



Longboat Key News

July 14, 2023

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InsideLook




Budget justified by experience ...page 6-7



Waterfront hits \$3.2 million ...page 9



The beauty of Southern wines ...page 13



Three men earn suspicious call ...page 10

Longboat Key voted one of ‘best’ islands in USA

Longboat Key was recently voted one of the “best” islands in the United States by Travel + Leisure readers. The travel magazine said it asks its readers every year to weigh in on the top hotels, resorts, cities, islands, cruise ships, spas, airlines, and more.

After thousands of votes came in, the magazine said it rated islands in the U.S. by the following criteria:
Natural attractions/beaches
Activities/sights
Restaurants/food
People/friendliness
Value
Coming in at No. 7 was Longboat Key.
“Travel + Leisure readers have long loved a Florida vacation — especially with family — but this year, they’re especially excited about its island destination,” the magazine said.
Four other Florida islands made the list: Sanibel Island, Amelia Island, Florida Keys and Captiva Island.

- Here is the full list:
1. Golden Isles (Jekyll Island, Little St. Simons Island, Sea Island, St. Simons Island), Georgia
 2. Mackinac Island, Michigan
 3. Kiawah Island, South Carolina

See Islands, page 2

Drink in the island’s ‘Happiest’ time of day

You look at your watch and see that it is 4:00. You think, “Perfect, it’s time for Happy Hour!”

TRYLA LARSON
Guest Writer
tryla@lbknews.com



Harry’s is one of Longboat’s favorite Happy Hour watering holes.

You want to take a vacation but are not sure where to go. You only know that you are tired of the cold weather, snow and gloomy skies. You remember your friend telling you about their time on Longboat Key, so you look it up online. It looks great! The beaches, water, palm trees and sunshine look like paradise. Us locals know that it

See Happy Hour, page 14

Mote and wounded veterans rebuild coral

Last week, Mote Marine Laboratory once again joined forces with members of the Combat Wounded Veteran Challenge (CWVC) to plant corals and restore the Higgs Head coral reef in Key West.

This event marks the eleventh year of a unique coral restoration partnership that enables combat wounded veterans the opportunity to participate in cutting-edge, science-based marine habitat restoration.

Combat wounded and injured veterans with various types of injuries including traumatic brain injury, transtibial (below the knee), transfemoral (above the knee) amputees, as well as many other less noticeable combat related injuries participated in this summer’s planting. Many of the CWVC participants who had

See Coral, page 2

Sunswept Evening



Photo by Sheila at FollowmetoLongboatKey on Facebook.

Islands, from page 1

- 4. Mount Desert Island, Maine
- 5. Hilton Head Island, South Carolina
- 6. Sanibel Island, Florida
- 7. Longboat Key, Florida
- 8. Amelia Island, Florida
- 9. Florida Keys, Florida
- 10. Captiva Island, Florida
- 11. San Juan Islands, Washington

Sarasota County bans smoking at beaches, parks

Smoking cigarettes and filtered cigars will be banned at all Sarasota County beaches and parks beginning Oct. 1. Sarasota County commissioners agreed to impose the ban on Tuesday. The county will run an outreach campaign in August and September to tell the public about the new ban. In late April, commissioners directed county staff to prepare an ordinance that would prohibit smoking at county-owned beaches and parks, and they passed the ordinance on a 4-1 vote, with Commissioner Mike Moran dissenting. In 2007, Sarasota County banned smoking at public beaches and recreational areas where youth athletic activities take place, except in designated areas. But in 2012, a Sarasota County judge ruled that regulating smoking is a task left solely to the Florida Legislature, which essentially invalidated local public smoking bans. Last year, the Legislature gave some power back to local governments. State legislators passed a bill that allows cities, towns and counties to ban all forms of smoking — except from unfiltered cigars — at public beaches and parks. Many local governments in Florida have since approved bans, including the city of Venice, the town of Longboat Key and the city of Sarasota. Sarasota County staff said violators could incur a fine of up to about \$75.

Three Siesta Key properties listed for sale are finalists for HGTV’s Ultimate House Hunt

Three Siesta Key properties have been chosen as finalists in this year’s HGTV Ultimate House Hunt. All three properties have been listed by Michael Saunders & Co. “We are delighted that three of our agents’ luxury listings on Siesta Key were among the properties from across the country selected as finalists in HGTV’s Ultimate House Hunt,” said Michael Saunders, founder and CEO of the Sarasota-based real estate company. “We are also excited that people from across the country will have a chance to see these spectacular homes, which exemplify exceptional coastal living on the Gulf Coast.” The Ultimate House Hunt has eight categories in which viewers of the popular home improvement television channel voted more than 1.5 million times last year during the summer competition. A listing at 7340 Point of Rocks Road is for sale for \$5.99 million and 8324 Sanderling Road is for sale for \$9 million. Both properties will be competing for votes in the beachfront homes category. A \$9.98 million listing at 5131 Jungle Plum Road was named a finalist in the Waterfront Homes category. Anyone can view all 95 properties and vote for their favorites until 5 p.m. on Aug. 3, according to a news release.

Coral, from page 1

lost limbs were able to dive utilizing specialized waterproof prosthetics, some of which have been developed from research conducted during prior year’s Mote-CWVC missions. During the single tank dive mission at Higgs Head reef, the group of 31 CWVC divers and six Mote staff including President & CEO Dr. Michael P. Crosby, planted a CWVC record-breaking 1040 corals on the reef, bringing the number of corals planted to nearly 220,000. Mote has been studying coral ecosystems for decades and is an international leader in the development of innovative coral reef restoration technologies, including a recent breakthrough in identifying natural coral genotypes that are resilient to increased ocean temperature, acidification, and diseases. Utilizing resilient coral genotypes in a coral microfragmentation and reskinning methodology, Mote science is now the basis for multiple organizations to engage in growing threatened and reef building coral species for replanting on decimated or damaged sections of reefs throughout the Florida Keys in order to reverse decades of dramatic coral population decline. Global, regional, and local stressors have contributed to the decline of our coral reef ecosystems, most notably in Florida and the Wider Caribbean Region. Living coral cover (the proportion of the reef covered in living coral) on Florida’s Coral Reef is currently between 1 and 5 percent, dramatically less than just 40 years ago when it was more than 30%. Many factors make a natural recovery of Florida’s Coral Reef unlikely and nearly impossible on a timescale relevant to humans. The recovery of function on Florida’s Coral Reef is likely now dependent upon pro-active science-based restoration utilizing Mote’s paradigm changing methods.



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MOVE IN FALL 2023



LIDO SHORES • 1212 CENTER PLACE **\$6,649,000**
Currently under construction and ready by end of the year! Spectacular location, steps to your own private, sandy beach on Gulf of Mexico. Home includes a breathtaking SKY TERRACE offering additional 1500 sq ft of walkable terrace area with 360 degree panoramic views of Sarasota's magnificent city and water views. This desirable, custom residence offers an open, bright, and airy floor plan with 5BR/5BA. Impressive 23-ft. ceiling in great room. Fantastic outdoor area w/custom pool, spa, kitchen and lanai. The residence boasts 4,750 sq. ft. of air-conditioned space.



- 4,750 SF
 - Sky terrace with panoramic views
 - Open floor plan
 - 5 Ensuite bedrooms
 - Main level primary suite
 - 23' Ceiling in great room
 - 10' Tall sliding doors
 - Fireplace
 - Thermador appliances
- Italian imported custom cabinetry
 - First & second floor laundry
 - Den/office
 - Yoga/gym room
 - 17' x 27' Covered lanai
 - Heated saltwater pool & spa
 - Summer kitchen
 - Private beach access
 - Short walk to St. Armands Circle

NEW CONSTRUCTION TO BE BUILT



WEST OF TRAIL - HIGHLY DESIRABLE LOCATION **\$8,299,000**
Waterfront location, this custom home is situated on a quiet cul-de-sac steps to Siesta Key. Offering nearly 5,000 AC/SF, with an open concept floor plan, highly desirable finishes and touches, and 4-car garage, you will be impressed. Work with builder direct to create your dream home.

