
3/24: Causeway updates, watch out for turtles

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Sanibel Causeway lane closures Monday & Tuesday

FROM FLORIDA DOT:

As a part of the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Emergency Restoration of the Sanibel Causeway, crews continue work on McGregor Boulevard and the Sanibel Causeway from Port Comfort Road to Sanibel Island. The causeway islands surrounding the temporary roadway are an active work zone and are currently closed for public access.

During the evening/overnight hours of 7 p.m. to 6 a.m., on **Monday, April 24**, and **Tuesday, April 25**, motorists should expect lane closures on the causeway for crews to survey the bridges.

- Crews continue driving sheet pile around the causeway islands.
- Crews continue earthwork on the causeway islands.
- Bicyclists are encouraged to utilize another mode of transportation to travel the causeway.
- Pedestrians are not permitted on the Sanibel Causeway.
- Many oversized vehicles are crossing the causeway to assist with recovery efforts on the island. Please be patient as travel may be slower than usual.

- MOTORISTS ARE REMINDED TO OBEY THE POSTED SPEED LIMIT OF 20 MPH.
- Please use caution and watch for workers and construction vehicles entering and leaving the roadway.

For further questions, please contact Jennifer Dorning by email at Jennifer.Dorning@dot.state.fl.us or by phone at (239) 338-7723. Please visit www.swflroads.com/SanibelCauseway for additional information.

Sea turtle nesting season under way

FROM SCCF:

April 15 marked the beginning of sea turtle nesting season for Sanibel and Captiva.

“The past couple of weeks have been full of supply runs, vehicle maintenance, and volunteer training sessions in preparation for the exciting months ahead,” said SCCF Sea Turtle Technician Carley Nolan. “Finally, early Saturday morning, our program volunteers and staff felt the warm sun on their backs for the first time of the season as they searched the islands for the first sea turtle nest of 2023.”

The earliest recorded sea turtle nest on our beaches was laid by a loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) on April 15, 2020. Last year, the first nest of the season on the islands was laid on April 27, so we may be expecting our first nest any day now.

Beginning at sunrise every morning from now to Oct. 31, members of SCCF’s sea turtle team will survey both islands looking for new nests, monitoring existing ones, and collecting inventory data on hatched ones.

“Our team has yet to see any turtle activity so far, but the season typically has a slow start and tends to pick up in May,” Nolan said. “Despite the lack of action, volunteers and staff are very excited to be back surveying the beaches and to experience some normalcy whilst we navigate through the devastation of Hurricane Ian.”

As we progress into the season, please keep these few tips in mind:

- Pick up trash you find on the beach or brought with you
- Be conscious of light exposure (no flashlights, close your curtains/blinds, turn off porch/outdoor lighting after dark, eliminate flash photography, etc.)

- Fill in holes, knock down sandcastles, and remove all beach furniture (umbrellas, chairs, volleyball nets, tents, etc.)

For more information on how you can help, visit sancaplifefesavers.org.

Preparing for the next storm

On Monday, April 10, the Captiva Community Panel and the Captiva Erosion Prevention District (CEPD) co-hosted a Hurricane Ian Debriefing. During the event, we heard about initial conditions and response from our fire and police while concurrently having the opportunity to extend our gratitude.

SCCF Coastal Resilience Manager Carrie Schuman gave a brief overview of the physical conditions Ian introduced to our islands. CEPD's Executive Director Daniel Munt discussed the storm protection benefits of our dunes and beaches and gave an update on their current condition and ongoing restoration plans. Linda Laird, who represents both the Panel and CEPD, presented a timeline of key events for the hurricane response on Captiva, while giving some starting thoughts on what went well and where energy needs to be devoted for the future.

Lastly, we used an interactive tool called Menti to gather community feedback on how our Captivans were impacted by Ian, what was effective about the post-hurricane response, what needs improvement, and lastly what recommendations our community has for the future of Captiva.

If you were not able to attend the event, you can access the video here:

https://youtu.be/sh9_kD1VBFE

We would also like to continue to gather community input. We have created an online version of the event's survey that can be accessed at:

<https://forms.gle/KeJ3jByzDzSi9wcv7>. Please participate by April 30. We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Resilient Lee town hall May 1

The Lee County Recovery Task Force (Resilient Lee) is hosting a Town Hall meeting on Monday, May 1, 6-8 p.m., at BIG Arts, 900 Dunlop Road, Sanibel, Florida.

The purpose of convening this Regional Task Force is to collaborate as a

community, combining efforts to recover and rebuild in a resilient manner. The Task Force is seeking input from residents, business owners, and non-profits regarding the recovery-planning process for the Lee County area. The two-hour meeting is part of a series of Town Hall meetings, which include a facilitated discussion that all are welcome and encouraged to attend. View the schedule of events [HERE](#).

In addition to the Town Hall Meetings, the Task Force has offered a survey for participants to provide further input. Take the survey [HERE](#).

To learn more about the Task Force, please visit, <https://www.resilientlee.com/>.



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