

Peak of Hurricane Season, and COVID is spiking- please take necessary precautions!

Town Initiatives – Snapshot

Tropical Storms. Remember, the 2021 Hurricane Season peaks on September 10th. Review your disaster plan, check your to-go supply kit to ensure you have everything organized *before its needed!* Identify an evacuation location – public sheltering is a last resort. For registration in Alert Longboat Key’s emergency notification system- e-mail sphillips@longboatkey.org

COVID-19. Yes, it is really month 18 (528 days) of COVID-19. Unfortunately, there is a spike in new positive cases in our area and in the State. Sarasota Memorial Hospital has reported record numbers of COVID related admissions and that almost 90% of their COVID patients are unvaccinated. The good news- we have a high level of vaccinated residents on the island and our numbers appear to be lower than the surrounding areas. We urge everyone to remain vigilant, and continue the safe practices which have served our community well. Don’t let your guard down.

Gulfstream & U.S. 41 Roundabout Project. Oh no! The first several days of the new lane shifts to accommodate the roundabout construction was messy. There were many reports of significant delays and confusion. We communicated our concerns to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The traffic flow improved after the initial switch over, but there are still some concerns about how this temporary traffic flow will work during the season. The FDOT has advised that this current configuration was implemented to reduce the overall time of the construction and they have incentivized the contractor to complete the project ahead of schedule. Work is scheduled to continue through the 2022 season. FDOT has set up the following informational website to provide current information:

- Project Website: <http://www.swflroads.com/gulfstreamroundabout/>

Red Tide Conditions and Town Response. Some good news on red tide. Conditions have improved over the past couple of weeks, but red tide is still in the area. There are currently higher concentrations of red tide South of Longboat Key. Based on winds, tide conditions, and storm activity we may see further impacts and are closely monitoring conditions. We have partnered with Manatee County to assist as necessary with cleanup on all of Longboat Key. Check our website (www.longboatkey.org) for information or call 941-316-1988.

Utilities Undergrounding Project. Phase 1 (CCS) work should wrap up mid-September including home conversions and pole removal. Phase 2 work on the North end continues in the Sleepy Lagoon neighborhood working toward Dream Island Road. Phase 3 conduit work has reached the area of the County line (4100 block of GMD). Fiber conduit work in the Bay Isles area is complete. The project remains on schedule and under budget.

North End 5-Groin Project & sand backfill nears completion. The 5-groin construction project is complete! The dredge is mobilizing on scene to backfill the 5-groin field with sand. This final phase of the current beach projects should be complete this month. Visit <http://olsen-associates.com/lbk2021/> for updates.

Fire Stations. Both construction projects are closed out with firefighters and administrative staff now housed in the new South Station, and the renovated North Station. Thanks for everyone’s patience during construction, and “Welcome Home” to our Fire-Rescue personnel!

Town Center. The staff is working on an outdoor event schedule for the upcoming season and site work associated with the walkways, landscaping, lighting, and restrooms is scheduled to start in the Fall. Architect Gary Hoyt is finalizing design plans for the stage concept. The Commission has asked the Longboat Key Foundation to assist with fundraising efforts for the stage.

Upcoming Public Meetings/Events

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| • September 9, 2021 | 9:00 am | ManaSota League of Cities |
| • September 13, 2021 | 10:00 am | Special Magistrate |
| • September 13, 2021 | 1:00 pm | Town Commission (1 st Budget Hearing 5:01pm) |
| • September 16, 2021 | 9:30 am | Zoning Board of Adjustment |
| • September 17, 2021 | 9:15 am | Planning & Zoning Board Special Meeting (St. Regis) |
| • September 21, 2021 | 9:15 am | Planning & Zoning Board Regular Meeting |
| • September 27, 2021 | 1:00 pm | Town Commission (Final Budget Hearing 5:01pm) |

Fast Fact

7,505 Residents on Longboat Key- according to the 2020 Census