



Happy New Year – Looking Forward to 2022!

Town Initiatives – Snapshot

COVID-19- Here we go again: In response to the rising positivity rate related to the Omicron variant, we have re-implemented some safety protocols at Town facilities. Masks are required in all common areas and temperature checks are taken upon entry to buildings. The public will be asked to use technology, phones, drop boxes, or schedule meetings in advance to conduct Town business. Safety plans are in place for outdoor events. Remain vigilant, and don't let your guard down. Pfizer, Moderna, and J&J booster shots are now available at local pharmacies and retail outlets. An exciting development - Merck's first FDA approved COVID-19 Treatment Pill.

Town Center Green. Great kick-off to the season - Over 800 attended the December Kiwanis Lawn Party, held for the first time on the Town Center Green. More events to come, including concerts in January, February, and March, an Arts Festival in February, and a Friday Market monthly January through March. Please enjoy, but pardon our dust- we will be working around site construction this year to install walkways, lighting, landscaping, and restrooms. We are also full steam ahead to finish the design of the new Stage funding through a major private donation.

Annual Citizens Satisfaction Survey – The 2022 Survey is the third offered by the Town, and gathers input from residents on the priorities, quality of services, and amenities provided by the Town. The feedback helps ensure we continue to deliver the highest level of service and keep our focus on specific quality of life issues. Please watch for the survey letter with your unique code, and let us know what you think, and how we're doing to meet your needs.

2022 Citizens Academy –Excited to be taking registrations for the 2022 series starting on January 12th. The program is held each Wednesday morning from 9:00 – 11:30 am and runs for 7 weeks. Participants learn about our local government, with presentations by each Department Director and staff regarding Town services and projects that shape the present and future of our Town. Safety precautions will be in place to address COVID concerns.

Florida League of Cities “Local Voices United” Meeting – On January 13th you're invited to participate in a Florida League of Cities program focused on engaging local homeowners' associations and community groups. The grassroots effort is to support local self-government advocacy and to keep local, State and Federal officials informed about what issues are important locally. For more information, or to register for the program, contact sphillips@longboatkey.org or call 941-316-1999, x 1212.

Drainage/Flooding. Drainage studies are underway for the Sleepy Lagoon and Buttonwood neighborhoods to evaluate ways to mitigate flooding issues. The Commission heard from the Town's Resiliency/Sea Level Rise Consultant in November and their study should be complete, with suggested recommendations, later this Summer.

Turtle Season. The 2021 Turtle Season data is good news! 1,032 nests on the island, 97 disorientations and a disorientation rate of 9.45%. The number of nests is higher than our average and disorientations are down. Check the calendar below for the 2nd of a series of public outreach sessions on the new Turtle Protection Ordinance.

Gulfstream & U.S. 41 Roundabout Project. This will be a tough year as construction continues on the State FDOT project through this season. We are talking to the State and City of Sarasota about recent back-ups occurring at the end of December. Plan your trips, and time them carefully. Check the routes and potential delays before you leave. FDOT has incentivized the contractor to complete the work ahead of schedule, although work will continue through the 2022 season. Check out the FDOT Project Website: <http://www.swflroads.com/gulfstreamroundabout/>

Upcoming Public Meetings/Events

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| • January 10, 2022, | 1:30 pm | Town Commission Regular Meeting |
| • January 11, 2022 | 10:00 am | Special Magistrate |
| • January 13, 2022 | 9:00 am | Manasota League of Cities Meeting |
| • January 13, 2022 | 11:00 am | FLC “Local Voices United” Meeting |
| • January 18, 2022 | 9:15 am | Planning & Zoning Board Regular Meeting |
| • January 21, 2022 | 12:30 pm | Marine Turtle Protection Community Outreach Meeting |
| • January 24, 2022 | 1:00 pm | Town Commission Regular Workshop Meeting |
| • January 28, 2022 | 1:00 pm | Investment Advisory / Finance Committee Meeting |

Fast Fact

1525 residents responded to the 2021 Citizens Satisfaction Survey!