

NEWS

Construction work will slow bridge traffic

Sanibel Causeway gets new lanes at toll plaza

STAFF REPORT

Expect increased delays getting over the Sanibel Causeway beginning Thursday, April 12, officials said.

That's when the normal four traffic lanes just east of the toll plaza will be reduced to two lanes to allow for construction. Crews are building the new traffic lanes just prior to the new toll plaza.

The right turn lane leading to Punta Rassa, just prior to the toll plaza, will remain. Traffic exiting Punta Rassa will merge into one lane heading back to Fort Myers.

It will take about six weeks for crews to complete the roadwork.

The staging area for night time truck traffic (overweight trucks) waiting to cross the bridges to Sanibel will be relocated to approximately 1000 feet east of their current staging location prior to entering the single lane. This was done so other vehicle traffic won't be blocked.

Middle span ready for cars

Motorists will get their first chance to drive on any of the three new spans of the Sanibel Causeway beginning Thursday, April 12. That's when workers will open the middle or "B" span. It's being opened

to allow workers to demolish the old span and complete adjacent seawalls and other work.

Flagmen and signs will be in place to control traffic; however, motorists should expect additional time getting on or off Sanibel Island.

Drivers are also asked to use caution and obey all signs during this brief inconvenience.

Other work

Work continues on the A span which replaces the old drawbridge and C span closest to Sanibel and includes:

- Installation of approach ramps on the east and west ends of the A span.

- Placing sub-base material, grading and paving of the roadway on Island A, between spans A and B.

- Installation of guard rails on the approach road on both ends of the B span.

Upcoming work activities with potential impacts to traffic or bridge operations:

- Installation of guard rails on the approach road to both ends of the B span.

- Installation of utilities at both ends of the B span.

- Grading operations for the roadway west end of span C, Sanibel Island could impact vehicular traffic.

For further information go to www.sanibelcauseway.com. ■



PHOTO COURTESY LEE COUNTY

Aerial view of the middle or "B" span of the Sanibel Causeway. Beginning Thursday, April 12, motorists will use that new span while workmen demolish the old bridge.

SENIOR NEWS

Helping ourselves in an emergency

BY MATILDA CHARLES

In the event of a major catastrophe, a large number of people will likely need help. We seniors need to be prepared to take care of ourselves for a minimum of a few days until help comes.

Here are some things we can do to be prepared:

- Stay ahead of the game and check the news once a day. Is it calling for extreme weather such snow and ice, or possibly tornados or high wind?

- Don't let your supply of regular medication get too low. Keep an extra week on hand.

- If you have an elderly pet that needs medication, stay ahead on that, too. If there's no help for you in an emergency, there won't be any for your pet.

- Keep a supply of canned goods and a manual can opener. Plan on not being able to cook for a few days.

- Avoid using candles for light in the event of a power failure. Instead invest in a hand-crank camp light. One minute of turning the handle will get you an hour of light. The best one I've found is the Wind 'N

Go Lantern (\$19.95 at LL Bean, 800-441-5713). It's only 6 inches high, and comes with a clasp to hook to your belt if necessary. LL Bean also carries a hand-crank flashlight. No batteries required.

- Keep a half-dozen gallons of bottled water on hand.

- Having an inexpensive cell phone can be a lifesaver in a power outage. Check out the easy-to-use Jitterbug phones. They have large numbers and inexpensive plans.

- Make a sign you can tape to your front door. A simple "NEED HELP" will let rescuers know immediately that you're in there.

With just a few precautions, we can go a long way toward taking care of ourselves in an emergency.

Matilda Charles regrets that she cannot personally answer reader questions. Do not send any material requiring return mail. Write to her in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to letters.kfws@hearstsc.com. ■

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