



Town Manager Brief – May 2024

TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY

May 1st kicks off Sea Turtle Nesting & Shorebird Nesting Season! You'll see beach-fronting lights turning yellow or red this time of year to minimize disorientations when turtles are nesting or hatching. Also remember that pets are not allowed on Longboat Key beaches – only trained service animals with leashes, not therapy or emotional support animals. No matter how well-behaved your dog is, to wildlife on our beaches, dogs are seen as predators and their presence on the beach causes stress, and often results in disrupted nesting for both shorebirds and turtles. Please remove furniture from the beach, cover holes, and leave only your footprints. More at www.longboatkey.org

May 6 at 10am FDOT Ribbon Cutting celebrating the new Bayfront Park Crosswalk. Join Commissioners and FDOT Officials to celebrate the new pedestrian hybrid beacons that have been installed on Gulf of Mexico Drive. There are two completed beacons – one at Bayfront Park, and the other at Country Club Shores at the intersection with Longboat Club Road.

Beginning May 7th new Summer Hours for the Sarasota County Pop Up Library on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 10:00 am to 11:30 am (May 7th & 21st) in the back parking lot of Town Hall. You can get a library card and borrow or place holds on books, music, audiobooks, movies, use mobile hotspots, Launchpads and more at the Pop-Up Library or ask for tech assistance, database instruction or make other inquiries.

The Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (FY25) Budget Process begins May 20, 2024 at 10:00 am. The public is encouraged to attend the Town Commission's FY25 Budget Meetings and see how your tax dollars are budgeted and the projects they make possible. The lead-up to the budget process was the April 1 Town Commission Goals & Objectives Workshop with community members to hear their priorities. At the April 1, Regular Meeting, results from the Citizens Survey were presented for Commissioner information and discussion. Next was the April 15, 2024 Town Commission Strategic Planning Retreat where Commissioners prioritized 2024-2025 projects and initiatives. Now the work begins to identify funding for those priority projects for the upcoming fiscal year.

Reminder of the Town's Fertilizer Management Ordinance and June 1 – Sept 30 ban on use of fertilizers containing nitrogen & phosphorous. The remainder of the year at least 50% slow-release fertilizer is required. The stormwater runoff during rainy season can wash fertilizers from our lawns into Sarasota Bay & Gulf waters. The fertilizer's nitrogen & phosphorous runoff can cause harmful algal blooms such as red tide.

If you didn't make it to the April 23 Town Hall Art Exhibit and Artists' Reception the exhibit remains open to the public through June 30. Please visit and view this 79th Town Hall Art Exhibit Monday-Friday from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm. These exhibits are rotating and change with new art installed every 3 months. If you're looking for something special to decorate your home – remember, all the artwork is for sale!

Utilities Undergrounding Project. All underground electrical infrastructure is in place with individual property conversions underway in Phase 2 (North end of the island) and continues in Phases 3 & 4 into late Spring 2024 followed by final FPL removal of poles and aerial wires.

Breeze OnDemand Transit continues to be a popular transit option! The *Breeze OnDemand* went into service on January 29th as a whole-island single transit solution! Now we are enjoying an on-demand service that runs from Coquina Beach/Manatee transit stop to the downtown Sarasota Breeze transit location and anywhere in between! Set up your Breeze OnDemand Account at www.scgov.net/breeze or by calling 941-300-1553. Scan the QR Code, Download the App, and start riding! It's a Breeze.

Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

- May 6, 2024 10:00 am Ribbon Cutting for FDOT Bayfront Park & GMD Crosswalk
- May 6, 2024 1:00 pm Town Commission Regular Meeting
- May 8, 2024 10 am Special Magistrate
- May 16, 2024 9:00 am Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting
- May 17, 2024 9:15 am Consolidated Retirement System Board of Trustees Meeting
- May 20, 2024 10:00 am Town Commission Budget Workshop Meeting
- May 20, 2024 1:00 pm Town Commission Regular Workshop Meeting
- May 21, 2024 9:15 am Planning & Zoning Board Meeting

Fast Fact!!

Longboat Key's first turtle nest of the 2024 season laid on April 30!