



Islamorada, Village of Islands

Village Manager's Weekly Update

November 22, 2024

Island Disposal's Thanksgiving Service Changes

ISLAND DISPOSAL COMPANY THANKSGIVING WEEK SCHEDULE						
THANKSGIVING	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE	NORMAL	NORMAL	NORMAL	NO SERVICE (MOVED PICKUP TO FRIDAY)	THURSDAY & FRIDAY	
RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING	NORMAL	NORMAL	WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY	NO SERVICE (MOVED PICKUP TO WEDNESDAY)	NORMAL	
RESIDENTIAL YARD WASTE	NORMAL	NORMAL	WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY	NO SERVICE (MOVED PICKUP TO WEDNESDAY)	NORMAL	
COMMERCIAL DUMPSTERS	NORMAL	NORMAL	WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY	NO SERVICE (MOVED PICKUP TO WEDNESDAY)	NORMAL	NORMAL
ROLLOFF COMPACTORS	NORMAL	NORMAL	NORMAL	NO SERVICE	NORMAL	

There will be no disposal services on Thanksgiving Day. Thursday's residential garbage pickup has shifted to Friday. But for roll-off compactors, which will be skipped on Thanksgiving, all other Thursday pick-ups have been shifted to the preceding Wednesday, as depicted in the chart. For more information, please call Island Disposal at 305-393-3300. Have a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving!

Founders Park Solar Light Fixtures Installed



Earlier this year, the Parks department set out to replace 77 solar lights throughout Founders Park and Village Hall. The old lights had reached the end of their useful life, having become costly to repair and replace. Many of them no longer illuminated sufficiently.

Continuing our commitments to sustainability and fiscal stewardship, the new lights are energy efficient 40W LED lamps. The modular panels wrap around the existing light poles, which reduced deployment costs. The fixtures have a 5-year warranty and an expected 10-year lifespan.

The new lights enhance the evening park user experience while not being overly intrusive.

Staff Highlight: Auction Success for Finance Department



Earlier this month, the Village conducted a surplus vehicle auction. The sale included Ford and Dodge vehicles, as well as a Club golf cart; each of the vehicles was no longer economically viable to maintain and operate. Special kudos to our staff accountant, Kallie Tarves, who worked diligently to post, share, and manage the auction on GovDeals! In the end, all nine items put up for auction were sold for a total of \$25,000. Thank you to the entire Finance team for their work on this initiative.

NPK Update: Making Progress on Solving a Long-standing Problem

As many are aware, the Village has been seeking to advance an already designed and funded capital project to address the underlying cause of wastewater line ruptures roughly between MM92.3 and MM93. The Village has once modified its plans in response to concerns from our partner, Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District (KLWTD), but there remains another technical matter of concern to KLWTD. To reach consensus on the path forward and remove the obstacle to our project proceeding without further delay, Islamorada and CHA (our design engineer) have agreed to create a run a system flow model, which will produce data necessary to inform whether any additional project modifications are needed. The scope is currently under KLWTD review. Assuming no delays in the review process, the model and report are expected to be completed before the end of December, at which point the results will be discussed and any plan modifications agreed to and completed. With consensus achieved, a construction RFP would be issued and, following the process for contract award, construction would commence. The project would take several months to complete, perhaps as long as one year.

Staff Highlight: Habitat Restoration in Progress



In accordance with the Comprehensive Plan, the Village continues to restore public lands and hammock, preserve and enhance open space and natural landscapes, and enhance community appearance. In 2020, the Village purchased the property at 146 Sunshine Blvd. on north Plantation Key with the intention of expanding the Village-owned Plantation Tropical Preserve and creating a new entrance area into the passive park. A small parking area and gazebo was planned for the property, but the Village Council ultimately decided to restore the entire property to tropical hardwood hammock.

In December 2023, over 70 native trees and shrubs were planted on the property. The plants have thrived. Since that initial planting, natural recruitment of native groundcover, shrubs, and trees has also been occurring, filling the areas around the planted trees. A tropical hardwood hammock is taking shape. The Village continues to maintain a walking path between the plants for users to enter the park. This project furthers the Village's restoration and natural landscapes planting objective within open space, parks, and right-of-way areas. Thanks to our team for the progress to-date!

