



Longboat Key News

November 24, 2023

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FREE

InsideLook



Water Club sells for \$5.5 million
...page 9



Organic growth of Beaujolais
...page 13



An afternoon of wine and Dine
...page 15



Let me Stand Next to your Fire
...page 10

Mote returns revived coral after stressful summer heat & storms

The return effort comes almost three months after Mote began an unprecedented evacuation of thousands of stressed and dying coral due to a significant coral stress event that included a record-breaking heat.

Mote Marine Laboratory's team of expert coral reef restoration researchers have begun the multi-step process of reintroducing thousands of healthy corals back into its underwater nurseries after recovering at Mote's land-based facilities during this summer's unprecedented thermal stress event.

The return effort comes almost three months after Mote began an unprecedented, herculean evacuation of thousands of stressed and dying coral from its four offshore coral nurseries due to a significant coral stress event that included a record-breaking heat wave compounded by both higher-than-normal salinity and low oxygen water from Florida Bay.

"While heat and stress events themselves are not uncommon, this was the first time we had experienced a stress event that included thermal stress in combination with other stressors that developed so quickly, in such an intense magnitude," said Dr. Jason Spadaro, Mote's Coral Reef Restoration Research Program Manager. "We're certainly glad this particular stress event is over, but we're still in the process of collecting data and learning as much as we can from



this event to further improve upon Mote's holistic coral reef restoration approach to ensure the best future for our coral reefs."

Global, regional, and local stressors have significantly 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 just 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 entirely dependent upon adaptive management and pro-

active science-based restoration.

The coral stress of 2023

Florida's Coral Reef experienced record-breaking heat waves starting in July 2023, with temperatures in adjacent backreef areas reaching temperatures above 100°F. When waters stay too hot (>87 degrees F) for too long, many corals in Florida, and around the world, become stressed and can expel the symbiotic algae, called zooxanthellae, living inside their tissues. These algae give coral its beautiful color, but they also provide the coral with food. Without it, corals appear white, as if bleached (hence the term coral bleaching), and could potentially die if the stress persists for too long. The heat, coupled with high salinity and low oxygen, presented an unprecedented stress event that took its toll on coral reefs and coral fragments in offshore nurseries.

With the help of over 70 staff members, six Mote research vessels, and immense support from the Keys community, Mote was able to quickly and carefully transport thousands of stressed and dying corals from its offshore nurseries in Sand Key, Looe Key, Islamorada, and Key Largo, in a matter of days to its three land-based coral nurseries on Summerland Key, Key Largo, and Islamorada, as well as to its 200-acre Sarasota-based Mote Aquaculture Research Park (MAP).

By late August, Mote had taken in thousands of pieces of coral. Among those brought in were several endangered species, including Staghorn and Elkhorn coral, as well as other major reef building bould-

See Coral, page 2

Drink in the fun and food at Longboat Lawn Party

The 12th Annual Longboat Key Lawn Party helping kids in need returns Enjoy great food, wine and beer from over 25 local restaurants.

It's the time of year to embrace traditions. And perhaps no tradition is stronger on Longboat Key than the gathering of the entire community to enjoy food and wine at the annual Kiwanis-sponsored Lawn Party.

"It is the biggest event of the year for our Kiwanis Club" said Michael Garey, Lawn Party event chair and owner of the Lazy Lobster.

The event is iconic. More than 25 restaurants will be joined with about a half dozen wine and beer purveyors when the event is held starting at noon on Saturday, Dec. 2, at Ken Thompson Park on City Island just past Mote Marine.

The annual event is essentially a fundraiser that normally brings in about 1,000 attendees all to support

See Lawn Party, page 15



Coral, from page 1

der, brain, and star corals.

However, Mote strategically left a small subset of genotypes from several species in its offshore nurseries to put them to the test and, even after they were exposed to the stress event, some not only survived, they thrived.

“While we lost coral in this event, we also witnessed coral that, despite the intense stress event, survived, thrived, and some that never even bleached. These coral, these are ones we want to pay particular attention to as we look to the future of science-based coral reef restoration,” said Dr. Spadaro. “While this was incredibly devastating in a lot of ways, we’re finding silver linings that point to successes in Mote’s science-based restoration methods.”

