

5/13: Lights out for turtles!

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- Miss the Community Panel meeting last Tuesday? Watch it online at <https://youtu.be/o7Ohpqwik9o>

Funding available to retrofit your beachfront lights

After the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in 2010, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation awarded funding to several organizations to mitigate the impact of the spill in Gulf counties. The Sea Turtle Conservancy (STC) has been a

recipient of this funding since 2010.

Currently, STC has funding to retrofit problem lighting on beachfront properties in Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, and Collier counties. STC also has funding for dune restoration at properties that we have already retrofitted. Click the video below for information about STC's lighting retrofit program:

If you are interested in retrofitting your beachfront property, call STC at 352-373-6441. You can find out more online at

<https://conserveturtles.org/beachfront-lighting-lighting-and-dune-projects/>.

Lee County's Dept. of Community Development has some of the STC window clings (above), a great way to remind renters and visitors to watch their beach lighting. If interested, contact Paula Quezada at 239 822-9911 or Pquezada@leegov.com or Carol Lis at (239) 533-8353 or lisca@leegov.com

Upcoming events

- CEPD meeting: Monday, June 12, 1 p.m. Zoom info and agenda at mycepd.com.
- Community Panel meeting: Tuesday, June 13, 9 a.m. Zoom link and agenda at captivacommunitypanel.com

Sanibel Causeway updates

FROM FDOT:

Sanibel Causeway Emergency Restoration: 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.

- Beginning **Monday, May 15**, from **8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**, motorists should expect lane shifts through the toll plaza for building and lane repairs. This work should continue for approximately one month, excluding holidays.
- Motorists should expect periodic daytime delays for crews to remove trash from the roadway.
- Crews continue driving sheet pile around the causeway islands and near the toll booth area.

- 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. Visit www.swflroads.com/SanibelCauseway for additional information.

‘Emerging from Hurricane Ian’ workshop May 22

“Lessons Learned: Emergency Response,” sponsored by the SanCap Citizens for a Resilient Future in collaboration with the City of Sanibel, will be presented on Monday, May 22, 6-8 p.m., at BIG Arts, 900 Dunlop Rd., Sanibel. Remote viewing is also offered on the City of Sanibel’s [Facebook page](#) (no registration needed, just come or log on!)

Program hosts will be: Bob Moore, co-founder, Sanibel-Captiva Renewable Energy Working Group, and Carrie Schuman, Ph.D., Coastal Resilience Manager, SCCF. Panel moderator will be Dana Souza, Sanibel City Manager.

Panel members are:

- Benjamin Abes, Public Safety Director, Lee County
- Kevin Barbot, Fire Chief, Sanibel Fire & Rescue District
- William Dalton, Police Chief, City of Sanibel
- Maria Espinoza, Executive Director, F.I.S.H. of SanCap
- Scott Krawczuk, Deputy Director, Department of Public Works, City of Sanibel
- Mike Sawicki, Lieutenant, Lee County Deputy Sheriff

This is the third event in a community series hosted by the SanCap Citizens for a Resilient Future in collaboration with the City of Sanibel.

In this program, the group is honored to bring together several of the professionals who led the Sanibel, Captiva, and Lee County emergency response to Hurricane Ian. From the leader of the Lee County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to the individuals who first set foot on the islands to rescue and assist hurricane survivors, our panelists bring a wealth of experience and insight to this important discussion. With the 2023 hurricane season approaching, this evening's panel will shed light on the key lessons learned from Hurricane Ian.

Audience members will gain insight into the planning and response approaches that were effective in addressing the impacts of this unprecedented storm event, as well as the key learnings that will inform future planning for hurricane response management. Panelists will also share the lessons they would like community members to take forward as part of their personal planning for future storms.

To set the stage for the night's discussion, the program hosts will provide an update on the newly formed coalition group known as the SanCap Citizens for a Resilient Future. They will discuss next steps for community involvement, report back on the results of the community survey taken in their first event in March, gather additional community feedback, and preview the mission and goals of the group going forward.

SanCap Citizens for a Resilient Future is an alliance of community organizations and concerned citizens, the goal of this recently reformed task force is to help the community as it rebuilds from the hurricane and to explore longer-term resilience measures for future storms and other impacts like sea level rise. In addition to these community events, the task force is working on developing workshops, materials, and other resources around a variety of topics related to resilient rebuilding and planning. Additional community participation is welcomed.



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