GULF FRONT NEW CONSTRUCTION



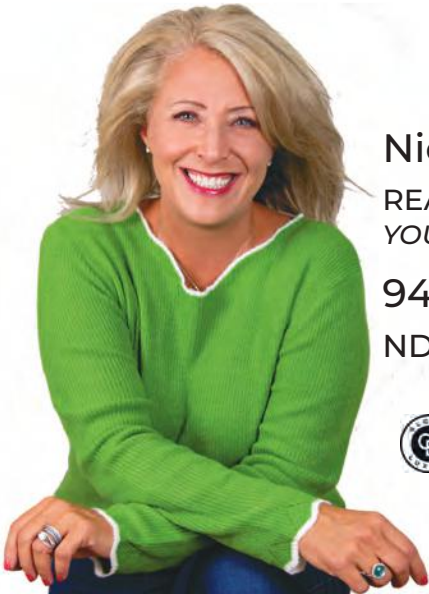
LONGBOAT KEY • 6489 GULFSIDE DRIVE **\$16,900,000**
Fabulous Gulf front lot offering nearly 100 ft. of sandy beach, this gorgeous DSDG Architect designed home is a rare find. Boasting almost 6,000 AC/SF, this spectacular home is custom built with the finest details throughout. Architect designed landscaped exterior and 4-car garage.

I am looking for properties on Longboat and Lido for my buyers.
If you are thinking about making a move, let's chat.

NOW PENDING SALE



SIESTA KEY • HIGEL AVE. **\$16,995,000**
Currently under construction and scheduled to be ready Fall 2023, this breathtaking 8,964 AC/SF residence is one of a kind, designed by DSDG. Gulf front property on one acre and offers a 2,000 SF roof terrace. Separate guest house and 8-car garage. No expense spared on this remarkable home.



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EditorLetters

Longboat Key News and Sarasota City News encourages Letters to the Editor on timely issues. Please email to: letters@lbknews.com or mail to PO Box 8001, Longboat Key, FL 34228. We also print letters sent to Town Hall that address Longboat Key issues. We reserve the right to edit.

July 25th Agenda Item

To: Manatee County Agenda Coordinator Quantana Acevedo
 Hope this finds you well and staying out of the heat.
 The Town is understanding that Chair Van Ostenbridge will be submitting a consent item for the 25th meeting regarding a lease for Whitney Plaza. The Town and our residents would like the opportunity to support this agenda item and would greatly appreciate the opportunity to review and share it at the earliest possible convenience. If it is possible, we'd like to ask that as soon as you are able to share it that you notify Carolyn Brown at cbrown@longboatkey.org and she'll be responsible for getting the information out to our interested parties. Thank you in advance for anything you can do to speed the delivery of this agenda item. We greatly appreciate your service.
 Howard N. Tipton
 Town Manager
 Town of Longboat Key

July 25th Agenda Item

To: Longboat Key Commission
 Doesn't provide a lot of detail and without the backup it is impossible to discern exactly how this will operate.
 The community meeting the Town hosted on this subject share both interest in a public use of the space and also concerns about where this might go if Manatee is involved. A point made several times was that some citizens would feel better if this was operated by the Town and not the School Board or the County (although one or both of these entities would pay for the

Town's expenses). I do think that there will be outreach and coordination with the County and School Board in how this gets set up and will rely on their resources and equipment to operate it. Staff will work to pull together some talking points and get those out hopefully tomorrow.
 Howard N. Tipton
 Town Manager
 Town of Longboat Key

July 25th Agenda Item

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
 The Chairman has added for consideration an agenda item (with no attachments) for staff to work on drafting an Interlocal Agreement with the School Board for the Longboat Key Community Center. Please see the attachment.
 Quantana Acevedo, Agenda Coordinator
 Manatee County Government
 County Administration Office

Mosquito Control

To: Longboat Key Commission
 This is the latest video which focuses on mosquitoes. Wade Brennen heads up the Sarasota County Mosquito Control operation and was generous with his time during what is for him a very busy season. We are also covered by the Manatee County Mosquito Control who are also quite capable but since the Malaria cases were just in Sarasota thought we'd focus on them.
 Thanks as always to Barry and Susan for their assistance in production and editing.
 Howard N. Tipton
 Town Manager
 Town of Longboat Key

Longboat tap water

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
 Isn't the odor in our tap water? I have had some complaints.
 Isaac Brownman
 Public Works Director
 Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 6

A Longboat Key Landmark





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2BR/2BA | 1,358 SF | UPDATED
\$1,599,900



CASEY KEY WATERFRONT

105 CASEY KEY RD., #34
NOKOMIS, FL
3BR/2BA | 1,170 SF | ASSIGNED BOAT SLIP
\$995,000



DIRECT BAY FRONT

3606 FAIR OAKS PLACE
LONGBOAT KEY, FL 34228
4BR+DEN/3BA | 3,842 SF | 24' DOCK
\$3,475,000

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\$5,495,000

648 BAYVIEW DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

Boater's dream property on oversized (19,994sf) rarely available cul-de-sac end lot with a 320-foot seawall located in Sleepy Lagoon, on the north end of Longboat Key. This location offers fantastic panoramic views of Bishops Bayou and the ICW.



\$6,295,000

5910 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

Under Construction. This spectacular, 4,210 sq. ft., newly built 4BR/4.5BA, coastal contemporary waterfront home provides easy access to the Intracoastal Waterway, Sarasota Bay and Gulf of Mexico. Located on a three-quarter acre lot with 133 feet of frontage on a 125-foot-wide canal.



\$2,299,000

793 JUNGLE QUEEN WAY | LONGBOAT KEY

Two-story custom-built, canal-front 4BR/3BA featuring a private rooftop deck. Spacious open floorplan with 22' soaring ceilings. French doors lead to an expansive back porch and screened patio with a pool and spa.



\$1,995,000

1211 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #601 | LONGBOAT KEY

Stunning views of the Gulf of Mexico and Sarasota Bay in this 6th-floor condominium in Promenade. The desirable end unit features 2 bedrooms plus a den, all with full baths, abundant floor-to-ceiling windows and glass sliders to 2 balconies.



NOW PENDING!

\$2,995,000

830 TARAWITT DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

Just three lots to the ICW from this over 2,500 sf, coastal 2015 built home. Living area and kitchen open to the patio and contemporary pool. The privacy of the second level offers two guest bedrooms with full bath, plus an extra lounge.



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LUXURY REAL ESTATE



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STEVE WALTER

941.809.0907

Steve@WalterGroupRealEstate.com

JANET WALTER

941.232.2000

Janet@WalterGroupRealEstate.com

Michael Saunders & Company
LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKER



\$1,899,000

BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME

524 HALYARD LANE | LONGBOAT KEY

Country Club Shores - WATERFRONT 100 ft. x 100 ft. buildable lot. Includes 2BR/2BA/1,668 SF home. Perfect location for new construction on 80 ft. wide deep water canal. Close access to Country Club Shores' beach access and the Longboat Key Club. Less than three miles to Saint Armand's Circle. Highly desirable location on north side of 80 ft. canal for southern exposure on pool and outdoor entertaining space. Seller commissioned design of 4,344 SF contemporary home and considers property as lot value. Plans available. Renderings reflect one possible build option; new home not included in the listing.



