



### It is Turtle Nesting Season! Remember - Turtles “Dig the Dark”

#### Town Initiatives – Snapshot

**Marine Turtle Nesting Season is here!** The season runs from May 1<sup>st</sup> through October 1<sup>st</sup> each year. Longboat’s beautiful beaches host hundreds of endangered sea turtle nests during their nesting season. Town Codes & Federal requirements help protect endangered marine turtles, their habitat, and hatchlings. Turn off- or block lighting that’s visible from the beach from sundown to sunrise, use turtle-friendly bulbs and fixtures for lighting needs that doesn’t distract turtles, and remove beach furniture and recreational equipment from the beach every day.

**New Commissioner.** In April, the Town Commission appointed Maureen Merrigan to the vacant District 5 seat created when Commissioner Ed Zunz resigned. In accordance with the Town’s Charter, the appointment is until the next General Election, which will be held in March of 2022. Congrats to Commissioner Merrigan!

**COVID-19.** Yes, we are really in month 14 (404 days) of the State of Emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic. Good news with the number of new positive test results down and vaccines up. But there is still active virus and new positive cases on the island and on the mainland. Thank you to everyone for being careful during the past year or so and also taking advantage of the various ways to receive the vaccine. As of April 24<sup>th</sup>, 6,963 of our residents have received at least their first dose. For residents and workers on the island that have not yet been vaccinated, a “Pop Up” Clinic is being planned on Longboat Key for May 11<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 1pm at the Paradise Center. New CDC guidelines have come out regarding vaccinated individuals- please continue to follow safe practices.

**Sand, sand, and more sand.** The Town’s contractors are hard at work across the island actively placing sand. The work on the south end is wrapping up and that contractor has moved to the mid key area. The work in the Gulfside Road area is complete and they have been demobilizing from that area. Groin construction continues on Greer island. Please visit <http://olsen-associates.com/lbk2021/> for the latest updates.

**Town Center Outdoor Venue – Phase 2 Permit Received!** With the Water Management District (SWFWMD) Permit in hand, staff can now begin construction of Phase 2. This permit also accommodates the stormwater requirements for the future construction of up to two buildings. The goal is to substantially complete the Phase 2 outdoor venue work by the end of 2021. Staff is also actively working on event programming for the 2022 season.

**Utilities Undergrounding Project.** Since early April over 100 conversions to underground electrical services of single-family residences have occurred in sections of Country Club Shores. The Town continues outreach to property owners as individual conversions are scheduled. All but 10 of Phase 1 public street light replacements have been completed and will be completed and energized as the final stages of switch orders occur. Phase 2 work progresses in the Village area and South to Lyons Lane installing conduits for FPL, Comcast, Town fiber and street lights. Phase 3 work kicks off in early May.

**Fire Stations.** Both fire station projects are nearing completion this month. Our brand-new Station 92 on the south end is really looking good and the ribbon cutting is being scheduled. The renovation of the north end station is also wrapping up. Both projects on schedule and budget. Thanks to the firefighters and the public for their patience during the construction.

#### Upcoming Public Meetings/Events

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|----------------|----------|---|
| • May 3, 2021  | 1:00 pm  | Town Commission Regular Meeting (In-person/Hybrid format) |
| • May 10, 2021 | 10:00 am | Special Magistrate (In-Person)                            |
| • May 13, 2021 | 9:00 am  | ManaSota League of Cities Meeting                         |
| • May 18, 2021 | 9:00 am  | Town Commission Special Workshop Meeting (Budget)         |
| • May 18, 2021 | 1:00 pm  | Regular Workshop Meeting (In-person/Hybrid format)        |
| • May 19, 2021 | 9:00 am  | Consolidated Retirement System Board of Trustees Meeting  |
| • May 20, 2021 | 9:30 am  | Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting                        |
| • May 21, 2021 | 9:15 am  | Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Board Meeting                     |

#### Fast Fact

**The Town will install 830,000 cubic yards of sand during the 2021 Beach Projects!**