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**For Immediate Release Friday, February 17, 2023**

## **Operational news in the Town of Fort Myers Beach**

**Town of Fort Myers Beach, FL** – Earthview LLC, a vendor chosen through the Town’s bid and selection committee process, is beginning operations to clean and repair the stormwater system damaged by Hurricane Ian. This is for the systems on the Town’s side streets as Lee County is responsible for Estero Boulevard.

This effort involves approximately 9.12 miles of drainpipe including culverts, 59 curb inlets, 504 catch basins, seven junction boxes, six skimmer boxes, and 95 major outfalls. Stormwater cleaning will be performed with hydraulically propelled or mechanically operated equipment.

Stormwater pipe joint sealing will be accomplished by the injection of chemical sealing materials into and/or through the joints from within the pipe. All storm drains will be inspected by television and video recording.

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**REMINDER:** The Town has been notified by debris contractors with Florida’s Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) that the free curbside debris removal service operating since Hurricane Ian will end on March 29.

What this means for property owners is that March 1 is the last day that they can push debris off their property curbside to be picked up for free. The debris that is curbside by March 1 will be picked up sometime before March 29.

This deadline **DOES NOT** apply for private property owners who have signed up for private property debris removal through [www.iandebriscleanup.com](http://www.iandebriscleanup.com). Sign ups are still being accepted for this service. A deadline has not yet been set but will be considered if the need arises. Watch the Town’s website and social media outlets for updates.

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Town Offices will be closed for the President’s Day federal holiday on Monday, Feb. 20, 2023. Subsequently, the regular Town Council meeting that is typically held on the third Monday of the month will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2023, at 9 a.m. The location will be DiamondHead Beach Resort, 2000 Estero Boulevard.

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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) 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.

The credit card fee can be avoided if bills are paid by one of the following methods:

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

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