



Traffic, Traffic, Traffic - plan your travels off the island....

Town Initiatives - Snapshot

Traffic leaving Island. There continues to be several off-island projects that are having a negative impact on our residents and visitors. In the City of Sarasota they are installing roundabouts at 10th and 14th Street on US 41 and are also under construction on the roundabout at Fruitville and US 41. The third turn lane onto US 41 is temporarily shut down. We have been advised that it will be reopened by early March. We continue to express concern about the impacts to egress from the Island. Please check your map apps (google maps, Waze, etc.) before leaving to gauge the current conditions. The City of Sarasota has a website with project information and a way to take public comments. *That link is at www.us41fruitvillieroundabout.com*

Pickleball Courts Expansion at Bayfront Park. The contractor removed the basketball nets, sealed and refinished the court surfaces, and is in the process of painting and striping the new courts. The updated schedule has the work being completed by the first week of February.

Outdoor Venue at Town Center. On February 3, 2020 Regular Meeting the Town Commission will consider a budget amendment to proceed with the initial site work for the Town Center property. This amendment will supplement Sarasota County’s \$400k grant to help activate the site and facilitate future development of the property. After approval of the budget, a public groundbreaking will be scheduled. A public planning session has been scheduled for 9:00am on March 11th to receive public input on the future concepts. The first of four pf a concert series is scheduled for February 29th. The theme of the first concert is country-western. Tickets can be purchased through the Chamber of Commerce.

Annual Citizens’ Survey. The Town’s first Survey is underway! Survey cards have been sent out to all residential addresses and encourage residents to complete the survey on-line using the code that was mailed out to each household. Responses are due by February 10th.

Beach Management Plan. A public open house has been scheduled at Town Hall on February 25th to provide an overview and answer questions regarding the March 17, 2020 General Municipal Election ballot initiative seeking authorization to bond for the next beach nourishment cycle.

Village Traffic Enforcement. Town staff will be meeting with residents early this month to review neighborhood survey results regarding parking and traffic control within the Village. A public update is scheduled for the February 18, 2020 Town Commission Regular Workshop. A continued reminder that the speed limit on Broadway Street has been reduced to 20 mph. Drive carefully and respect the residential neighborhood.

Undergrounding. The Utilities Undergrounding Project continues full steam ahead! We will continue some work on Gulf of Mexico Drive but this month, contractors will also be moving into the Phase 1 (County Club Shores) neighborhood. The next public update is scheduled for February 18, 2020 Regular Workshop Meeting and the project status is also available on our website.

New Development. Whitney’s restaurant at the corner of Gulf of Mexico Drive and Broadway opened in January. Work has started on the site adjacent to Whitney Plaza that will include 98 parking spaces. A developer has met with the Town to discuss the redevelopment of the small multifamily building on Broadway as you enter the Village. The proposal includes removing the building and constructing three new single family homes.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

- February 3, 2020 1pm, Town Hall, Town Commission Regular Meeting
- February 18, 2020 1pm, Town Hall, Town Commission Regular Workshop Meeting
- February 17, 2020 Town Holiday- Town Hall Closed
- February 19, 2020 9:15am, Town Hall, Planning & Zoning Board
- February 25, 2020 10am, Town Hall, Open House on Beach Management Ballot Initiative
- February 26, 2020 1:30pm, Sarasota County Admin Building, Jt. Mtg with County Commission
- February 29, 2020 11am, Bayfront Park, Community Open House
- 5:30pm, Savor the Sounds Concert at Town Center Green

Fast Fact

“Of the 9,580 residential units on the island, 1,243 are tourism units”