



Season, Season, Season... Hurricane, Turtles & Shorebirds! **Town Initiatives – Snapshot**

Its Hot outside! It has been a bit of a heat wave throughout the region. Try to schedule outdoor work, exercise, and sports during morning and late afternoon hours. Important to hydrate– drink water even if you don’t feel thirsty! Never leave kids, older people, or pets in cars. Temperatures inside parked cars can double within minutes.

Hurricane Season. Expect tropical activity to become more active as we get closer to the peak of season (mid-August through mid-October). 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 should be your last resort. Monitor news media for tropical weather updates, especially developing storms that could impact our Gulf coast. If you haven’t signed up for the Alert Longboat Key emergency notification system- please, do it now – e-mail sphillips@longboatkey.org with your name, Longboat Key address, phone number(s), and e-mail address(es). Your registration will be confirmed by return e-mail.

Turtle Nesting Season. Sea Turtle nesting season runs through October 31, so be extra careful and considerate when visiting the beach. Please do not leave large holes in the sand, beach furniture out where it can obstruct the turtles laying eggs, or leave lights on that can disorient turtles and/or hatchlings. Call Code Enforcement Officer Chris Kopp at 941-316-1966 with any questions about requirements of our Turtle Protection Ordinance.

Shorebird Nesting Season. There are several endangered species of shorebirds that call Longboat beaches home – Least Terns, Snowy Plovers, Wilson’s Plover, American Oystercatchers and Black Skimmers. Shorebirds are fascinating to watch, especially those tiny snowy plovers- don’t get too close to nesting areas during this critical time of their nesting season. There are many natural predators, racoons, coyotes, dogs, skunks, and others that impact bird nests and hatchlings. Avoid disturbing bird nurseries to help increase survivability of these endangered species.

Town Center Green Site Work and Stage. The Town has signed a contract with Jon Swift as contractor for the Phase 2 site work that will re-grade the site, install walkways, lighting, and landscaping, and includes construction of a donor-funded Stage. There’s lots going on before actual work on the site commences- a kick-off meeting with the contractor; ordering materials for the site, etc. The Longboat Key Foundation and private donors were very responsive in raising the additional private funding necessary to construct the Stage as part of the Phase 2 project.

Greer Island. The Town has completed the work on the emergency dredge to help maintain navigational access to Canal 1A. The project included removing sand from the southeastern tip of the Greer Island spit. We are in the process of permitting buoys and signage for the new wading/prohibited motorized vessel area for a portion of the beach area East of the bridge. That will provide additional safety for visitors to that portion of Greer Island and also facilitate a landing area for kayaks and paddleboards. The longer-term Spit Management Plan will begin before the end of the calendar year and over the permit life (15 years) periodically return sand to the Gulf beach area.

Verizon Wireless Coverage. Verizon has completed installation of 9 small cell poles and the power runs to them, as part of their project to enhance cell coverage on the island. By end of August the antennae, cabinets and all construction elements related to the 9 pole placements will be completed. The 2 sites located on Town right of way, and the 7 sites within FDOT right-of-way will then go through inspections and approval for FPL meter installation. Fiber testing is the last step prior to activation of system enhancements which is currently expected by October 2022.

Gulfstream & U.S. 41 Roundabout Project Check routes and potential delays in advance of your travel. FDOT Project Website: <http://www.swflroads.com/gulfstreamroundabout/>

Upcoming Public Meetings/Events

- August 10, 2022 10:00 am Special Magistrate Hearing
- August 16, 2022 9:15 am Planning & Zoning Board Workshop Meeting
- August 17, 2022 9:00 am Consolidated Retirement System Board of Trustees Meeting
- August 18, 2022 9:30 am Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting
- August 23, 2022 7am-7pm Primary Election

Fast Fact(s)

National Hurricane Center predicts 19 named storms, 9 hurricanes and 4 major hurricanes for 2022.