

## Special Corona virus preparedness statement from the SBB Board of Directors

Sailboat Bay has always had a preparedness plan in place to be ready for seasonal hurricanes. Now in the wake of the pandemic of the novel corona virus known as COVID-19 we must update that plan. The reason for this is that there are **big differences** between the two in how they might affect us here at SBB. Hurricanes are short-term weather events that can cause widespread property damage, power and service outages, and many disruptions to normal life but people can evacuate and get out of harm's way. The epidemic of COVID-19 is very different. It is likely to be a much longer duration; the disease is spread around the US and across the world so there are few places to evacuate. Making matters more complicated is the fact that we do not know enough about the epidemiology of COVID -19, diagnostic tests are not locally available, only supportive treatment is effective and until a vaccine is developed, there are no effective prevention measures. EXCEPT behavioral prevention measures like avoiding un-necessary travel, crowds and implementing handwashing guidelines. We do however have time at SBB to plan to **lower our overall and individual risks** of becoming part of the outbreak but we must act now and as one community.

Sailboat Bay is naturally isolated from the more populated parts of lower Baldwin Co. such as the shopping district in Foley and the vacationer's to our beach community. This is also because we are not well known, not on the beach and harder to get to by road. We also have security from unwanted visitors and video surveillance. We have many permanent residents to keep eyes on our homes and community. A high percentage of our residents however are over 60 years of age, and some have underlying health conditions. That is the age group identified as having the greatest risk for severe illness. It is up to us to do what we need to do to help each other safe and to protect our community during this challenging time.

Homeowners at SBB working together have the power to reduce our collective risks. We must **individually** be prepared for the long term and know the risk reduction measures we personal must take. Each **building** will need to look out for and help neighbors. As a **SBB Board of Directors**, we must lead, organize and coordinate our overall preparedness effort. If need be we must adapt or change any policies that hinder our preparedness effort or put in place any policies that supports our efforts.

**Each of us must have a plan to be individually be prepared** to be isolated for at least one month. Some examples of things to do or have include:

- Knowing your personal risks  
<https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/12/health/what-60-older-need-to-know-coronavirus-wellness-trnd/index.html>
- Having enough supplies such as medicine, water, nonperishable food, etc.
- Batteries for phones and flash light and candles
- Critical phone numbers
- Pet food and care products
- Sanitary products
- Cash and documents
- Stay home unless absolutely necessary

**Each building** can play an important role by doing some of the following:

- Knowing your neighbors
- Looking out for and checking on each other
- Doing things as a building such as shopping or cooking
- Making sure you have enough cooking fuel in case we lose power
- Consider a portable generator
- Using home delivery services like Target and Rouses

**The Sailboat Bay Board of Directors** has a vital leadership role to play

- Organize and coordinate our overall preparedness effort.
- If need be we must adapt or change any policies that hinder our preparedness effort or put in place any policies that supports our efforts.
- Keep up with and disseminate the latest information as regularly as needed
- Assure our community is secure
- Coordinate assistance
- Work out any problems that interrupt our power and water supply
- Plan for increased visitors due to school outages and spring breakers
- Continuously monitor the evolving situation and adapt strategies as necessary

This message is the first of what may need to be regular updates. Owners can expect to receive email messages on specific topics, new policies or with updated information. We plan to use our newsletter the Dolphin as a regular place to share info and news. It is on the SBB website.