



### State of Florida Phase 3 Re-Opening, Yes, it is still Hurricane Season...

### Town Initiatives - Snapshot

**Governor DeSantis Executive Orders.** On Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup> the Governor issued Executive Order 20-244 moving the State to Phase 3 Re-opening. That includes allowing restaurants and other businesses to transition to 100% of occupancy while still maintaining other precautions. The order also suspended local mask ordinance fines and penalties against individuals. The Town’s Ordinance remaining provisions remain in effect through November 30<sup>th</sup> and continue to require businesses to post signage that masks are required, requires employees to wear masks, and to advise customers of the mask requirement. On Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> the Governor issued EO- 246 extending virtual meetings through the month of October. The Town Commission and their advisory boards will continue to meet virtually through the rest of the month and we are planning on hybrid (in-person/virtual) meetings in November.

**COVID-19.** We are in month 7 of the pandemic. 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. Our public beach parking was re-opened as of October 1<sup>st</sup> and we continue to evaluate our restrictions to balance access to public amenities to keeping our residents and visitors safe. The Town updates its actions every two weeks. The next update will be on Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Hurricane Preparedness.** The 2020 tropics activity has been unprecedented, we have already run out of Hurricane names, setting a record for running through the entire alphabet! Fortunately, we have not been impacted, but the season is not over. 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.

**New Police Chief.** Please join me in welcoming Police Chief Kelli Smith to Longboat Key later this month. Chief Smith is a 29-year police veteran and current Chief of the NAU Police Department in Arizona. She has accepted the Town’s employment offer, passed all pre-employment tests and will assume the position as our next Police Chief beginning October 26<sup>th</sup>. Chief Pete Cumming originally planned to retire as of October 1<sup>st</sup> but has agreed to extend his retirement date to stay on until Chief Smith takes over the helm. We look forward to recognizing Chief Cumming for his service to Longboat Key at the October 19<sup>th</sup> Commission Workshop.

**Wastewater Leak.** The Town received a draft report from the Berkeley Research Group indicating that the leak amount as 11 million gallons, down from the original estimate of over 25 million gallons. That report has been shared with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and is being peer reviewed before it is finalized. On Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, the FDEP issued a proposed Consent Order which is protocol for a leak of this type. The proposed order is issued to the Utility and includes penalties based on a State formula/matrix. We now begin the formal discussions with FDEP on closing out the incident. Ultimately a final consent order would be presented to the Town Commission for approval.

**Undergrounding.** The Town has initiated the “switch order” process for Phase 1. That means that Florida Power & Light (FPL) has been notified that we are ready to make the transition from overhead utilities to underground utilities in the Phase 1 area. As they work through testing and energizing the equipment, our contractor will then begin the process of switching over the individual homes in this first phase which includes the Country Club Shores neighborhoods. This switchover process will occur between now and the end of the year.

### Upcoming Meetings/Events

October 5, 2020	1:00pm	Town Commission Regular Meeting (Virtual format)
October 12, 2020	10:00am	Special Magistrate (In-Person & Zoom Virtual format)
October 15, 2020	9:30am	Zoning Board of Adjustment (Virtual format)
October 19, 2020	1:00pm	Regular Workshop Meeting (Virtual format)
October 20, 2020	9:15am	Regular Meeting Planning & Zoning Board (Virtual format)

### Fast Facts

*2020 is the first hurricane season so busy they ran out of names by mid-September!*