

Did I actually feel the tempature start to drop a few degrees- it is November.

Town Initiatives - Snapshot

New Police Chief. Please join me in welcoming Police Chief Kelli Smith to Longboat Key. Chief Smith is a 29-year police veteran and most currently Chief of the NAU Police Department in Arizona. She assumed the position as our Police Chief beginning October 26th. Chief Pete Cumming officially retired on October 19, 2020 after agreeing to stay on until Chief Smith took over the helm. We recognized Chief Cumming for his service to Longboat Key at the October 19th Commission Workshop and will officially welcome Chief Kelli Smith at the November 2, 2020 Regular Meeting.

COVID-19. We are in month 8 of the pandemic- not unusual to have a bit of pandemic fatigue. Even though positive test results are trending up slightly off both ends of the island, (which we continue to monitor), cases on Longboat Key remain low. We need to continue to keep our guard up. Town Hall, and other departmental facilities will re-open to the public, with some precautions in place, on November 2, 2020. Our public beach parking was re-opened one month ago without issues, and we continue to evaluate other 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, November 3.

Coyotes! For almost two years we've had no sightings, or reports of coyotes. Last year it must have been because traffic was so bad, but on Friday, October 23, we received our first report of a coyote walking South along the sidewalk adjacent to the Whitney Beach Shopping Center. On October 28 we received another report in the 5900 Block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Both were minding their own business, but *they're back!* The Town previously hosted two Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission public information sessions with biologists and specialists to educate the public about coyotes, how to protect yourself, your pets, and to keep your property unattractive to them. For information, or to report sightings, contact the Town's Police Department non-emergency number at 941-316-1201, or by e-mail through the Town's website.

Historic Whitney Beach Cottage. The Town has been approached by the Longboat Key Historical Society with a proposal to move the smaller of the two historic Whitney Beach cottages to the Town Center site. This cottage, built around 1937, would serve as a place to house historical photos, artifacts, and information. The Historical Society would open the building periodically for visitors. The Town Commission will consider the proposal and a potential lease at their November 2, 2020 Regular Meeting.

Hurricane Season. The 2020 tropics activity has been unprecedented, we have already run out of Hurricane names and into a new list, setting another record with each one! Fortunately, we have not been impacted, but the season is *still* 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 for hurricane preparedness info and remember to monitor local weather for storm threats.

Wastewater Leak. The Town received a proposed Consent Order from FDEP starting the process for the Town to respond and negotiate a final Consent Order. The FDEP extended the Town's response time to December 15 and we are currently in negotiations on the conditions of the final Consent Order.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

- November 2, 2020 1:00pm Town Commission Regular Meeting (In-person / Hybrid format)
- November 9, 2020 10:00am Special Magistrate (In-Person)
- November 9, 2020 1:00pm Regular Workshop Meeting (In-person / Hybrid format)
- November 17, 2020 9:15am Regular Meeting Planning & Zoning Board (In-person / Hybrid)
- November 28, 2020 6pm Chamber of Commerce Holiday Tree Lighting, Town Center

Fast Facts

The Town's 65th Anniversary is on November 14, 2020. Celebrate responsibly!