Front View

EditorLetters



Letters, from page 4

Longboat tap water

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman
We’re aware of it but I’ll check to see what’s been posted.
Howard Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Longboat tap water

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman
Just to be clear though, there is no relationship with the water odor and these infrastructure improvements. The odor is coming from the surface water algae on Lake Manatee that can bloom in the hotter weather.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Project Update - Bradenton Beach Sewer Improvements

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman
Have we communicated about the awful smell in Manatee County water to the public?
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Community Discussion Invitation

To: Paul Hylbert
The Town of Longboat Key is hosting a community conversation with our residents from the Manatee County portion of the Key, to provide insights, input and recommendations on a potential Community/Learning Center at Whitney Plaza. The Manatee County Commission will consider the lease of the Whitney Plaza space at their July 25, 2023 fiscal year 2023-2024 budget planning meeting. The community conversation will be held on July 12, 2023 at 2 p.m. at Town Hall, 501 Bay Isles Road.
The discussion with the Manatee Commission and School Board has been developing over the past year and looks to see an investment from both agencies back into Longboat Key and its residents. It is an incredible opportunity to see a partnership that will enhance the quality of life for our north island residents. The more focused we can all be on what we’d like to see, the greater the opportunity to realize that vision and that’s the primary driver behind this community conversation. So the agenda for the meeting is to gather or reaffirm ideas on use, services, and programs and to develop talking points around them that can then be shared with the County and the School Board.
Can’t make the meeting on July 12? Please feel free to send an email with your ideas to the Town’s Support Services Director Carolyn Brown: cbrown@longboatkey.org We want to hear from everyone!
For Paul and the North End Coalition Board, we’re asking for your help to get this invitation out to your members and ask each of them to share it with their respective communities.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Air Temperature

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission
It’s not your imagination – it is really hot out there. Let’s put aside (for now) the causes of what we’ll be discussing here, and just focus on the outcomes – which is that our air and water temperatures are increasing.
For us to discuss temperature trends, it’s important to keep in mind the data sets upon which we can make conclusions. Any location with an airport (like Sarasota) will have a great data set on air temperature, because it is an important consideration related to the density of air, and thus on flight characteristics. I earned my pilot’s license back in 1998 (single-engine land) and never liked flying in the summer – the little planes (with their little engines) we rented struggled to get aloft on hot days, since hot air is less dense, and generates less lift at the same airspeed.
So what does our air temperature data conclude? That it is getting warmer over time. The plot below compares each month’s average air temperature to the average for that month for the period of 1901 to 2000. If any given month is spot-on average, the month shows up white. Cooler would be blue, and warmer would be yellow. Warmest still would be brown. As you can see, the prior century had a fairly even mixture of blues and yellows, with a few browns. Over the last 20 to 40 years, it’s mostly yellow and browns. We used to average about 2 to 3 freezing temperatures per year in Sarasota, but from 2011 to 2020, we had only 3 the entire decade – the lowest amount of days with freezing temperatures over the 11 decades with such data. We used to start August days with temperatures in the 60s, every once in a while. But we haven’t had a single hour of a single day in any August month over the past 20 years lower than 70 degrees. Warmer air ought to be related to warmer water as well, since the two are

coupled (with time lags). Well, as shown below (from a 2022 report) the Gulf of Mexico is trending warmer over the past 20 to 40 years, matching the general pattern seen in our local air temperature data set. Keep in mind that the scale here is in degrees Celsius – roughly double the number and you have the Fahrenheit trend.
Getting closer to home, we recently had one of our consultants verify our preliminary conclusions about water temperature trends in Sarasota Bay. Their report found a mixture of results depending on location and month. In general, water temperatures in all five parts of Sarasota Bay were more likely to be increasing than stable, and no bay segment showed a decline in water temperatures, as summarized below.
Every bay segment showed increasing water temperatures (between 1970 and 2022) in the months of September and October, but no bay segment showed an increase in February. The southern part of Upper Sarasota Bay, Roberts Bay and Little Sarasota Bay had increasing trends in 9 of 12 months. Conversely, Blackburn Bay was the reverse, with no trends in 9 of 12 months. Even so, Blackburn Bay did not have any months with decreasing trends. A factor that comes into play here is that summer rains and stormwater runoff are typically cooler than our ambient water in the summertime, and this complicates the monthly temperature trends quite a bit.

Overall, however, our air is getting warmer, the Gulf of Mexico is getting warmer, and most of Sarasota Bay is also getting warmer. This matches up with our water level data (below) which shows that while our period of record rate of sea level rise is about 1 inch per decade, we’ve averaged 3 inches per decade over the past 20 years. We anticipate an additional 9 inches of sea level over the next 30 years. Why would warmer water be “higher”? The same reason why a hot air balloon lifts off the ground. Temperature is a measure of kinetic energy, and the more heat you add to a balloon (through the burners) the more energy the air molecules (mostly di-nitrogen gas) have. Which means they bump into each other more violently, and thus take up more “space” which means fewer air molecules per unit volume, which means lower density, which means the balloon goes up into the air. Similarly, warming water means more kinetic energy, meaning more collisions, meaning lower density, which increases the height of the water. Take a cup full of marbles and shake it (adding energy) and you’ll have fewer marbles remaining in the same volume of the cup (i.e., lower density) – same concept.
Since our average tidal range is about 18 inches, this means that by 2050, the average sea level will be about the same as what our average high tide is right now, and our average high tide in 2050 will be 9 inches stacked on top of that. This shouldn’t trigger panic, but it is consistent with our local partners – and the State of Florida – joining with the Federal Government to continue to plan on a Sarasota Bay that will be warmer, with higher tides, over the next 30 years. If we don’t plan on being able to accommodate that, then we will not be as resilient as we need to be, and our children and grandchildren will be handed a bay not nearly as healthy and beautiful as the bay that we can experience right now.
If you haven’t lately – get out on the water! It’s not that we don’t have problems still in some places, but the water quality in the bay is as good as it’s been at any time over the past few years right now. Don’t take my word for it, look for yourself!
Dave Tomasko
Executive Director
City of Sarasota

Town Manager update

To: Longboat Key Commission
I spoke with Interim Manatee County Administrator Lee Washington today just to confirm what we’ve heard and any advice he has for going forward. He confirmed that:
The Chair is working to place the lease on the July 25th consent agenda (morning start). Lee has not see the agenda item yet and I will ask their Agenda Coordinator to give us a heads up when it is in place.
There will be an interlocal agreement with the School Board that provides that they will be operating/programming the facility.
His advice was to reach out to the other Commissioners to share our support for the initiative and to be there on the 25th prepared to speak if it gets pulled or there are questions. They apparently start to return from their recess next week. The Town is hosting the north island group tomorrow at 2:00 pm to discuss the project and I’m sure from it there will be talking points developed that will turn into letters of support from the various associations that roll up to the master association. We will also prepare a letter from the Town that will look similar to share our support.
As to individual briefings with the Commissioners, I am as you know only returning from a weeks’ vacation to Florida on July 24 and your return is about then as well. I will reach out to Commissioner Murphy to see if she and perhaps a representative or two from the LBK north group can touch base with each County Commissioner to share their support.
That’s my latest. We will after tomorrow’s session create a summary of the comments and share with the Town Commission and the north island group.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Suncoast Waterkeeper Sampling Results for the Week of July 7

See Letters, page 7



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Sandra Smith | 941.383.3388

6350 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL

CHUBB, AIG, UNIVERSAL, UNITED, SAFECO, PROGRESSIVE, FRONTLINE, VAULT, FLOOD, WE HAVE YOU COVERED!

EditorLetters



Letters, from page 4

To: Longboat Key Commission

This past week, Suncoast Waterkeeper completed sample collection and analysis of enterococci count for four sites in Manatee County. Results for sites sampled in Manatee County are as follows: Town of Longboat Key Boat Ramp (10 CFU), Anna Maria Pier (10 CFU), Bridge Street Pier (10 CFU), and Palma Sola Causeway (98 CFU).

The health of these waters are crucial to the recreational and economic security of our community, and we feel responsible to bring these issues to your attention. Attached are the official reports for this week of sampling from Benchmark Enviroanalytical, with data regarding all sites sampled as well as a link to our site which contains information about our water quality sampling program.

Suncoast Waterkeeper
Sarasota

Local business help

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

Recently, we have been contacted by a Siesta Key business that would like to partner with us to provide us with funding for some of our restoration work. As you know, we have an account that we set aside that is not mixed with our operating funds that we use for donations, etc. for habitat restoration projects. The account has more than \$100,000 collected and/or disbursed for various habitat restoration projects. It also is the destination for stipulated fines from wastewater overflows and other legal cases related to fines in our local region. We don't use those funds for salaries or office operating costs, they are 100% devoted to habitat restoration projects.

