



'Tigua Tails

Beach Survey Two—Results are in!

And something has to be done. At least that is the opinion of the majority of people who responded to the second survey that was sent out in February. The battling stereotypes, multitude of people invading the beach, trash they leave behind, and occasional obnoxious behavior have become too much to suffer.

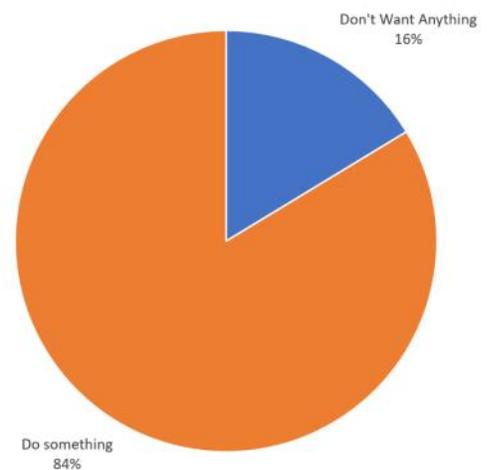
Of the two proposals, the most popular one was "Option A" which was the compromise creating a "buffer zone" which would exclude vessels of any type in a swim area located just offshore.

The next step in this process will be to approach the Village with the proposal. Unfortunately, with the restrictions on meetings caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, this may be delayed beyond the time which would allow something to be in place by the

summer.

To see the results of the survey, log on to the "[Property Owners](#)" page of the website and scroll down to the Survey Result tab.

Support for Action



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The Money is Getting Tight

Everyone should have had the opportunity to review the background for an assessment increase that was mailed with the Annual Meeting Notice and Agenda. The Board does not want to ask you for more money, but it must. To better manage it and make it a bit more palatable, they are proposing a graduated increase. The dues went from \$200 to \$300 in 2001 and to \$500 in 2013. These increases resulted in PAPOA having an excess of money just after raising the assessment which has eroded to the \$20,000 deficit in 2019. By increasing the amount in steps, it allows the Association to continue to provide the services to you while forcing the Board to watch the expenditures carefully.

Why now? One reason is inflation. \$500 does not buy as much today as it did in 2013. But that is only part of the problem. More people means more expenses, and

our community has grown. While some expenses are covered by fees (e.g. the costs of plan reviews by the Architectural Control Committee), additional trash pickups, vandalism, and upkeep from the wear and tear on the infrastructure are paid from the assessment. Finally, the Board is trying hard to prepare for the expected contingencies. We will have another hurricane, and there will be damages. To get a handle on this, the Board studied what expenses might be incurred and found that \$150,000 was a realistic estimate. Therefore, a portion of the increase will go toward funding the emergency and an infrastructure replacement accounts.

We strongly recommend you review the financials of the Association and additional information on the proposal. For budget information, go to the "[Property Owners](#)" page on the website.

‘Tigua Tails

From the President...

Friends and neighbors. Hoping this edition of ‘Tigua Tails finds your family safe and well. Everyone is dealing with this unprecedented health event in their own way with most just locked down and isolated. Many of our part time residents have taken refuge in our beautiful community, and it seems crowded and empty at the same time. The spring weather has been good with ample opportunities to walk, bike ride or get out on the water for a while always practicing the appropriate “social distancing” protocols. I know everyone is anxious for this to be over. Probably a good time to recommit to safe practices for another month or so.

I would like to take this opportunity to share some of my observations regarding the efforts of our local leaders and first responders. I am speculating a little but feel comfortable stating I doubt if anyone in Monroe county was thinking about what we are experiencing now last December. The efforts of the Monroe county BOCC and the Village council to protect the Keys citizenry need to be recognized and commended. Their decisions to implement an emergency declaration and to ask visitors and tourists to leave have

played a big part in containing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Sheriff Ramsey, Captain Corey Bryan and all the MCSO Deputies are continuing in their assignments in the face of this additional threat. Without their presence at the US 1 road blocks, hundreds if not thousands of additional non-resident individuals would be in our community. At the direction of the Governor, State Troopers were prohibited from supporting this vital action, and an additional financial and personal burden has been placed on all Keys communities to include having to use municipal employees to support the US 1 check points. How lucky we are to be a part of this community.

