

Fall is here, temps and COVID numbers are falling. Town Initiatives – Snapshot

Good news on COVID-19. Yes, it is really month 19 (558 days) of COVID-19. Fortunately, the case numbers locally are falling and vaccine rates are increasing. The Delta Variant peak appears to be past- but there is still active virus in the area. Pfizer booster shots are now approved by the CDC for those 65 and older as well as certain age groups with underlying health conditions and individuals in certain occupational categories. We urge everyone to remain vigilant, and continue the safe practices which have served our community well. Don't let your guard down.

Not so good news on Red Tide. We had a reprieve from the previous red tide bloom but, last week were informed that red tide has returned to the Sarasota/Manatee area. Currently there are minimal impacts to Longboat Key. Impacts are reliant on winds, and tide conditions, for dead fish to reach our canals and beaches. Staff is closely monitoring conditions and will address accumulated dead fish if accumulations warrant. Check our website (www.longboatkey.org) for information or call 941-316-1988.

Beach Nourishment Projects winding down. The 5-groin construction project is complete including backfill of the 5-groin field with sand. The contractor is demobilizing. This final phase of the current beach projects is now complete. Two future projects remain in the current 5-year Plan- tightening of the South terminal groin and implementing the Spit Management Project on the North end. Visit <u>http://olsen-associates.com/lbk2021/</u> for updates.

Fire Stations- Both Stations are substantially complete. Only minor work remains for Station 92 (South). Thanks to the voters for supporting the referendum that advanced these two public safety projects in March 2018.

Town Center. Town staff is working on an outdoor event schedule for the upcoming season and site work associated with the walkways, landscaping, lighting, and restrooms is in progress. In September, the Town Commission approved a stage design for the outdoor venue. The Commission has asked the Longboat Key Foundation to assist with fundraising efforts for the stage.

St. Regis Quasi-judicial Public Hearings. On October 6 and October 20 at 10:00 am the Town Commission will hold two public hearings to consider an amendment to the application filed by Unicorp for the St Regis Project. The applicant seeks to amend a previously approved Planned Unit Development/Outline Development Plan. The Commission will also consider the Final Site Plan Approval for the St. Regis Project at the former Colony Resort site. The meetings will be held at Town Hall, and are open to the public.

Tropical Storms. The 2021 Hurricane Season peaked on September 10th but doesn't end until November 30. Remember – you need to have a disaster supply/evacuation kit organized and ready to go *before its needed!* Identify an evacuation location – public sheltering is a last resort. For registration in "Alert Longboat Key" e-mail <u>sphillips@longboatkey.org</u>

Gulfstream & U.S. 41 Roundabout Project. The FDOT has added a third lane leaving the island in advance of the season and installed improved signage. Current traffic flow has improved. We remain concerned how it will perform during season. The FDOT states they have incentivized the contractor to complete the project ahead of schedule although work will continue through the 2022 season. FDOT has set up the following informational website to provide current information: Project Website: <u>http://www.swflroads.com/gulfstreamroundabout/</u>

Upcoming Public Meetings/Events

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• October 4, 2021	11:30 am	Meet & Greet for Applicants to CRS Board of Trustees
 October 4, 2021 	1:00 pm	Town Commission Regular Meeting
 October 6, 2021 	10:00 am	Town Commission Special Meeting (St. Regis)
 October 13, 2021 	10:00 am	Special Magistrate
• October 18, 2021	10:00 am	Town Commission Strategic Planning Retreat
 October 19, 2021 	9:15 am	Planning & Zoning Board Regular Meeting
• October 20, 2021	10:00 am	Town Commission Special Meeting (St. Regis)
• October 21, 2021	9:30 am	Zoning Board of Adjustment
 October 29, 2021 	1:00 pm	Investment Advisory/Finance Committee Meeting
Fast Fact		

57 days left in the 2021 Hurricane Season