Anyway, this local business wants to include information about the SBEP in its store, and to devote a percentage of their profits to habitat restoration projects that we would coordinate and/or oversee. To be clear, this would be a two-way street: they would send us funds as they accumulate as a function of their business, and they would also expect that some folks might buy some of their product if they saw that there was a side benefit for bay restoration that occurred if they purchased a product from the store. We had them over at our office, and when I said that if we got a similar offer from a competing store next to them (as an example) we would want to take them up on it as well – we wouldn't be exclusive to any particular business. Their response was "I hope so – we want to make this a better place for our customers and our community."

We ran this idea by our legal counsel (Don Conn) and he determined that this was legal, but that there was a potential reputational risk if the money we expected didn't come through, or if not enough came through for them to get a project started. With that, we thought that the best way forward was to have a specific and achievable amount that would be required for a specific activity. Basically, for every \$400 they could raise and send to us, we could work with our partners to construct and then deploy 20 vertical oyster gardens, or VOGs. This way, they'd have an incentive to make this worth our time, and they'd also have a "project" that they could point to that they could brag about enabling. They could have a picture of the section of docks with VOGs that were put in place based on the funding they provided to our program. And we could get more done, more quickly.

If you have any comments or concerns, please email – without hitting "reply all" and I will respond.

I think that this is a good idea – a benefit to the bay, a benefit to taxpayers, and a way to get more folks aware of what needs to happen. I think it could be expanded upon, but this would be our first step.

Dave Tomasko
Executive Director
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

Town Budget

To: Longboat Key Commission

Given that we have a new and very experienced Town Manager it would make sense for his LBK financial orientation, for a staff department head refresher, a Town Commission reality check and most important, for transparency and communication to tax payers, a zero base budget process, based on actual financial need by line item, should be done.

We all know property values have skyrocketed this past year and if there is no reduction in the millage, (which should obviously be done), the Town government will enjoy windfall revenue from the newer non- homesteaded property buyers and businesses like the St Regis.

Government behavior historically always finds ways to spend surplus tax revenue. The Sarasota County budget is also enjoying huge growth and assessed market values on top of our Town's which is another taxpayer liability concern.

While the new proposed staff positions may seem to be needed, a zero base budget process may reveal other places that could be reduced, or most important, outsourced part time or project based rather than full time with the additional benefit costs.

What is the real value added and ROI of these new positions including benefits?

How is the Town functioning today without these positions?

Looking at part time outsourcing by project may save money and help lower the millage to cover the needed, not wanted, zero based line item budget expenses.

As you well know high property values are ephemeral, remember '08.

Please base your decisions on real financial and resident services needed not based on a "snap shot" of the current economy and real estate values.

Zero based budgeting process is a business oriented discipline all taxpayers should demand. The Federal government and even Sarasota County are examples of what happens if we don't hold the line executing fiscal discipline and responsibility.

We have confidence that LBK leadership will hold the line. Thank you for your service.

Bob Gault
Longboat Key

Town Budget

To: Bob Gault

I no am sorry you did not attend any of the budget workshops or meetings in the past few months. I believe it would have provided useful insight.

I can guarantee no member of the Commission or staff made any implication about "millionaires" living here. Quite honestly, knowing the nightmare commute staff makes on a daily basis we are fortunate our budget is not higher.

BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Longboat Key

Town Budget

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

A fair point and well taken BJ. Sadly Nobody is paying attention to what's going on in the Town and with two thirds not even here.

I think you will agree that seeing a 43 percent increase in the proposed Town budget along with adding 7 FT staff positions and given the large increase in property values on LBK but still proposing to keep LY's millage rate is a bit of a shocking mind bender, especially for retired business people.

As you well know we are blessed to live in an "economic bubble" here on Longboat. I am sure property values have increased more here than in our counties as a whole.

In addition, as we look ahead in the relatively near term, a recession is predicted by most economists in 2024 as interest rates continue to rise. A cause for caution in a budgeting process regarding staffing increases.

In any event, Town leadership should not be so surprised that some members of the Community might be surprised at the proposed budget headlines.

Thanks as always for your able service.

Bob Gault
Longboat Key

Tour of police cruisers

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Tip, just wanted to drop a note and say thank you to Deputy Chief Frank Rubino for taking a few minutes of his day to show me one of the new hybrid police cruisers we purchased. They are packed with equipment and tools that provide the officers with many options I have not seen in other local's vehicles.

Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Longboat Key

Plant Based Treaty

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin

In September 2021, Boynton Beach, Florida became the first city to endorse the Plant Based Treaty. This was later followed by Los Angeles passing a resolution to endorse the Plant Based Treaty in October 2022.

A coalition of more than 3000 groups and businesses, including Social Compassion in Legislation, Ocean Preservation Society, Better Food Foundation, In Defense of Animals and

See Letters, page 8

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EditorLetters

Letters, from page 7

Reimagine Agriculture, is urging council members across the state of Florida to support sustainable diets by signing the Plant Based Treaty initiative.

The UN Secretary-General António Guterres’ described the release of the IPCC sixth assessment as a ‘code red’ for humanity and our last chance to avoid catastrophic climate breakdown.

Greenhouse gases must be cut in a rapid and sustained manner to avoid temperatures rising above 1.5C. According to the 2021 UN Global Methane Assessment, methane, of which a third comes from animal agriculture, must be cut by 45 percent by 2030.

The Plant Based Treaty is designed to put food systems at the forefront of combating the climate crisis. Modeled on the popular Fossil Fuel Treaty, the treaty aims to halt the widespread degradation of critical ecosystems caused by animal farming and promote a shift towards healthier, sustainable plant-based diets.

More than 400 politicians back the treaty, along with IPCC scientists Dr. Peter Carter and Professor Julia Steinberger, and Nobel Laureates, including Klaus Hasselmann and Roger D. Kornberg.

Boynton Beach City’s Sustainability Coordinator, Rebecca Harvey said, “Food choices are one of the most powerful ways that individuals can help solve the climate crisis. Plant-based foods have a much lower carbon footprint than red meat and dairy.”

Councilmember Paul Koretz, who introduced the resolution with Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson in Los Angeles said, “This landmark resolution marks a vital cultural shift as Americans prioritize both combating climate change and improving their health. As over 2,200 municipalities did with climate emergency declarations, I invite other cities to join us and endorse the Plant Based Treaty.”

Please visit www.plantbasedtreaty.org, where you can sign your name to endorse the Plant Based Treaty or consider putting forward a motion for your city to endorse. You can email hello@plantbasedtreaty.org for a sample motion. Thank you for taking climate action today to secure a future for all.

Josh Wenglin
Sarasota

Town Budget and Proposed Staffing Increases

To: Longboat Key Commission

Given that we have a new and very experienced Town Manager it would make sense for his LBK financial orientation, for a staff department head refresher, a Town Commission reality check and most important, for transparency and communication to tax payers, a zero base budget process, based on actual financial need by line item, should be done.

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We have confidence that LBK leadership will hold the line.