Older Adult and Senior Program Survey – Founders Park

Attention local adults and seniors! The Parks and Recreation team is looking for feedback on programming dedicated to our older adult community. Please take a moment to fill out this brief [survey](#) and help us shape next season's adult programming. The survey closes November 30!

Upcoming Events at Founders Park

POPS IN THE PARK (NOVEMBER 30) – The Keys Community Concert Band is back with their Pops in the Park series! The first concert will be held at Founders Park on November 30 at 4pm. The concert is free and open to the public. Those in attendance are encouraged to bring their own blanket or lawn chair.

HOLIDAY FEST (DECEMBER 6) – The Islamorada Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Holiday Fest at Founders Park on December 6 from 4 to 10pm. This family friendly event will feature a festive holiday parade, unique holiday bazaar, and winter wonderland with snow!

24 MILES IN 24-HOURS SWIM CHALLENGE (DECEMBER 7 & 8) – The Friends of the Pool, in partnership with the Parks department, will be hosting the 24 Miles in 24-Hours Swim Challenge. Swim one mile (1600 meters) each hour at the top of the hour. Your rest between miles is the time leftover in the hour after you swim. Click [here](#) for registration details. Proceeds will support the Save Alligator Lighthouse initiative.

BEATS ON THE BAY (DECEMBER 13) – Join us for the next installment of our Beats on the Bay Concert series, Thomas Gabriel: A Tribute to Johnny Cash. Fun fact: Thomas is the grandson of the late Johnny Cash, and he sounds hauntingly similar! Come out to enjoy a night of outlaw country music under the stars. Food trucks, beer, and wine will be available for purchase. Gates open at 5pm and the concert starts at 6:30pm!

Thanksgiving Holiday Village Operations



Village Hall will be closed to the public on Thursday, November 28, and Friday, November 29, in observance of Thanksgiving. Normal operations will resume on Monday, December 2.

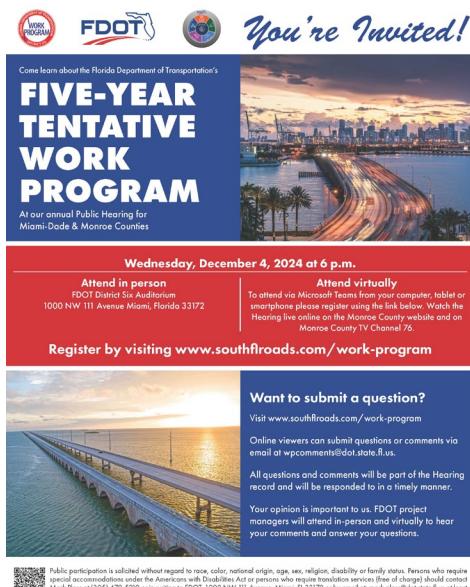
The pool at Founders Park will adhere to the following schedule:

Wednesday, November 27: 8:00am-5:00pm

Thursday, November 28: Closed

Friday, November 29: 10:00am-6:00pm

The FDOT Five-Year Tentative Work Program



If you're interested in projects that the Florida Department of Transportation is proposing to be completed in Monroe County over the next five years, you may wish to attend their upcoming public hearing, either virtually or in person.

As added background, FDOT hosts an annual public hearing to develop their Five-Year Work Program. The hearing is one step in an ongoing process used to allocate funds for priority transportation projects planned for the next five years. The Work Program is based on their best available forecasts of project costs and funding, ensuring that the Department has the financial capacity to implement planned projects.

This year's public hearing will take place at 6PM on Wednesday, December 4. Those wishing to participate can attend online or in person and must register using this [link](#). You can learn more about FDOT's Five-Year Work Program [here](#).

Join Our Team! Multiple Positions Available!



The Village is seeking to fill vacancies across multiple departments. Positions include Senior Planner (Planning), Procurement/Grants Administrator (Finance), Lifeguard (Parks & Recreation), Facility Attendant (Parks & Recreation), Litter Removal (Public Works), and IFP Facility/Ground Worker (Parks & Recreation).

Job descriptions and links to apply can be found [here](#). Please share and encourage qualified candidates to apply!