What’s next

Expert staff worked diligently to aid in the recovery of the evacuated stressed and dying corals, and as of Oct. 21, 2023, Mote scientists have begun to slowly return the thousands of surviving evacuated coral back into its offshore nurseries.

Mote researchers have already begun to take the next steps toward increasing its coral fragment abundance using, in many cases, its microfragmentation method. Mote estimates that normal coral restoration and outplanting operations on Florida’s Coral Reef will resume early in 2024.

“The immediate goal for us is to continue to gather and analyze data from this most recent stress event, apply what we’ve learned to future data-driven restoration techniques, and use our proven microfragmentation techniques on the species and genotypes that we know did well during this event. These resilient individuals, along with representatives of the natural diversity of Florida’s Coral Reef will be used to rebuild our offshore nurseries with resilient corals that can later be used for outplanting and other restoration methods. These diverse and resilient corals will pass those traits on to the next generation of resilient corals on Florida’s Coral Reef,” said Dr. Spadaro.

Mote center opening in 2024/2025

Mote Marine Laboratory’s aquarium at Nathan Benderson Park should be ready to open in about one year following decades in planning, fundraising and constructing to bring the center to fruition.

Speaking before Sarasota County Commissioners recently, Mote’s Vice President for Communications and Strategic Initiatives Kevin Cooper said it will be open by Jan. 1 2025 “at the latest.”

Commissioners were discussing how to fund \$20 million pledged in 2020 to the \$130 million project.

According to Mote, the Science Education Aquarium (SEA) will double its annual visitation to about 700,000 people a year, as compared to its City Island site, growing from 60,000 square feet to 111,000 and a capacity of a million visitors annually.

The under-construction structure towers over a once-open landscape between the park and University Town Center, easily visible from adjacent Interstate 75, something Commissioner Neil Rainford called “a gateway to our community.”

Animals pending...

Cooper said Mote expects to request a certificate of occupancy from the county in late summer of 2024, after which animals can be introduced into the aquarium’s tanks and exhibits, including the centerpiece – a three-story tall, 400,000-gallon Gulf of Mexico exhibition.

Money well spent

Commissioner Mike Moran noted how the county’s recent approval of \$65 million to remake nearby 17th Street Park into a sports-tourism destination along with recent additions and plans at University Town Center and Benderson Park dovetail with the Mote building in terms of attracting overnight visitors.

“This is truly the definition of tourist development,” he said, “and an incredible use of these funds. I would argue there is no better use of funds in the state of Florida that I’ve ever seen.”

Mote’s funding for the project comes from a variety of sources, including private donations and pledged support from state and local governments. Manatee County Commissioners approved a \$5 million pledge in 2020, also coming from tourism taxes, though Mote initially requested \$15 million.



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Modern marvel overlooking New Pass in Lido Shores! Step into this tropical escape through the hidden courtyard that connects the three-bedroom main home to the secluded, two-bedroom guest house with an expansive sundeck, 60-foot wet-edge lap pool lined with royal palms and unique fire bowls, as the perfect introduction to a contemporary masterpiece.



The reverse-style layout places the main living areas on the second level, optimizing the best of the views. The open concept of this level comprises the gourmet kitchen with its poured terrazzo waterfall edge island and Miele appliances, as well as the family room, living/dining room, and secluded master suite.

Boasting all the amenities required for luxury living, this SMART home's inspired style highlights spectacular water views that stretch out to the Gulf of Mexico from just about every room of the nearly 6,600 square-foot interior.



Stacked glass sliders create a seamless transition to outdoor living, opening to the glass-railing terrace, summer kitchen, built-in grill, and spiral staircase that leads down to the waterside hot tub. Boaters will appreciate the deep-water dock with multiple lifts.

NEW CONSTRUCTION TO BE BUILT



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SEAWARD HOMES

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.

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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.

