

## ***February is Packed with Lots of Fun, Outdoor Community Events!***

### **Town Initiatives – Snapshot**

**COVID-19- Still watching trends:** Although we are now seeing a downward trend in positivity rates, and hospitalizations, new infections are still elevated and the Town continues to observe precautions in Town facilities. Masks are required in all common areas and temperature checks are taken upon entry to buildings. Whenever possible 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. Booster shots are now available at local pharmacies and retail outlets, as well as 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; great attendance at our first Market on January 14; and our first concert on January 22nd. Upcoming events: the Howard Alan Art Show & Festival on February 5 & 6; and a Friday Market on February 11, and March 11. The Concert series continues on February 19, and March 19. An interview with Tom Kirdahy, a Tony Award-winning Theatrical Producer (Hermitage Artists Retreat) on February 25. Work on additional infrastructure improvements to the outdoor venue will start after the season and include walkways, lighting, landscaping, restrooms. We are also full steam ahead to finish design and start construction of the new Stage funded 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 keeps 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. If you haven't received the letter in the mail with your unique code, please call 941-404-5286.

**Utilities Undergrounding Project milestone. FPL poles being removed!** Check out the progress in Phase 1 with pole removal along Gulf of Mexico Drive. You can really appreciate the aesthetic impact of this project when you see the change as you move from New Pass Bridge, moving North along the island. New street light poles are now being installed in the Village area. By the end of this year we hope to have all utilities completely underground! Pole removal is performed by FPL's contractors after the Town completes its portion of the undergrounding work.

**2022 Citizens Academy.** Excited to be in progress with our Citizens Academy which kicked off 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 regarding Town services and projects that shape the present and future of our Town. If you are interested in future Citizens Academy or our virtual 3-day IntroLBK series, please contact Susan in the Town Manager's Office by e-mail [sphillips@longboatkey.org](mailto:sphillips@longboatkey.org) or 941-316-1955

**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.

**Gulfstream & U.S. 41 Roundabout Project.** This will be a tough year as construction continues on the State FDOT project through this season. 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. FDOT Project Website: <http://www.swflroads.com/gulfstreamroundabout/>

### **Upcoming Public Meetings/Events**

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| • February 7, 2022, | 1:00 pm  | Town Commission Regular Meeting              |
| • February 9, 2022  | 10:00 am | Special Magistrate                           |
| • February 15, 2022 | 9:15 am  | Planning & Zoning Board Regular Meeting      |
| • February 17, 2022 | 9:30 am  | Zoning Board of Adjustment Regular Meeting   |
| • February 22, 2022 | 1:00 pm  | Town Commission Regular Workshop Meeting     |
| • February 23, 2022 | 9:00 am  | Consolidated Retirement System Board Meeting |
| • February 28, 2022 | 1:00 pm  | Town Commission Special Meeting              |

### **Fast Fact**

***2 weeks left to participate! So far, 1,100 respondents in the 2022 Citizens Satisfaction Survey!***