background screening.

**Wastewater Leak.** We continue to work with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) on the leak that was discovered on June 29. The leak was on the mainland end of the pipeline that connects to the Manatee County treatment facility. The water quality testing associated with the leak is complete, and indicates that “there was no evidence of even a short-term impact of the sewage leak on bacteria levels in Sarasota Bay.” A third-party engineering firm is conducting forensic work for the Town to determine the actual amount of the discharge, and the cause of the hole in the pipe. We have also asked our wastewater consultant to expedite planning and permitting of a redundant line across the Bay. When a leak like this occurs, FDEP will send the Utility a proposed Consent Order that will include penalties based on a State formula/matrix. We should receive that proposed Order in the next several weeks which will begin the formal discussions with FDEP on closing out the incident.

**Gulfstream & US 41 Roundabout Maintenance of Traffic.** Good news... there has been progress with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the City of Sarasota on the construction phase of the planned roundabout. Both parties have agreed to delay construction until after next season (April 2021) and have modified the construction plans to reduce the timeframe by approximately 100 days. They have also revised the detour plan to minimize disruption during construction. They are also considering a temporary pedestrian overpass during construction. They are meeting with the Ritz Carlton to evaluate feasibility as it would require some of their property. If so, it would eliminate the HAWK pedestrian crossing signal at 1<sup>st</sup> Street during construction.

**Outdoor Venue at Town Center.** Phase 1 of the outdoor venue site work is complete. The total cost came in under budget by \$119,004.87 which will be used to help move forward with the Phase 2 design.

**Undergrounding.** Wilco is wrapping up all Phase 1 conduit installation this week. Overhead-to-underground conversions are the next phase. Phase 2 Neighborhood work begins this month.

**TECO** is currently installing a 6” gas line from Northshore Road to Bayview, which is NOT part of the Town’s project.

**Upcoming Meetings/Events**

- September 14, 2020 1 pm, Town Commission Regular Meeting (Virtual)
- September 14, 2020 5:01 pm, Town Commission Special Meeting – Budget (Virtual)
- September 15, 2020 9:15 am, Planning & Zoning Board Regular Meeting (Virtual)
- September 29, 2020 1 pm, Town Commission Regular Workshop Meeting (Virtual)
- September 29, 2020 5:01 pm, Town Commission Special Meeting – Budget Adoption (Virtual)

**Fast Facts**

*2020 is the first hurricane season in recorded history with 13 named storms before September! Nana and Omar are up next.... The big question is “When & Where?”*