Fonroche Lighting America / Autonomous Solar Street Lighting

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
We do not have an ordinance requiring AED’s in private residential buildings. What we do support is condo associations purchasing AED’s and ensuring the residents get educated/ trained on them. We have many condos on Longboat Key that have public access AED’s. If the management at Westchester would like to consider a program we would be happy to assist. The Town has AED’s in all public buildings including the Tennis Center. We are in the process of replacing all Town AED’s this year. If we could be of any assistance please feel free to contact me.
Paul B. Dezzi
Fire Chief
Town of Longboat Key

Fonroche Lighting America / Autonomous Solar Street Lighting

To: Longboat Key Fire Chief Paul Dezzi
Great input, Chief. Thanks. For perspective, about how much does an AED cost, and could an interested private party participate in a volume purchase of AED’s by the Town.
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Fonroche Lighting America / Autonomous Solar Street Lighting

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
You previously spoke with my colleagues Anicet at the Florida League of Cities trade show last August and I wanted to introduce myself. I am the regional manager in the area for Fonroche Lighting America; we produce autonomous solar lights used for streetlights, parking lots, trails, parks, pickleball courts, round-a-bouts and more. We currently have performed 175,000 installations worldwide and completed multiple projects in the Southeast, including installing lights at Tyndall AFB, Wesley Chapel, Athens, GA, Birmingham, AL, and we recently were awarded a contract to provide lighting for the sanitation department in St. Petersburg, FL. Our solar-powered LED lights are more cost-effective (both initially at install and with no reoccurring monthly costs) and much quicker to install than traditional grid lighting, require no preventative maintenance for 10-12 years, require no wiring or trenching, and are tailored to your application to provide lighting when and where you need it. I attached some introductory information to this email.
I would be grateful for the opportunity to meet with you and your team for a lunch and learn to discuss. Thanks, and look forward to connecting.
Michael Montenaro
Regional Sales Manager
Fonroche Lighting America

Fonroche Lighting America / Autonomous Solar Street Lighting

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Hope we can do solar lights
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Fonroche Lighting America / Autonomous Solar Street Lighting

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
The Town has already gone down the path of wired electric lighting our Gulf of Mexico Drive Highway and Neighborhood Street lights using LED fixtures as part of the underground project, so those lights are hard wired to our electric grid but LEDs are brighter and more

efficient. We are also under contract for wired electric for the backlit street name signs, which are replacing existing non-LED backlit signs, so the electrical connection is already there and the LED will use much less energy. One suggestion is when the Town looks to light the multi-purpose trail on the east side, solar bollard-style lighting may be a good solution to look at since a wired electric solution would require new electric conduits run up and down wherever the bollards would get installed, with conduit and wiring parallel to the pathway in an already crowded right-of-way.
Isaac Brownman
Director Key Public Works
Town of Longboat

Courts need defibrillator

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider
As a long time snowbird resident (1970) of Longboat Key residing at Casa Del Mar and now the Westchester its very seldom I find any need to offer a suggestion on how to manage the town. However, a recent incident at the Westchester has made me want to make a suggestion.
Last week a young man 60 yrs. old collapsed and died in our parking lot after playing one and a half hours of pickleball on our courts. He collapsed out of sight of the persons on the court beside his parked car and lay there until noticed by some passersby out for a walk.
The efforts made by the players and emergency services was heroic once notified of his situation but time was his worst enemy and he died on his way to the hospital.
My suggestion is to put in place and enforce a bylaw to have any condo or facility that has more than one tennis court or pickle ball court to have a portable defibrillator on site.
Best would be every tennis or pickleball court but that would be a tough sell.
Not sure what would have happened if he collapsed in view of players and whether they would have been able to save him before emergency help arrived.
Problem is pickleball is competitive and most players have no ability to just enjoy playing and they play like they are youngsters and invincible and will keep playing until it’s too late, that’s why legislation is only way to make things happen.
I have been at our condo meetings where this issue of getting a defibrillator has been voted down several times due to “the cost” which is just absurd considering the wealth of any owner of a condo in Longboat Key and the possibility of saving a life.
I hope this letter sparks a conversation at council and actually makes something happen as condo boards will never spend the money.
Bob McMullen
Longboat Key

Courts need defibrillator

To: Robert McMullen
I’m very sad to learn about your neighbor’s death. I’m also upset to learn of your Board’s unwillingness to fund a relatively inexpensive piece of life-saving equipment and hope they would reconsider given recent events.
As for an ordinance requiring defibrillators at private residences, some thoughts: I am copying your note to our Town Manager, Attorney and Fire/EMS Chief to see if any provision of our Town codes or regulations already covers this issue. If not, is the matter pre-empted to the State, in which case the Town would not be permitted to act. Finally, is a new ordinance the best way to proceed.
While your case is compelling, I am reluctant to consider imposing legislative regulations or mandates on private parties except as a last resort. That said, as this is a matter of health and safety, I would recommend that we explore the requirement you suggest if we are permitted to do so.
Thank you for bringing this to my attention, and please let me know if your Board decides to act before another preventable tragedy occurs.
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Commission Mail