Bob Gault
Longboat Key

Town Budget and Proposed Staffing Increases

To: Bob Gault

Please see Howard’s detailed response yesterday to a similar note from Shannon. The Commission unanimously approved next year’s budget after 3 months’ intensive work on the subject. In addition to Howard’s comments, with which I wholeheartedly agree, note that we reduced the LBK millage rate last year for the first time in a decade and remain the least expensive municipality by millage in the Sarasota/Manatee region despite maintaining our own police and fire departments. These departments have received 98-99% positive ratings from the community even though they have been undermanned due to noncompetitive wage rates, finally remedied this year. As Howard mentions, only next year will our Town headcount equal that of 2008-09 while the requirements for first responders, IT, planning and other services

See Letters, page 11

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1241 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#704	3,045	\$3,299,000	3	4	0	55	\$3,100,000
700 DREAM ISLAND RD	1,755	\$3,195,000	2	2	1	80	\$2,968,000
1930 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#141	1,442	\$895,000	2	2	0	61	\$850,000
2233 HARBOURSIDE DRIVE Unit#Unit 203	2,224	\$825,000	3	2	0	60	\$825,000
6750 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#176	846	\$650,000	1	1	0	0	\$650,000
25 TWIN SHORES BLVD	920	\$269,000	2	1	0	0	\$265,000
1001 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#409	1,224	\$699,000	2	0	0	98	\$699,000



1241 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#704



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LAKWOOD RANCH
5527 PALMER CIRCLE, #206
ACTIVE LISTING \$485,000



BIRD KEY
410 MEADOWLARK DRIVE
PENDING \$3,795,000



BIRD KEY
526 BIRD KEY DRIVE
SOLD \$2,225,000



BIRD KEY
449 E ROYAL FLAMINGO DRIVE
SOLD \$5,600,000

Send us your reaction: letters@lbknews.com

OnPatrol

The following are actual police reports as written by Longboat Key Police Officers. They are edited for length, punctuation and to protect privacy.

July 7 Citizen assist

12:20 a.m.
Officer Nazareno responded to the 3400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a citizen assist call. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno made contact with both complainants who advised that they were from out of town and lost track of which Public Beach Access they parked their vehicle. Sgt. Smith later advised that their vehicle was parked at the beach access located at the 3100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Both complainants were given a courtesy ride to their vehicle. Case clear.

Agency assistance

1:02 p.m.
Officer Connors while on marine patrol in Longboat Pass, assisted Public Works with repairing a ‘Slow Speed, Minimum Wake’ waterway marker. Case clear.

Suspicious incident

4:31 p.m.
Officer Tillman responded to the 4200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of a suspicious incident. The complainant said his car alarm was going and it was discovered that a small child had activated the alarm. Case clear.

July 8 Civil citation

9:11 a.m.
Officer Ramsaier responded to Norton Street in reference to an illegal dumping. The complainant stated that she observed a landscaping crew from across the waterway dumping palm fronds into the water in the rear of Norton Street. Officer Ramsaier was dispatched to the location and upon arrival, Officer Ramsaier observed a landscaping crew working at Norton Street. To verify the information given to dispatch, he called the complainant and she confirmed that she observed a member of the landscaping crew dumping palm fronds into the waterway. Officer Ramsaier spoke with the crew leader of the landscaping company who stated that he was made aware that one of his crew members did in fact, dump the palm fronds. The landscaping company was issued a Code Enforcement Civil Citation for unlawful dumping of 15 pounds or less of waste into a waterway.

Alcohol offense

12:56 p.m.
Officer Ferrigine while on beach patrol, observed beach chairs with three alcoholic white claw cans around it. Officer Ferrigine watched four people come out of the water and made contact with them and asked if the chairs and drinks belonged to them. They said it was theirs. Officer Ferrigine advised the individuals that there was no drinking alcoholic beverages on the beach. The woman said she pays over \$10,000 a month to live here and that she never knew she could not drink on the beach. The woman later gave her name and advised the beach is private for her to drink on. Prior to giving Officer Ferrigine her name, she had given a differ-



ent name, a fake name. The woman was advised she can go to jail for providing a false name to a police officer. The woman advised that she will take the citation for everyone on the scene. She was issued one civil citation and advised no more alcoholic beverages on the beach. Case clear.

July 9 Suspicious incident

1:14 p.m.
Officer Tillman responded to Gulfside Drive for a report of a suspicious device at the beach access that had washed ashore. Upon arrival, Officer Tillman located a used Cost Guard location marker. Officer Tillman advised the Fire Department of the item and where it was located. The canister was empty and disposed of properly. Case clear.

July 10 Suspicious incident

12:32 a.m.
Officer Martinez responded to Bay Isles in regard to a report of a suspicious incident. Dispatch advised that the complainant could hear power tool noises or hammers coming from Publix. Upon arrival, Officer Martinez observed Publix employees in their Publix uniforms conducting repair work on the front entrance door to the property. While on scene, Officer Martinez observed employees inside the Publix using hammers. No criminal natures was observed, no power tools or construction equipment was observed in the parking lot. Case clear.

July 11 Citizen dispute

5:55 p.m.
Officer Miklos responded to the 6300 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a citizen dispute between three men. While en route, Sarasota Sheriff’s Office advised that two men left the scene in a white truck. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos came into contact with the property manager who advised two men in a white truck pulled into his private parking lot. The property manager said he confronted the two men that were inside the truck. The property manager described the first man as a white male in his late 30s approximately six feet tall, thin build, wearing a white shirt and light-colored pants. The manager advised that the second man was Hispanic in his late 30s, wearing no shirt and white pants. The manager advised the men got in his face and stated, “I work for the town of Longboat Key.” The manager said the two men left in the white truck and were last seen driving northbound on Gulf of Mexico Drive. The manager was unable to provide a license plate on the truck. The manager’s wife was able to show camera footage of the incident and the truck. The truck looked like a Ford Super Duty Truck with heavily tinted windows, towing a trailer. Officer Miklos provided the manager a business card with email and advised them to send him security camera footage for his report. At the time of the report, the Officer had not received the footage. The manager advised there was no physical contact in the incident and was only a verbal disagreement. Case clear.

July 12 Boat

11:58 a.m.
Officer Connors while on marine patrol, followed up with a complaint in regards to a vessel docked at Sloop Lane, obstructing other vessels safe navigation of the canal. Upon arrival, Officer Connors located the vessel in question with a homeport of Longboat Key docked in front of Sloop Lane facing west. Officer Connors was able to transit with the police department’s marine unit’s largest vessel to the end of the canal without any incident and with plenty of room to spare as he passed the vessel. At this time, no obstructions or violations were observed as the boat appears to be properly documented. Case clear.

July 13 Citizen assist

9:29 a.m.
Officer Tillman responded to Spanish Drive North in response to construction trucks parking in the roadway. Upon arrival, a canvas of the area revealed several construction trucks in the area, but none were blocking the roadway. The complainant was advised that this may be a homeowner’s association issue rather than a police matter. Case clear.

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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 8

have only grown.

Also, note that our decision to use some reserves to help fund capital projects includes nearly \$2 million in ARPA funding grants (for sea level rise projects) and several accelerated equipment purchase orders due to supply chain constraints. In other words, money is assigned next year (and included in next year's budget) even though delivery will still be some year's off. These are essentially timing issues.

Please know that LBK will continue to take the conservative path to budget matters, including the maintenance of substantial reserves and reducing taxes when responsibly possible, while delivering the highest quality services that our community expects.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Longboat Key

Whitney Plaza

To: Pat Kaufman and Paul Hylbert

The Manatee County Commission is expected to address the proposed lease for the Whitney Plaza space on July 25. I plan to attend and invite you and/or representatives from LBK North to attend. We hope to have the inputs available from our July 12 meeting with the Town of Longboat Key to use as the foundation for how we (LBK North) envision the space to be utilized.

It is very encouraging to see this long-awaited partnership coming together. Having well defined expectations from the Manatee residents of Longboat Key will help in defining what success looks like. Thanks to all the members of LBK North who have worked tirelessly in this effort.

Debbie Murphy
Commissioner
Longboat Key

Whitney Plaza

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debbie Murphy

Should be a great meeting. The LBK North Board will be sending a letter to the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners in advance of the July 25th meeting in strong support of this opportunity.

Also attached is a power point that lists potential ideas we have collected from the community over the last few meetings. Not prioritized. (Carolyn - please use this with the workshop and Paul can certainly speak to these at the LBK meeting).

Maureen Merrigan
Longboat Key

Whitney Plaza

To: Longboat Key Commission

We definitely have some good ideas for uses of the Whitney facility and will be ready for the Wednesday meeting.