Your Board is continuing to oversee Port Antigua in spite of the many challenges. Beach mitigation consensus, dues increase proposal, director elections, financial oversight, landscaping and more are ongoing without interruption. These are significant obligations your volunteer directors undertake willingly on your behalf. Please take a moment to reflect upon how many people work tirelessly to keep Port Antigua one of the premier neighborhoods in the Keys.

- Dave Webb



Captain Corey Bryan and Sheriff Rick Ramsey at the 18 mile stretch checkpoint



Deputies (center) patrol the Beach for “Social Distancing”



Needs Help



Got ID to get in?

Association Officers’ Reports

The Secretary Says...

Unfortunately, we had to reschedule the annual meeting for the end of May. The ballots you sent us remain unopened and under lock. They will be used for filling the three vacancies on the Board. Please be sure you return the proxy you will be getting soon. We need them to ensure a quorum for the annual meet-

ing. We will keep you updated on its status as the COVID-19 situation develops.

- Caren Brinson

From The Treasurer...

If you haven’t already, please take a look at the dues proposal that was sent to you earlier this year. If you need a copy, send an email to Mari at info@portantigua.net or go to the PAPOA website.

- Rita Klopff

Committee Reports

Maintenance The next big project is the entrance pergola at the beach. The seats are falling apart, the crossbeams are losing nails, and the boardwalk is becoming difficult to walk on. It is too close to the fence which makes it easier for people to climb over. We are looking for ideas to replace it. Please send your suggestions to us at info@portantigua.net. The winner will receive a smile and a hearty “THANK YOU!”

- Bill Hardy, Chair

Security Although we have had our share of uncertainty, pain and fear of COVID-19 spreading, our beach has all the openness

necessary for a breath of fresh air. It is paramount that we maintain a safe distance while enjoying this priceless amenity. This rule should be followed to ensure our good health, as well as our neighbors. The CDC has determined that six (6) feet is considered safe. Also boaters should keep a fifty (50) feet distance between boats. The MCSO and FWC have been making rounds at Port Antigua Beach ensuring that boaters are following this mandate. This information, along with Governors and Presidential Executive Orders are fluid and constantly changing as information becomes available.

- Oscar Callejas, Chair

Recreation The spring yard sale has been canceled. We hope to hold one in the fall so check the next newsletter or the website's "[Events](#)" page for details. .

– Esther Merida, Chair

ACC Please be sure that you notify the Architectural Control Committee of any boat lifts as well as any exterior structures (think tikis, fences storage sheds, etc.). They require Village permits and may need approval from the ACC as well. Please ask first and prevent problems later! And remember, the BOD is not here to be watchdogs. If you see something, send pictures to info@portantigua.net so we can check it out.

– Ray Bana, Chair

Association Manager

I had another email from an owner about

a croc sighting. For those owners that allow friends, relatives, and tenants to occupy their homes, please post a notice in a prominent place telling everyone that there are American Crocodiles in the canals, in addition to sharks. Children and pets should not be allowed to swim in the canals unless closely supervised.

Some owners have not paid their 2020 Dues and Late Fees. Your gate cards have been deactivated. If you are not sure if you owe funds to the Association, please email Mari at info@portantigua.net. If you have not paid your dues, your vote for the Annual Board of Directors will not count.



An American Croc on Lower Mat

– Mari Joiner, CAM



Miscellaneous Stuff

Excuse us, but your Community Pride is showing...

A few years ago, the streets of Port Antigua were littered with garbage and yard waste cans. It was so bad, the neighborhood had a local reputation of being "trashy."

That has changed thanks to the pride our residents are taking in their properties. Where past surveys routinely showed almost half the properties had one or more cans street-side, a recent survey showed a total of only 17! That is progress And thank you!

Ramp Gate Vandalized—Again

Sometime in early April, someone who shall remain nameless decided to open the boat ramp without using a key card. That caused the limit switch to fail, and the gate was stuck only partway open which caused quite an inconvenience to some other members who needed to get their boat out of the water.

Fortunately our vendor was able to repair the gate fairly quickly. And the person who caused the problem, but who will still remain nameless, can be expecting a bill to pay for the gate repairs.

