



TOWN HALL BULLETIN

Important things to know for the week of January 16, 2023

www.fmbgov.com/recovery - 239-765-0202 - PUBLICINFO@FMBGOV.COM

This weekly publication will cover 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 5th 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 Boulevard

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 Boulevard.

Questions?
Call 239-765-0202

CURFEW

Hours are Midnight to 6 a.m. Contractors entering from the Big Carlos Pass Bridge on the south end of Estero Island must adhere to a 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. curfew. Residents travelling during the curfew hours should be prepared to show proof of residency.

DEBRIS REMOVAL

Do you need debris removed from your personal property? Sign up at iandebriscleanup.com.

MOUND HOUSE GROUNDS AND STORE ARE OPEN!

The grounds and public restrooms are now open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The museum store is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The museum and exhibits are temporarily closed. The main museum is tentatively scheduled to reopen in April.

PARKING FEES AND RESIDENT PASSES

Parking fees were reinstated in select areas in the Downtown District starting January 9, 2023. Prior year resident parking passes will be honored. Residents who no longer have a prior year parking pass will be able to receive a new one once the Town's new passes arrive and a process for distribution has been decided. Residents who need a pass should watch the Town's website at www.fmbgov.com and social media outlets for information. Motorists with handicapped parking placards can park for free at any Town space.

PERMITTING

The hours for the Town's permitting desk in the Community Development Department temporarily expanded starting January 9 so that Town staff can assist property owners who are rebuilding after Hurricane Ian. This temporary change is expected to last through March 29, 2023. Town staff are available on Town Hall's temporary complex at 2545 Estero Boulevard which is the property just south of the Town Hall building that was damaged by Hurricane Ian.

Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

During this extended schedule, customers will have access to Community Development staff for permitting assistance by email, telephone, and in-person at the Town Hall Complex. To reach the Permitting Department, email buildingpermits@fmbgov.com or call 239-765-0202 Option #2. **To read information about permitting, click on the dark blue sand dollar on the homepage of the website at www.fmbgov.com.** An extensive list of frequently asked questions about permitting is available on the Building Services webpage. **Permitting fees started being charged again on Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023.**

POST OFFICE

The U.S. Postal Service has placed temporary trailers in the parking lot of the damaged post office and it is possible that they might be operational by next week.

SAFETY REMINDERS

Property owners are responsible for making sure pools are fenced, even if the fence is temporary. **Visitors are asked to be especially careful when they come to FMB. Debris is still prevalent and debris removal operations are still very much underway.**

TAX PREPARATION *FREE*

United Way will prepare your taxes for free if your household income is under \$66,000. Visit <https://unitedwaylee.org/freetaxprep/>

UTILITIES – IMPORTANT MESSAGE

The Utilities Department is daily receiving a high volume of calls and emails with questions and our team is working diligently to help everyone as quickly as possible. To help us serve you and all customers more effectively, we are requesting that all questions be sent by email to utilities@fmbgov.com. We will get back to you as quickly as we can! We understand the devastation that Hurricane Ian caused our residents. If you are not using water at this time, we can waive your water and sewer base fees. If you would like to prevent further billing of these fees, please email the Utilities Department at utilities@fmbgov.com with your name and service address. PLEASE NOTE – All residents are required to pay stormwater fees. If you use www.eonlinebill.com/ftmyers to pay your water bill with a credit card, there is a 3.5 percent credit card processing fee added. This fee was approved by Town Council in the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget which began on October 1, 2022. To avoid the credit card fee, use one of the following methods:

- Change your payment method in your online account to withdraw your payment directly from your bank account
- Mail a check to the Town at 2525 Estero Boulevard, Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
- Deliver your check to the Town Hall temporary complex at 2545 Estero Boulevard and leave it in the receptionist's area in the designated drop box. Town Hall complex hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

TOWN MANAGER

Interim Town Manager Keith Wilkins can be reached by email at townmanager@fmbgov.com. The Town's second Interim Manager – Chris Holley – and Mayor Dan Allers are speaking with the Florida State legislature this week to request financial assistance for beach renourishment, rebuilding Town Hall, and street lighting, among other items.