One question that concerns me is who is going to manage the facility?
We don't need or want Manatee County or the School Board to run it, in my opinion.
So do we have someone at the Town (Carolyn) handle the scheduling?
Who keeps the Keys or do we have a keyless entry system and share codes?
Who keeps the place clean and organized?
Where do we store equipment (seating for meetings, yoga mats, video equipment)?
Thoughts?
Paul Hylbert
Longboat Key

Sidewalk accident

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jennifer Ahearn-Koch

On Friday, June 30, at approximately 1:30 p.m., I tripped and fell on an uneven portion of city sidewalk in front of Sisters Nail Bar, located between Oak Street and Elder Lane on Pineapple Avenue. As a result, I sustained extreme trauma to my face and mouth.

Immediately following this event, at approximately 3:30 p.m., I received emergency care at the dental practice of Jungman, Varga and Troxler DDS, PA. I returned for a follow-up visit on Wednesday, July 5th and then again on Monday, July 10th, receiving a diagnosis that I had fractured my right front tooth as well as the tooth beside it. Relative to subsequent treatment, Dr. James Troxler, DMD recommended that I consult with Misch Implant Dentistry in Sarasota, which I was able to do that same day. Meeting with Dr. Maggie Misch-Haring, DMD, MS. she verified that I indeed had fractures of both teeth, which would require extraction and replacement of both teeth. She then formulated a preliminary treatment plan for my consideration.

The estimated cost of my treatment assessment from both Dr. Troxler and Dr. Misch are quite extensive, amounting to several thousand dollars. All documents from these visits are in order. It was recommended that I contact you to inquire if the City of Sarasota will offer any monetary assistance in this matter. Your response will be deeply appreciated.

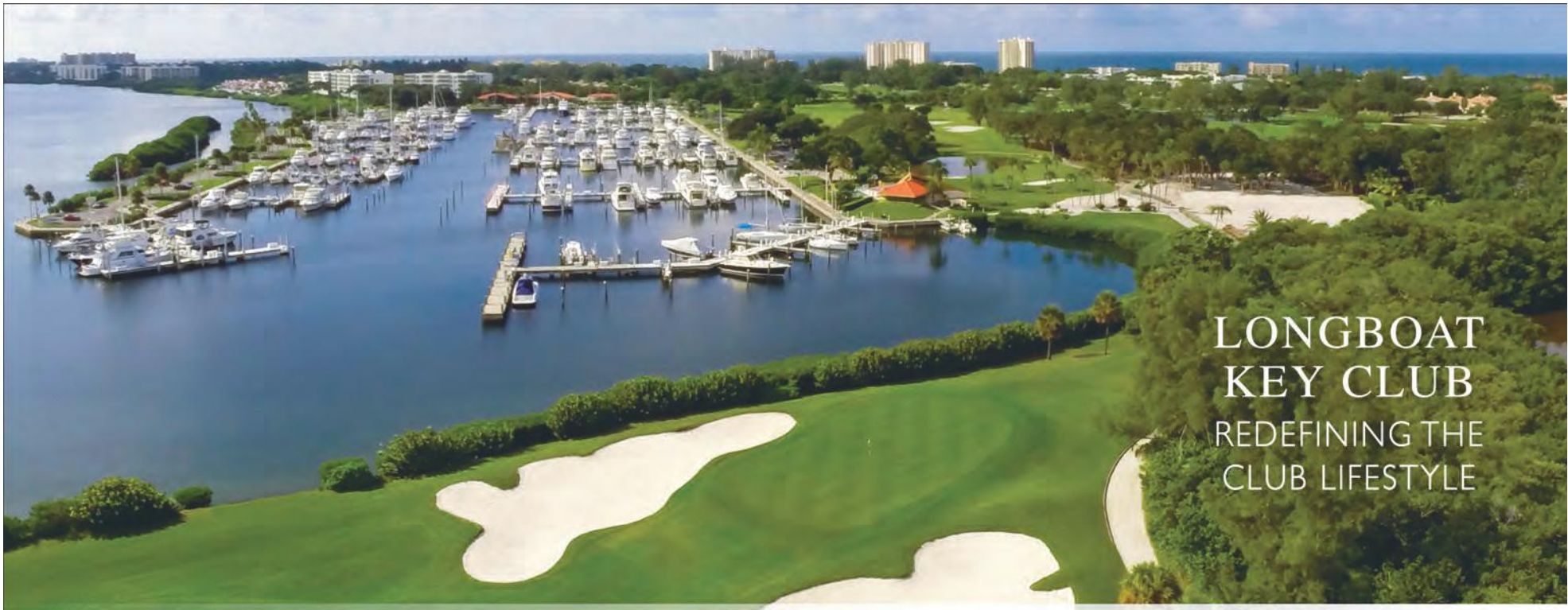
Charlene J. Moravec
Sarasota

Sidewalk accident

To: Charlene Moravec

Thank you for your email. I have copied the City Attorney on this email to respond accordingly.

See Letters, page 12



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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 11

ingly.
Jen Ahearn-Koch
City Commissioner
City of Sarasota

Purple Ribbon Committee appointments

To: Sarasota City Commission
You may be aware that my office just sent out Additional Backup Material for the Monday, July 17, 2023, City Commission meeting with revised material for the Purple Ribbon Committee appointments. The revision is only regarding the categories the applicants are asking to be considered for.
In the past few days, a few applicants have contacted our office requesting to be considered for additional categories which they did not originally request. We have made those adjustments. As of today, to avoid further confusion there will not be any more adjustments to the matrix spreadsheets.
To clarify, applicants were asked to specify which seat/or seats they wished to be considered for at the time they applied. The only applications we noted as city residents were those who specifically applied to fill a city resident seat, otherwise the commission stated they were looking for the other expertise as a priority rather than residency. If you have any questions, please do not reply all and feel free to contact me directly.
Shayla Griggs
City Clerk
City of Sarasota

School tennis courts in Payne Park

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch
I hope all is well. Receiving the notes that you’re entertaining a request adding additional tennis courts to our Payne Park is very disturbing and hard NO from us as Payne Park Village owners. We have a beautiful facility already.
We have no interest that more green space will be taking away from our park. There is a lot of wildlife that needs to be protected. You are already cutting into the park with the Legacy extension, so no more! There are other places the school board and the city can explore (e.g. the empty 2 acres on 301 abutting the park).
I know that you care about the public and their view and the school board shouldn’t dictate city policy. Further it’s a violation of the intentions of the Payne Park family.
Please do the right thing and support the people that live here and respect the wishes of the Payne Park family.
Claudia Bridgham
Sarasota

School tennis courts in Payne Park

To: Claudia Bridgham
Thank you for your email, I do appreciate you taking the time to reach out to me about the tennis courts in Payne Park. I have copied the City Manager on this email to respond with more information please.
Jen Ahearn-Koch
City Commissioner
City of Sarasota

School tennis courts in Payne Park

To: Claudia Bridgham
All is well with me and I hope you are well too. Nice hearing from you. It’s been a while. Yes, this is being entertained but not yet solidified. The School Board and Sarasota High are in the process of looking at other options for the tennis courts other than Payne Park. I will let everyone know soon of the results of that search. But please note that there is an existing Master Plan for Payne Park that designated that space for lawn bowling (active recreation) which we have now located at Bobby Jones. I don’t want anyone to be under the false impression that Payne Park is a passive park with just green space but that spaces can be and will/ may be activated. Staff will be reviewing and updating the Master Plan which will involve the general public (citywide). Thanks for reaching out Claudia and we will chat soon. Take care.
Marlon Brown
City Manager
City of Sarasota

Affected Person problem

To: Sarasota City Attorney Robert Fournier

We spoke on June 28 and I outlined exactly what had occurred at the Planning Board meeting of 6/14/23. You said you were going to review the tape of that meeting and get back to me with how you are planning to proceed.
If I don’t heard from you by July 12th I intend to proceed legally.
Philip M. Dasher
Sarasota

