



COVID 19 “maintain social distancing”

Town Initiatives - Snapshot

COVID 19. Things have certainly changed since last month. On March 1st we were still dealing with some very frustrating construction projects that were significantly impacting our ability to ingress and egress the island. Traffic is not the issue any more. We will get back to that but for now the focus is clearly on COVID-19. We are under a National Public Health Emergency and State and County Declared Local States of Emergency. One of the first confirmed positive cases in the State of Florida occurred in Manatee County on March 1st. A month later, on March 31st we have 6,338 confirmed positives in the State, 71 in Sarasota County, and 48 in Manatee County. That number is expected to continue to rise as we look out over the next month. As of today, experts are predicting the peak of new cases to occur in the late April, early May timeframe. So, that means we need to be vigilant and aggressively follow the CDC guidelines on washing hands, not touching your face, maintaining social distancing, and minimizing interaction with others. This is an evolving emergency and we receive direction from the CDC, the Governor, and other State agencies. Please check www.longboatkey.org for the latest info.

New Town Commissioners. Commissioner B.J. Bishop, and Commissioner Sherry Dominick were officially sworn into office on March 23rd. The Commission selected Ken Schneier as Mayor, and Mike Haycock as Vice Mayor for the next year. Congrats to all!

Virtual Commission Meetings. At this time Town Hall is closed for walk-ins. The Governor issued an Executive Order that provides flexibility to local governments for meeting quorum and Sunshine Law requirements. Commission meetings are being held virtually. Our next Regular Commission Meeting is scheduled for April 6th. Agenda items are limited and the public will still be able to view, listen in, and comment. Instructions on how to participate will be posted on the Town’s website with the meeting agenda and materials.

US41/Gulfstream Roundabout. Traffic may not be an issue right now but it is obviously still a priority for the Town. On March 23rd the Town, City of Sarasota, and the FDOT met on the status of the US 41/Gulfstream Roundabout. The FDOT has been working on an alternative traffic detour plan for the construction phase of the project and have also agreed to delay any start of construction until after the 2021 Season. The FDOT has submitted the alternate plans to the City for their review. We will also be reviewing the latest information with the Commission at their April 6th Regular Meeting.

Outdoor Venue at Town Center. On March 11th the Town held a public information session to receive input on future improvements to the venue and to help master plan the site for future improvements including community center related facilities. The input will be reviewed along with other information received through the Town’s surveys and we will be updating the Commission at a future meeting.

Beach Management Plan. Great News! The Beach Bonding ballot initiative passed. Thanks to voters for their overwhelming support of the Town’s Beach Management Plan. This approval will allow the Town to move forward with permitting the two major projects that are currently in the planning stage. The North end groins and the overall beach nourishment projects. With the passage of the bond authorization Manatee County has committed to assist the Town in funding a portion of our North end nourishment project in the amount of \$2.69 million dollars.

Undergrounding. The Utilities Undergrounding Project continues full steam ahead! We are working in the Phase 1 Neighborhood area (Country Club Shores) installing electrical and fiber conduit. Public updates are available on the Town’s Website.

Upcoming Meetings/Events*

Most Meetings and Events have been cancelled in April due to COVID 19- please check the Town’s website at www.longboatkey.org for the latest information

April 6, 2020 1pm, Virtual Meeting, Town Commission Regular Meeting

Fast Fact

“8121 number of hits on the Town’s COVID 19 website since March 25 – one week!”