



Happy New Year!

Town Initiatives- Snapshot

Citizen's Academy-The 2019 Citizen's Academy starts on January 9th. There are a few seats left. The program runs for six weeks on Wednesdays mornings from 9am to 11:30am. There is no cost to the program and it is as great way to learn more about your local government. If you are interested, please contact Susan Phillips in the Town Managers Office at 941-316-1999

New Sign Code-The Town's new Sign Code goes into effect on January 9th. Properties are limited to a 1 sq. ft. sign except when a property is available for sale or lease and a second sign is allowed but is limited to 3 sq. ft. (with a 1 sq. ft. info strip). Additional information about the new Code is available on the Town's website or by calling the Planning, Zoning, and Building Department at 941-316-6411

Undergrounding Project-The Town has closed on the bonds to fully fund the project. We received a AA+ Rating from Standards and Poor and the total interest costs for the Gulf of Mexico Drive bonds was just over 3.9% and for the Neighborhoods 4% (included a small taxable component). This was good news and well below the maximum 6% used in the original calculations. Next update to the Town Commission is scheduled for the January 22, 2019 Regular Workshop Meeting. Construction is expected to start in April and the project is expected to take over three years to complete.

Non-Conforming Properties-On January 7th the Commission will hold the first of two public hearings on proposed changes to the Code regarding redevelopment of non-conforming properties. They will also consider a property certification process where property owners can apply to the Town and we will assist in verifying existing non-conforming conditions. That certification can then be recorded into the public record to assist with title/deed searches and future redevelopment of the property.

New Storm Water Valves (Village)-We have received the new stormwater valves that were pilot tested last year. Three of the new values have been installed in the Village and other installations are scheduled. The valves are designed to restrict Bay waters from backing up into storm water system.

Former Amore Restaurant/Future Arts, Cultural, and Education Center-Forristall has been selected as the demolition contractor. The Fire Department will be doing training later this month in the building prior to the demolition. The contractor will also begin salvage of some of the interior components. Actual demolition of the building is expected to start in mid-February.

Former Moore's Stone Crab Restaurant-Construction continues at the former site of Moore's Stone Crab Restaurant. The new owners experienced a fire in late October which delayed the opening but still expect to complete construction by early February.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

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| January 7, 2019 | 1pm Town Hall, Town Commission Regular Meeting |
| January 15, 2019 | 9am Town Hall, Planning & Zoning Board Meeting |
| January 22, 2019 | 1pm Town Hall, Town Commission Regular Workshop Meeting |

Fast Fact

In 1921 Sarasota County was created from land that was previously in Manatee County.