Affected Person problem

To: Philip M. Dasher
My apologies for not having replied sooner as I was out of town at the end of last week at a seminar and have been trying to catch up since I got back.
I very much appreciate that you were willing to talk with me about the situation. When you told me that you were not interested in hearing an explanation as to why Mike Connolly said what he did, I respected your wishes in that respect and didn’t press forward with it; but I did appreciate your willingness to share with me your comments on the application during our conversation.
Since our phone conversation, I have watched the tape of the meeting. Because I do not want to exacerbate the situation and inadvertently write something by way of explanation that might cause further offense, I will only say that I do not see any way that I can re-open that public hearing which is what I think you were interested in doing. It goes without saying that you certainly have the right to seek legal counsel if you believe that is what you should do. If that is the direction you go, I will be available to further discuss with your attorney if whomever you retain is interested in discussing further with me. I sincerely regret that this all happened the way it did.
Robert M. Fournier
City Attorney
City of Sarasota

Neighborhood Traffic Calming, CCNA and Bird Key

To: P. Rence
I am writing on behalf of the Coalition of City Neighborhood Associations of Sarasota, CCNA, in response to Bird Key Improvement Association’s decision to not continue its participation with us and that Lou Costa has decided to step away from all the civic activities, including the neighborhood traffic speed reduction effort that he championed, which included Bird Key. Consequently, we need to know whether or not your neighborhood wishes to continue to be part of the Neighborhood Traffic Calming team.
The city is realizing that speeding in our neighborhoods is a safety concern. Because vehicles are traveling faster, because they are bigger and heavier, ergo deadlier, and because vacationers using hotel houses and AirBNB’s have no respect for the residents of or property in our neighborhood, there has been an uptick in neighborhood incidents.
We believe the Florida Highway Administration’s traffic safety paradigm that Enforcement, Engineering, Education/Public Information, and Emergency Services must work together. The CCNA committee on Traffic Calming, the city, and SPD are making progress. Because of Lou’s effort, we have seen the speed feedback monitors and patrol units placed around the city by the SPD. We will be meeting with Public Works July 18th to set an agenda to analyze our options and to develop a feasible neighborhood traffic calming model, which will in time include CCNA assuming a significant role as educators and purveyors of safety information, the SPD, and emergency services.
We, the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Committee need to know if the residents of Bird Key are still interested in and want to work with our committee. If you’re not interested, we will move forward without Bird Key and wish you well. Do not hesitate to ask, if you wish to discuss this.
Richard Harris
President
CCNA of Sarasota

Planning Department Update

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown
Here is the summary for this week:

- Attainable Housing- The Rhodes Avenue and 41st Street Habitat for Humanity residence projects are scheduled for the CC Meeting on July 17.
- BID Appointments- No action will take place until the BID renewal is approved.
- Census Challenge- The City’s Census Challenge has been submitted, and we are awaiting the Census Bureau’s response.
- Cultural Resources Display- A new display has been completed on City Hall and the Sarasota School of Architecture. The previous art items have been located in the SRQ Studio. The new exhibit will include a few models of some of the buildings displayed.
- Fresh Fridays- Strategized with Joe Grano about the remaining events for the year.
- Fruitville Roundabout Public Art- The Public Art Committee’s final recommended selection from the three finalists was decided at the PAC Meeting on May 3. The PAC is recommending approval of the piece called “Sun Always Shines”. This will be presented to the CC later this year.
- Legacy Business Recognition Program- This is projected to be presented at the CC Meeting on Aug. 21.
- Live Local- There will be a CC Workshop on July 10 to discuss this recent legislation from the State. We finalized the power point and reviewed talking points with Mike Connolly.
- Micro-Transit Options- Met with purchasing to finalize strategy to solicit vendors for a new micro-transit operation. First step will be the issuance of Request For Interest.
- Newtown Historic District- This is projected to go to the CC later this summer. It will then be sent to the National Register Review Board to be held on Nov. 2 by the State of Florida. It will then go to the Secretary of Interior’s Office which will take a minimum of 90 days to process. We should hear back in the Spring of 2024.
- Parking Division- We presented our recommendations and we will begin preparation for a future workshop with the Commission this fall.
- Plan and Permit Reviews- Planning staff and I continue to review plans, permits and provide comments at DRC Meetings. We attended meetings this week with applicants on

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WineTimes

Wine Stars Under the Southern Cross 2023

No question, the Southern Hemisphere has co-opted a number of bit players among European wines and made them wine stars abroad.

S.W. and Rich Hermansen
Guest Writers
wine@lbknews.com

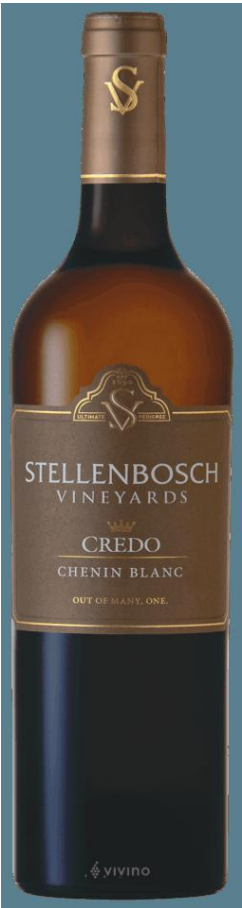
Wines from the Southern Hemisphere have a character all their own. Do the Southern Cross and other constellations in the sky below the equator (or above, as in some of the maps printed in Australia) change the usual European grapes grown in the Northern Hemisphere for better or worse?

Wine experts may argue about the strengths and liabilities of European vs. Southern Hemisphere wines, but, no question, the Southern Hemisphere has co-opted a number of bit players among European wines and made them wine stars abroad. Winemakers have planted seeds or clones of these *Vitis vinifera* grapes in all of the continents except Antarctica.

We focus here on wines that have become prominent in the international wine market. Some of these transplants have attained much greater popularity in their adoptive Southern Hemisphere countries than they have enjoyed in their countries of origin.

Many wine buyers believe that the Malbec grape originated in Argentina. While French winemakers in Bordeaux traditionally blend small proportions of Malbec into Cabernet Sauvignon or Merlot to enhance the hue and depth of these wines, winemakers in the Cahors region east of Bordeaux in France use juice from the Malbec grape primarily or exclusively to make a Cahors Malbec. The soils, climate, and higher elevations of Argentine wine regions, especially the Mendoza region, favor growing the Malbec grape in large volumes for mass-market retail outlets. The most widely planted wine grape in Argentina, Malbec wine production far exceeds that of other country. In 2018, Argentina accounted for 84% of exports of Malbec worldwide. The 2020 Altalend Malbec Mendoza By Catena Family Wines (\$20) offers a step up from Catena and other mass-market Malbec. Open and let the wine breathe for an hour or two before serving with red meat or strong cheeses.

The most widely planted wine grape in South Africa, Chenin Blanc, comes originally from the Anjou region in France's Loire Valley. The nearby Vouvray region produces the best known 100% Chenin Blanc white wine, Vouvray; nonetheless, South Africa's production of Chenin Blanc, called Steen since planted in South Africa in 1655, now exceeds that of any other country, including France. No question that the popularity of Chenin Blanc in South Africa far exceeds its popularity in France. Chenin Blanc from the Western Cape of South Africa rivals Loire Valley Vouvray in quality. The 2021 Stellenbosch Vineyards Credo Chenin Blanc (\$19) stands out among competitors. It has complex tree fruits in first tastes and hints of oak, honey, and wet stone on the finish. We find South African Chenin Blanc at price points around \$10 easy to drink and a great pairing with delicate Dover Sole, crabmeat, and sauteed bay scallops. At \$10, it makes a good substitute for light beer or gin and tonic.



The French Sauvignon Blanc grape has major roles in White Bordeaux, often blended with Semillon, and in Sancerre, Pouilly-Fume, and other Loire Valley wines. France remains the largest producer of Sauvignon Blanc worldwide, followed by New Zealand.

