



# TOWN HALL BULLETIN

Important things to know for the week of March 13, 2023

[www.fmbgov.com](http://www.fmbgov.com) / 239-765-0202 / [PUBLICINFO@FMBGOV.COM](mailto:PUBLICINFO@FMBGOV.COM)

This weekly publication covers brief news items related to the Town's recovery from Hurricane Ian. The Town was directly hit on September 28, 2022, by Hurricane Ian, which has been described as the 5<sup>th</sup> worst natural disaster in the history of the United States.



**View Town Council meeting agendas and minutes**

**Sign up** to receive notice of meetings.

Meetings are currently being held on the temporary Town Hall complex at 2545 Estero Blvd.

## Watch Town Council meetings live

All Town Council meetings, Local Planning Agency (LPA) meetings, Special Magistrate Hearings and Town advisory committee meetings are broadcast live on the **Town's YouTube channel**

Meeting dates and times are posted on the **Town's website**

The calendar section on the home page is one way to keep up with dates and times.

**Sign up to receive email notifications** of meetings and other info as they are posted on the website.

Follow the Town of FMB, including Bay Oaks, on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn; Newton Beach Park and Mound House on Facebook and Instagram



The Town Hall temporary complex is on the property next to the Town Hall building that was damaged by Hurricane Ian. Address is 2545 Estero Blvd.

## Questions?

Call 239-765-0202

### LEE COMMISSIONERS ENACT BURN BAN FOR ALL OF LEE COUNTY

This ban is effective immediately due to increasingly dry conditions throughout Southwest Florida. The county's ordinance bans "outdoor burning ignition sources," including campfires, bonfires and trash burning. Grills for food and backyard fire rings are not included. Officials ask all county residents to be mindful of dry conditions and to use good judgment to mitigate potential for significant wildfires. County officials will continue to monitor the drought conditions to determine how long the burn ban will be in place.

### MARCH 29 - DEADLINE for the IAN DEBRIS CLEANUP SIGN UP

Sign ups are still accepted for debris removal through [www.iandebriscleanup.com](http://www.iandebriscleanup.com). The deadline to sign up is Wednesday, March 29. March 1 was the last day for property owners to push debris off their property curbside to be picked up for free. Debris that were curbside by March 1 will be picked up sometime before March 29.

### SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE LETTERS

In October 2022, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluated all structures on Fort Myers Beach to determine which required demolition (termed "substantially damaged") and which required further assessment of damage. The evaluation helps FEMA document the number of structures that were destroyed for funding and flood insurance rate purposes. Property owners whose structures were determined to be substantially damaged are now receiving informational letters from the Town that FEMA is requiring. The letter gives guidance about permitting if they plan to rebuild, the elevation of structures that are required under current codes, and the National Flood Insurance Program. **If a property owner already has an issued building permit to demolish or repair an existing building, or build a replacement building, their cost forms have been reviewed and they can disregard this letter.** For more information, visit the Building Services Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section of the Town's website.

### TOWN WELCOMES NEW FINANCE DIRECTOR

Joseph Onzick joined the Finance Team on March 13, bringing over 30 years of experience. As a 2019 Chicago CFO of the Year finalist, Joe brings a unique background in finance, accounting, human resources, and information technology. He is highly skilled in budgeting and forecasting and analysis and has success in improving processes and cutting costs.

### MOUND HOUSE GROUNDS, RESTROOM, STORE OPEN

The grounds (observation pier and kayak launch) and public restrooms are open Monday – Saturday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm and Sunday 7:30 am to 3 pm. Museum Store is open Tuesday – Saturday 9 am to 4 pm. The museum is temporary closed.

### SIGN UP FOR SHRC, NEW PROGRAM THROUGH FDEP FOR HELP WITH REPAIRS

Sheltering in Home for Recovery Continuation (SHRC), helps homeowners with minor repairs, so they can live in their home while completing their recovery. To learn more and apply, visit [ianrecovery.fl.gov/unite](http://ianrecovery.fl.gov/unite) or call the Unite Florida support line at 1-800-892-0948.

### MOSQUITO CONTROL

The Fort Myers Beach Mosquito Control District is recovering from Hurricane Ian as many residents are but there has been no interruption in their service. Certain trouble areas have been identified as a result of the Hurricane such as delinquent pools, clogged stormwater basins and other water retaining locations. These have been mapped and receive surveillance and treatment as required. To report a problem use: [www.fmbmc.org](http://www.fmbmc.org); 239-247-1205; [fmbmctd@gmail.com](mailto:fmbmctd@gmail.com)

### THE TOWN'S SIGN ORDINANCE REMAIN IN PLACE

It prohibits signs of certain sizes and in certain places. Fines are possible if this ordinance is violated. To read the ordinances, visit [www.fmbgov.com](http://www.fmbgov.com) >FMB>Town Ordinances. Click on the codified ordinances link in the first paragraph and scroll down to Chapter 30-SIGNS

### UTILITIES

If a property's water is not being used at this time, water and sewer base fees can be waived and the meter can be locked to prevent further billing. Property owners should email the Utilities Department at [utilities@fmbgov.com](mailto:utilities@fmbgov.com) with their name and service address. PLEASE NOTE – All residents are required to pay stormwater fees. If property owners pay their water bill at [www.eonlinebill.com/ftmyers](http://www.eonlinebill.com/ftmyers) or through the automated payment, with a credit card, there is a 3.5 % credit card processing fee added. This fee was approved by Town Council in the Fiscal Year'23 Budget.

### EASEMENTS FOR SAND REPLACEMENT

The Town needs beachfront property owners to sign a temporary construction easement to place sand on the beach areas that are private property. Signing this easement does not give the Town rights to private property. It only gives permission to place sand on it. The easement document, construction plans, and other information are at [www.fmbgov.com/beach](http://www.fmbgov.com/beach).

### TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Next Town Council meeting will be held at 9 a.m. on Monday, March. 20, 2023. A joint session with the Local Planning Agency (LPA) will follow at 1 p.m. Both meetings will be at DiamondHead Beach Resort, 2000 Estero Boulevard.