FKEC reported that their crew has completed an inspection of the "leaning poles of Ponce" and that they are structurally sound so, while unsightly, will not be replaced soon.

Beach Access from both land and water should be limited to Port Antigua residents and their guests. If you visit the beach via golf cart, car, bicycle, skateboard (good luck in the parking lot) or on foot, please use your access card and enter or leave only through the main gate. Of course if you want to swim home...have at it, just be aware that there is a lot of boat traffic, especially in the entrance canal; and oh yeah, the crocs. We ask that the property owners on Costa Bravo ensure their gates are locked and call the sheriff if any trespassers go through their property to get to the Beach.

And speaking of the Beach, the new **Grills** are "great!" A thank you to Bill for getting them installed.

Hurricane Season is just around the corner. It's not too early to be sure the shutters work, the generator puts out electricity and your evacuation plan is ready - and don't forget about your boat/s and pet/s.



Trespassers on the Beach





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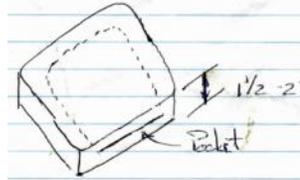
Visit the website!
portantigua.net

This newsletter is published by The Port Antigua Property Owners' Association for the private use of its membership. Please direct any comments or inputs to newsletter@portantigua.net. Photos are especially appreciated. For regular PAPOA business, email Mari at info@portantigua.net.

A Favorite Recipe:

Stuffed Mediterranean Swordfish

- Swordfish steaks - 1 1/2 to 2 inches thick
- Fresh Spinach
- Sun Dried Tomatoes
- Crumbled Feta Cheese



Season both sides of the swordfish to taste with salt and pepper.
Cook spinach, chop, and let cool. Chop the sun-dried tomatoes and mix with the spinach, and crumbled feta.
Cut a pocket in the swordfish, being careful not to penetrate the edges. Stuff the spinach mixture into the pocket.
Brush grill plates with oil and cook 6-8 minutes based on the thickness. Turn halfway through cooking.

Recipe complements of Rita and Wayne Klopff via Bob Carpenter. Thank you!

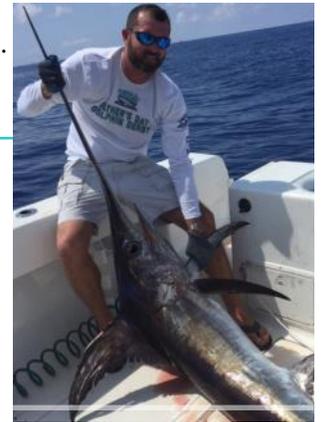
Fishing Report

The winds have started coming down a bit, allowing for some reef fishing as well as further out. Greg caught this nice, 21 inch mutton off the reef using a jig and a chunk of ballyhoo.

And a bit further out in about 1750 feet, Jay (Caren & Blain's son) brought up a nice swordfish, using tips received from Randy and Nan Inches.



Greg Bianchhi, Joe and Michelle's son with a 21" mutton in early March



Jay Brinson and friend



These "rocks" move! And it happened to be in our canal...recently.

Around our Islands

Croc season is here. There have been sightings in several place on Lower Mat, - like in our canal - and with the warmer waters, they are more active. See the [website](#) for additional information—and please don't attract crocs or sharks by dumping fish carcasses in the canals.

Lower Matecumbe Key Association (LMKA) is a group of property owners who own property on—you guessed it Lower Mat. In existence since 1986, their goal is to enhance the value of the island. We can thank them for Anne's Beach, the bike path and much more. They were in danger of disbanding, but at their most recent

meeting in March they decided to keep at it.

They publish a very informative newsletter that, in the past, P.A.P.O.A. forwarded to our members. The Association will no longer be doing that so to continue to receive the newsletter as well as invitations to hear their speakers, join. It is inexpensive and well worth the \$20 annual membership. See their [website](#) for information.

Keys Entry Checkpoint just north of Key Largo requires a second id, in addition to your reentry pass. Don't leave home without it.

Lobster Season is around the corner. Visit the [FWC website](#) for the rules.