



Hurricane Season is over- Yeah!!! Season on the island has started...

Town Initiatives- Snapshot

Traffic, Traffic, Traffic. It’s already starting out to be a tough traffic year! You may have noticed the City of Sarasota’s projects that are impacting traffic to and from the mainland. They are removing the Australian Pines heading into St. Armands from downtown Sarasota- the trees should be removed by the end of December but are currently impacting island bound traffic. In addition, the Fruitville Road/US 41 Roundabout is under construction. As part of that project they have removed one of the three turn lanes leaving the island and heading North on US41. They have advised that they will be reopening that lane sometime in January, but will be closing westbound Fruitville Road at US41 in mid-January for about 5-6 months. Check your traffic app (Google Maps, Waze, etc.) when planning your trips to minimize delays.

Elections. Four of the seven Commission seats were up for re-election in March 2020. Qualifying ended on November 18. Congrats to Commissioners Schneier and Zunz for their re-election and to Commissioners-elect Sherry Dominik and B.J. Bishop. All four seats were uncontested so there will be no Commissioner elections on the March ballot. Special thanks to Commissioner Pastor and Commission Clair for their service as they complete their current terms and leave the Commission in March when our two Commissioners-elect are seated.

Beach Management Plan. At the Town Commission’s December 2, 2019 Regular Meeting, the referendum language for the March ballot to authorize the Town to borrow for the next cycles of beach nourishment will be adopted. Public outreach to explain the ballot initiative will begin in January.

Citizens’ Survey. In January all residents will be receiving a mail survey seeking feedback on the Town’s priorities and services. We are working with the University of South Florida’s Institute of Government on this annual survey that will help provide valuable input to the Town staff and Commission as we allocate resources and continue to provide the highest level of services that we can.

Village Traffic Enforcement. A continued reminder that the speed limit on Broadway Street has been reduced to 20 mph. To help with awareness we have deployed an electronic traffic device to display a car’s current speed as well as the posted speed. Be aware, there is a lot of traffic in the area and the Police Department has increased speed and parking enforcement. Drive carefully and respect the residential neighborhood.

Undergrounding. The Utilities Undergrounding Project continues full steam ahead. Our work is currently focusing on Gulf of Mexico Drive both on the South and North ends of the Key. After the first of the year we anticipate starting in the Phase 1 Neighborhoods Project (South end). Project status is available on our website.

Outdoor Venue/Town Center. The tree lighting event in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce on November 30 at 5:30 pm kicks off the season and highlights the Town Center property and open space venue. As we move into the new year we will be doing additional site work on the property to make it more functional for outdoor events. The Chamber has four concerts planned this season, the last Saturday of the month January - April. We will be soliciting public comment on the venue and the future plans for a community center on the site.

New Development. The new restaurant, Whitney’s Roadside, at Gulf of Mexico Drive and Broadway is almost complete. Owners are hoping to open by the first of the year. The owners of MarVista Restaurant have submitted a plan to build a small office and a parking lot on the vacant lot just North of Whitney Plaza. The lot would include 98 spaces and also provides an opportunity for their restaurant employees to park. The Planning & Zoning Board will review their request at their December 17, 2019 Regular Meeting.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

December 2, 2019	1pm, Town Hall, Town Commission Regular Meeting
December 9, 2019	1pm, Town Hall, Town Commission Regular Workshop Meeting
December 17, 2019	9:15am, Town Hall, Planning & Zoning Board
December 19, 2019	9:30am, Town Hall, Zoning Board of Adjustments
December 24 – 25, 2019	Christmas Holiday- Town Hall Closed
January 1, 2020	New Year Holiday- Town Hall Closed

Fast Fact

“On November 14, 2019, the Town celebrated its’ 64th anniversary!”