

**June 2021 NEWS**  
Islamorada Community Alliance

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## Greg Oravec Selected as Next Village

On Wednesday afternoon, June 2, 2021, the Village Council voted to select Greg Oravec, current Mayor of Port St. Lucie, Florida, to be the next Village Manager for Islamorada, clearly the most critical decision this batch of new councilmen will make in their two-year term of office. The unanimous vote came on the second try after Mark Gregg and Pete Bacheler abstained when Henry Rosenthal initially made a motion to select Oravec with Dave Webb seconding the motion. Gregg and Bacheler requested a reconciliation vote and with the second vote the decision was unanimous.



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### ***Our Mission:***

***To provide*** Islamorada residents with information about events occurring in our community that will impact our quality of life, preservation of our native ecosystems, land development, lawful and transparent governance.

The decision came after a whirlwind couple days for four amazing candidates. There were tours, a public meet and greet, individual interviews and an amazing afternoon at the special call meeting where the public listened to each candidate's thoughts and answers to council questions. At the start of the meeting, candidate Andrea Agha announced she was withdrawing.

Members of the public in attendance were clearly impressed with the remaining three candidates, but Oravec stood above all and the public and council showed their satisfaction and excitement. A great day in Islamorada.

More to follow at [www.Islamorada.org](http://www.Islamorada.org)

# Welcome to Islamorada Community Alliance

## Council Meetings Open to the Public

Since March of 2020 all council meetings and Village committee meetings have been via ZOOM.

Florida Governor DeSantis, by executive order on May 5, ended local Covid restrictions. Monroe County followed and rescinded the mask requirements for all of the county.

A special call meeting on May 13 was called by Mayor Buddy Pinder to discuss Islamorada restrictions in place, related to events at Village parks and Village meetings.

Councilman Mark Gregg was the most vocal in his concerns: upset “that the governor makes me do my job that risks my health and my life and my family.”

As a result of concerns, staff was instructed to place a transparent barrier between the council and the audience for upcoming meetings and to encourage any members of the public to wear masks, though that could not be required.



Before the June 2 special call meeting to select a manager, the barrier was removed with cheers from the audience.

Future events and meetings in person can now be scheduled, though caution is encouraged.

At the first two council meetings that were available for the public to attend, attendance was very low with less than 10 people attending.

Meetings will continue to be available by Zoom, TV and from the Village website.

## Mote Marine Laboratory Day

On May 14, 2021, a celebration was held at Cheeca to honor the efforts of Mote Marine Laboratory. The day was declared Mote Marine Laboratory Coral Restoration Day by the Village of Islamorada. A proclamation signed by Mayor Buddy Pinder was presented by Councilman Henry Rosenthal at the lunch, attended by nearly 75 members of the community.



[Click here](#) to read the proclamation.



## Have you been to Anne's Beach lately?

Islamorada's southernmost park, Anne's Beach, at Mile Marker 73.5 Oceanside, has parking on the south and north end, an expansive boardwalk, about 10 elevated shade structures, bathroom, outdoor shower to wash off ocean water, and a miniscule beach unless the tide is low. A new handicapped-accessible boardwalk (completed late 2020) was funded by Islamorada infrastructure surtax, but there is hope that Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) money will reimburse a portion of the \$1.7 million renovation project.

[Click here](#) to read more.

# Go to [Islamorada.org](http://Islamorada.org) For Breaking News

## There are changes at [Islamorada.org](http://Islamorada.org)

You no longer need to “join” to see our website content. But if you want our newsletters and emails and you didn’t get this one in an email addressed to you personally by name, you need to go to the website and subscribe to the newsletters. Subscribing will also allow you to participate in our surveys.

## Lower Matecumbe Swim Zone

It was a long and tedious process to get the required permits to install buoys to delineate a swim zone in front of Port Antigua and White Marlin Beach that was approved by the Village Council on August 20, 2020.

And now there is good news to report. With hard work by all involved, buoys were installed prior to Memorial Day weekend and all reports suggest that residents were happy with the results! There was a police presence, the number of boats was significantly less than previous summer holidays and the level of noise was ever so much better.

## A huge thank you to all involved!



Everyone appreciates Village employee Peter Frezza.

What a guy...

[Click here](#) to read about him

## Our Water Supply

In the last several weeks we have had several different breaks in the main transmission line that provides water from the mainland to all of the Florida Keys.

And then came the notices from the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority:

“IMMEDIATE CONSERVATION MEASURES REQUIRED. All residents and visitors are asked to limit all water use to only essential uses such as drinking and basic hygiene. Please refrain from non-essential uses such as washing cars, boats and running washing machines.”

The entire Florida Keys had low or no water pressure for hours each time. If this didn’t get you thinking about the importance of our water issues, it should.

On May 7, 2020 there was an item on the Village council agenda to approve a change to our water supply work plan.

The Village Council approved changes to our Comprehensive Plan, adding promises that we would conserve water through landscaping, education, and restrictions.

Will we face times when our conservation efforts are not adequate? Don’t we need to do more now?

Read more about this critical issue.

[Click here](#)

# Go to [Islamorada.org](http://Islamorada.org)

## What an Amazing Memorial Day Celebration in Islamorada



A great crowd --many dressed in red, white and blue, and Veterans wearing hats or garb denoting their branch of service--turned out for the annual Matecumbe Historical Trust service on Memorial Day, May 31, at the Florida Keys Memorial, also known as the Hurricane Monument, in Islamorada.

MHT Executive Director Barbara Edgar welcomed the community, many of whom participated in the ceremony such as members of the Islamorada Fire Department and Boy Scout Troop 912, who presented the colors, Pastors Bob Pavey and Tony Hammon said the invocation and benediction and Country Singer Dan Furmanik added lyrical joy with the National Anthem, America the Beautiful and God Bless the USA.

Flower wreaths which remain at the monument were donated by Centennial Bank, represented by Stephanie Scuderi, and the Daughters of the American Revolution, represented by Kate Granger, Sandi Humphrey and Pat Key.

Speakers included Lieutenant Governor Jeannette Nunez, who has a home in the Keys; Islamorada Mayor Buddy Pinder from one of Islamorada's founding families, and American Legion Post 145 member Bob Johnson. Johnson is a former Islamorada mayor and councilman.

Councilman Henry Rosenthal, who was born about four score years ago, was celebrating his birthday that same day. Rosenthal spoke about a serviceman who had a special story which focused on a deck of cards and its relation to the Bible.

Then, music man Furmanik led the crowd in singing Happy Birthday to Henry.

Lastly, the community was invited to the Matecumbe United Methodist Church gathering hall for birthday cake in Henry's honor and yummy wood-oven pizzas cooked to order.

Thanks to Matecumbe Historical Trust, it was a fun community gathering, with a few wearing masks, and a whole lot of gratitude for the opportunity to gather outdoors and once again enjoy face-to-face congeniality in honor of those who served.