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle
This is the first time I have ever seen an “undetected” reading at all reported sites. This is an
See Letters, page 6



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6609 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

Coastal-inspired elevated pool home. This North Longboat Key 4 bedroom, 4 bath, 4,132 sf home with private beach access features views of the Gulf of Mexico and sunsets from wide covered decks and the third-level widow's walk. The main level is ideal for family gatherings and entertaining with ample seating in the kitchen, living room, dining area and wet bar. All bedrooms have ensuite baths. The Gulf of Mexico facing glass sliders open to an expansive balcony with a gas grill overlooking the pool, spa and lush array of mature tropical trees and landscaping.



\$2,100,000

370 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #432 | LONGBOAT KEY

Delight in scenic views of Sarasota Bay in this custom-designed 4-bedroom, 4.5-bathroom PENTHOUSE in the gated resort-style Tangerine Bay community on the southernmost tip of Longboat Key. The spacious condominium features soaring ceilings, skylight, great room with gas fireplace, marble gallery for displaying artwork, and private gated courtyard. All bedrooms are ensuite. Sliding glass doors in the primary suite and great room open to a tiled terrace where you can start your day with a cup of coffee while watching the sunrise. An additional west-facing terrace boasts stunning sunset views.



511 SPINNAKER LANE | LONGBOAT KEY - SOLD AT LIST PRICE

Gorgeous 4BR/5BA, canal-front home in Country Club Shores, offering expansive open spaces and seamless indoor/outdoor living. New composite dock with jet ski and 30,000 lb. lift, with direct access to the ICW. **SOLD \$3,495,000**



\$5,000,000



648 BAYVIEW DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

Boater's dream property on oversized (19,994 sf) 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. Situated on nearly a half-acre lot is a 3-bedroom, 4,157-SF home, which could be renovated or removed creating a build site for an incredible custom home.

EditorLetters

Letters, from page 4

amazing accomplishment—I hope we can keep it up. Thanks to all who have contributed to the improvement of water quality in our area.
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Suncoast Waterkeeper Sampling Results for the Week Nov. 17

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission
On November 13, the enterococci survey was carried out during a period of low tide. The data for this survey was collected in the intertidal zone, where salinity levels ranged between 33 and 37 parts per thousand (ppt), and low signs of decaying plant matter were observed. In general, the results indicated favorable enterococci levels. Results for sites sampled in Sarasota are as follows:
Town of Longboat Key Boat Ramp (Undetected #/mL)
Bridge Street Pier (Undetected #mL)
Palma Sola Causeway (Undetected #mL)
Robinson Preserve N Entrance (Undetected #/mL)
Emerson Point (Undetected #/mL)
Please note that any count exceeding 71 is considered a failure, indicating a potential health concern.
The well-being of these water bodies holds paramount importance for both the recreational enjoyment and economic stability of our community. We are dedicated to bringing these critical issues to your attention. Enclosed, you will find the official reports for this week’s sampling activities, courtesy of Benchmark Enviroanalytical. These reports provide comprehensive data for all the sampled sites. Additionally, we have provided a link to our website, where you can access more information about our ongoing water quality sampling program. Your support and awareness are vital in our mission to preserve and protect our local water resources. Please direct all questions, suggestions for additional analysis, and feedback to Abbey Tyrna at Executivedirector@suncoastwaterkeeper.org.
Aimee Mendoza
Suncoast Waterkeeper

Murphy Resignation

To: Longboat Key Commission
Good afternoon. I am, regrettably, sharing with you Commissioner Murphy’s resignation letter that was received this afternoon. After speaking with the Mayor, we will be adding Commission Vacancy to the Dec. 4 agenda for discussion and direction.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Murphy Resignation

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
What an unnecessary shame.
Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Happy Thanksgiving