In New Zealand, during the 1980's young winemakers from the Marlborough region began spending half a year in the Loire Valley and other regions of France and the other half in New Zealand making Sauvignon Blanc. They developed an impressive understanding of Sauvignon Blanc winemaking. When growers began planting new vineyards in Marlborough, the Sauvignon Blanc grapevines had this advantage. Now the most widely planted wine grape in New Zealand, Sauvignon Blanc has impressed

S. W. Hermansen has used his expertise in econometrics, data science and epidemiology to help develop research databases for the Pentagon, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Agriculture, and Health Resources and Services. He has visited premier vineyards and taste wines from major appellations in California, Oregon, New York State, and internationally from Tuscany and the Piedmont in Italy, the Ribera del Duero in Spain, the Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale in Australia, and the Otago Valley in New Zealand. Currently he splits time between residences in Chevy Chase, Maryland and St. Armand's Circle in Florida.

Rich Hermansen selected his first wine list for a restaurant shortly after graduating from college with a degree in Mathematics. He has extensive service and management experience in the food and wine industry. Family and friends rate him as their favorite chef, bartender, and wine steward. He lives in Severna Park, Maryland.

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Happy Hour, from page 1

looks like paradise because it really is paradise. You booked your vacation to Longboat Key, packed your bags and are on your way. When you arrive, you are thrilled. The island is as beautiful as it looked online. As you cross the bridge onto the island you see the luminous turquoise water. It looks so inviting, you can't wait to submerge yourself in it. You find your way to your rental, unpack your suitcase, change your clothes and head to the pool.

After a couple of hours of swimming, basking in the sun and making new friends you start craving a snack and maybe something to drink. You look at your watch and see that it is 4:00. You think, "Perfect, it's time for Happy Hour!" Where should you go? Well, I can help with that.

If you are looking for a Happy Hour on Longboat Key you have several choices. You could pop over to Whitney's. Whitney's is a groovy casual restaurant and bar. They have a Happy Hour menu with specials on drinks and appetizers from 3:00 till 5:00 pm, Monday through Thursdays. If you are lucky, you might even have a chance to listen to some live music by one of their talented musicians. Check them out at whitneylbk.com .

Right down the street is Mar Vista. They have a Happy Hour from 11:00 am till 4:00 pm Monday thru Thursday. They have a rotating Happy Hour menu with specials on drinks and various appetizers like their Grilled Cheese and Grouper Bites. I have eaten both of them and both are delicious. Mar Vista is a Restaurant and Bar that offers valet services. It is on the water with a first come first serve dock of boat slips. I have seen customers dressed up and also seen them dressed very casually. My very favorite appetizer on their dinner menu is the Brussel Sprouts, made with



Mar Vista

Teriyaki and Ginger. They are simply delicious. Mar Vista has an outdoor dining area with a great tree canopy overhead, but remember, as with any outdoor island spaces, bug repellent can add to your comfort at certain times of year. Check them out at marvistadining.com .

If you desire a place with delicious Happy Hour Margaritas, then you should go to Zota. Their Happy Hour is Monday thru Friday from 5:00 till 6:30 pm. They have half price well drinks, specially priced Margaritas and select appetizer specials. They offer a free valet service. Zota is a beach resort on Longboat Key. You can sleep, eat and play there. You can even get married there. Check them out at zotabeachresort.com .

Chart House is another option. They are located on the South end of the Island. They have a Happy Hour from 4:00 to 6:30 pm with various drink and appetizer specials. At Chart



Zota

House you can sit in a nice comfy air-conditioned restaurant – bar and gaze out the window at the iradecent blue bay. You can also stay for a very delightful and scrumptious dinner. Check them out at chart-house.com .

Last but certainly not least is Harry's Continental Kitchen. You can't think of Longboat Key without thinking of Harry's. He also has the only convenient store and free-standing deli on the island. Their Happy Hour is EVERYDAY from 2:00 till 5:00 pm. Plenty of time to get your drink on. They offer specials on their drink of the day and on Martinis. They do make a deliciously mean Martini. I have a sweet tooth, so I prefer their Lemon Drop and Key Lime Pie Martinis. Harry's in also a full-service restaurant with an exceptional menu, indoor and outdoor dining, and a seasonal menu that mixes old favorites and new cuisine. The are defiantly a must, when on the Island. Check them out at harryskitchen.com .

If you are here for a few days, I suggest checking out all of them. You can't go wrong. Please remember to always drink responsibly, and tip the Uber when necessary.

Letters, from page 12

proposed projects.

- Players- Met with Players Theater representatives to

Longboat Key News Sarasota City News

PO Box 8001
Longboat Key, FL 34228
941-387-2200
www.lbknews.com

Steve Reid, Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

Associate Publisher
Melissa Reid

Sales
Lillian Sands
Steve Reid
ads@lbknews.com

Graphic Production
Dottie Rutledge

Letters to the Editor
letters@lbknews.com

discuss next steps for the final approval of their agreement and how their project will be processed in the City as a Major Conditional Use.

- Planning Website- Active Comp Plan and Zoning Text Amendments scheduled for hearings for the PB and CC will be posted on our website so that citizens can get the latest on what's being proposed.
- Public Art Plan- The draft plan is available on the City's website, and is projected to be presented at the CC Meeting on Aug. 21. We also went on tour of potential sites for future pieces of art.
- Roundabout Public Art Strategy- Met with all departments involved, and will be working on a new strategy for future public art in roundabouts.

The Bay- Mary Davis and I met will Bill Waddill to discuss the proposed Public Art Plan and working and coordinating with each other as we move forward.

Steve Cover
Director of Planning
City of Sarasota

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Project Update

- To: Sarasota City Commission
- Affordable Housing Trust Fund Ordinance- We are working with the City Attorney's Office to expand the expenditures of funds to rental housing as well. This is projected to go to the CC Meeting on Aug. 21.
 - Bars, Restaurants and Nightclubs ZTA- The kickoff Public Zoom Input Session was held on June 8. We've also presented to the Rosemary District and DSCA.
 - Batch ZTAs- Will continue to meet with Lucia and her staff to discuss the next round of minor ZTA changes.
 - Commercial Corridors and Commercial Sites Attainable Housing ZTA- Public outreach is projected to begin next month.
 - Downtown Attainable Housing ZTA- The 1st Town Hall Meeting was held at 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 19 at City Hall. The 2nd Town Hall Meeting was held on March 1. We presented at the CC Workshop on March 13. This was approved at the PB Meeting on May 16 with some recommended changes made by the PB, and it is scheduled to go to the CC Meeting on Aug. 7.
 - Floating Solar Facilities ZTA- This is projected to go to the PB later this year.
- Historic Preservation and Public Art ZTAs- These two ZTAs were discussed at the CC Meeting on Feb. 6, and staff was authorized to move forward with preparation of the ZTAs. These were recommended for approval at the PB Meeting on May 10 and are scheduled to go to the CC Meeting on July 17.
- Steve Cover
Director of Planning
City of Sarasota

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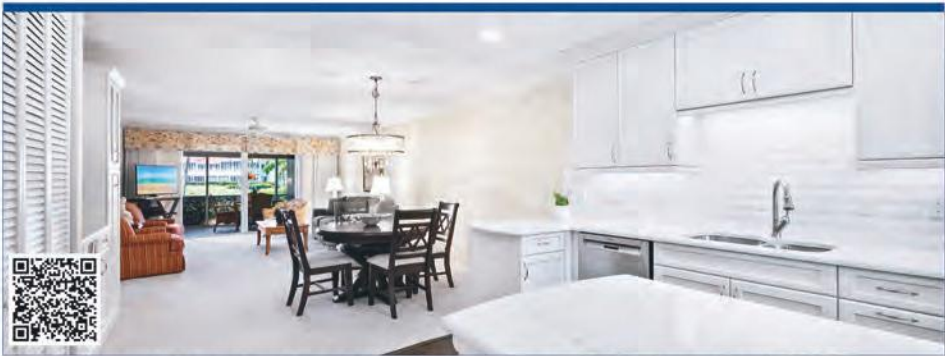
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