



OK, it is definitely Season!

Town Initiatives – Snapshot

COVID-19- Good News! It looks like we are past the Omicron variant peak and hospitalizations and percent of new infections are down. The CDC has also updated its guidance on mask wearing, especially related to the hospital capacity within a community. As of February 28th, we have reverted to our pre-variant level of restrictions on the island. We still encourage the use technology, phones, drop boxes, or schedule meetings in advance to conduct Town business. Still important to not let your guard down and take advantage of vaccines and booster shots.

March 8 Voting at Town Hall for Sarasota County Schools’ District Millage Referendum and Charter Referendum on Sarasota County Single District Voting. There are no Ballot issues for Manatee County voters. All voting at Town Hall is for Sarasota County voters only – Early Voting offered by Sarasota County at downtown Terrace Building

Town Commission Statutory Meeting on March 21 at 9:00 am to administer the Oath of Office to re-elected Commissioners Haycock, Merrigan and Bishop and to select Mayor, Vice-Mayor.

Art Exhibit & Artists’ Reception – March 24. Twelve local artists are featured in the 71st Town Hall Art Exhibit! The Exhibit’s started in 2003 with rotating installations and new artwork installed every 3 months. Over 107 artists have been featured at Town Hall over the past 19 years. The event begins at 5:30 with appetizers, beer, and wine provided by local sponsors. Don’t worry if you miss the event, exhibits are open to the public each weekday from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm. All artwork is for sale directly from the artists. Call 941-316-1999 to RSVP.

Town Commission & Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) discussion on Pedestrian Crossings. At the February 22nd Commission Workshop FDOT outlined plans for upgrading two mid-block crossings to Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (HAWK signals) with overhead red flashing lights for crosswalks at Country Club Shores & at Bayfront Park. Yellow in-roadway lighting will be installed at the mid-block crossing North of Broadway.

Town Center Green. February was busy again with events at the Town Center, with the monthly Friday Market, Chamber Concert series, the Howard Alan Art Show & Festival, and an interview with Tom Kirdahy, (Tony Award-winning Theatrical Producer with Hermitage Artists Retreat). A few events in March before we wrap up the season, with the Friday Market on March 11, and the final Chamber Concert series on March 19th. Work on additional improvements to the outdoor venue will start after season to include walkways, lighting, landscaping & restrooms. We are also finishing design to start construction of the new Stage funded through a major private donation.

Utilities Undergrounding Project milestone. All of the FPL power poles have been removed in Phase 1 (Country Club Shores area) and what a difference it makes. You can really appreciate the aesthetic impact of this project as you see the change driving along the island. By the end of 2022 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.

Gulfstream & U.S. 41 Roundabout Project. This is a challenging season navigating US 41 @ Gulfstream as construction continues on the State FDOT project. Check routes and potential delays in advance of your travel. 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

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------|--|
| • March 7, 2022 | 1:00 pm | Town Commission Regular Meeting |
| • March 8, 2022 | 7 am - 7 pm | Sarasota County Election at Town Hall – (SC voters only) |
| • March 9, 2022 | 10:00 am | Special Magistrate Hearing |
| • March 14, 2022 | 9:30 am | Community Information – Marine Turtle Protection Ordinance |
| • March 15, 2022 | 9:15 am | Planning & Zoning Board Regular Meeting |
| • March 17, 2022 | 9:30 am | Zoning Board of Adjustment Regular Meeting |
| • March 21, 2022 | 9:00 am | Town Commission Statutory Meeting |
| • March 21, 2022 | 1:00 pm | Town Commission Regular Workshop Meeting |
| • March 29, 2022 | 9:15 am | Planning & Zoning Board Special Workshop (Comp Plan) |

Fast Fact(s)

6th Annual Artists’ Reception; Art Exhibits installed for 19 years; 71 Exhibits overall; 107 local artists featured ☺