To: Longboat Key Town Employees
One of the American holidays most admired by other countries is our Thanksgiving tradition. The idea of taking a day to remember that, despite the challenges in everyone’s lives, there is still so much to be thankful for is not a common holiday around the world but it may be one of our most important. But first, two pieces of history.
The first Thanksgiving was in 1621 and was done to celebrate the harvest and the blessings of the year. The Pilgrims who had fled England for religious freedom were not prepared for the challenges of the new world and it would take the kindness and compassion of the Native American Wampanoag people to help them get through the harsh conditions they would encounter. I have to believe that when the Wampanoags first saw the Pilgrims they probably said, “there goes the neighborhood”. And for the Native American peoples, that would have been a prophetic statement.
Next, I’m not sure that turkey was on the menu as a wild turkey is one of the hardest birds to hunt (they have excellent eyesight). In fact, Benjamin Franklin thought so much of the wild turkey that it was his suggestion for our national bird. Thankfully, at least from an image perspective, the bald eagle made the grade instead.
For me personally, having a grateful attitude is something that’s developed over time. Like every person, I have had some challenges in my life that I certainly wasn’t grateful for at the time, but over time I’ve grown to see these as tests of character, of learning patience or the power of forgiveness. No matter how difficult the waters in life can get (and we all swim in rough waters at times), you can find balance and perspective by remembering that there is still much to be thankful for.
If you’re still not sure you have things to be grateful for let me mention a few. We live in the United States and enjoy freedom and security that is rare in the world. We live in Florida where the weather (most of the time) is the envy of the world. We work for a Town government that is stable and financially strong in a community that deeply appreciates the public service we provide. Our lights turn on when we flip the switch and we can drink the water that comes out of the tap. When we go to the store there are items on the shelves to buy and if we need medical care we have some of the best hospitals anywhere to take care of us. Watch the news – these are not things the majority of the world enjoys.
Always work to make our piece of the world a better place as we can always get better, be better (staring with me). However, don’t miss the opportunity to remember how much we have in our lives that we take for granted everyday and be grateful for what is before us. We really are blessed!
I know I am very thankful for the opportunity to be in Longboat Key and have the chance to work with such an amazing, talented, and dedicated team. Happy Thanksgiving!
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 7



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Sunday Service 10:00 AM

Dr. Julia Wharff Piermont, Pastor

Men’s Bible Study: Monday @ 9:00
Women’s Bible Study: Wednesday @ 10:00

WELCOME PASTOR JULIA

On Sunday, December 3, we are delighted to welcome Dr. Julia Wharff Piermont as our new full-time pastor.

Her obvious caring, compassion, friendliness and spirituality impressed all of us in our nationwide search for leadership. Her most recent service was Senior Pastor for Worthington Presbyterian Church in Ohio.

She and her husband Dennis, immediately fell in love with Longboat Key and have just moved into their home here.

Please join us in this wonderful celebration for our church and community.



Watch Our 10:00 AM Service Live: www.bit.ly/cclbksermons or www.christchurchoflbk.org (follow YouTube link)

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EditorLetters



Letters, from page 6

Happy Thanksgiving

To: Longboat Key Commission
Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving!
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Bradenton Beach Hotel Project

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
Isaac did speak and share concerns about the project impacts. The hotel hearing was continued to December 6th at 6 p.m.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Bradenton Beach Hotel Project

To: Longboat Key Commission
Correction to the date (thank you Commissioner Bishop). The hearing date is December 7th at 6 p.m.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Bradenton Beach Hotel Project

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Can you reconfirm date - a BB resident told me December 7 at 6 p.m.?
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

FDOT Website for Cortez Bridge

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
I am forwarding the FDOT information I received from Holmes Beach Commissioner Dan Diggins regarding the rebuild of the Cortez bridge. If this is already available on our website, please disregard.
Debbie Murphy
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

FDOT Website for Cortez Bridge

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debbie Murphy
It was great spending my afternoon with you on the water taxi. A couple of former DC denizens on a boat meeting by chance was truly a great way to spend a few hours.
The link below takes you to the Cortez bridge project. Hope this helps to give you some insight into the project. The 3D animation may be helpful to actually visualize the project. Keep in mind final design is still in progress.
You must be a remarkable person because I never tell anyone all the stuff we talked about today. The Town of Longboat Key is losing a valuable commissioner.
Please feel free to reach out to me on FDOT projects. For reasons unknown, FDOT folks are responsive to me. Happy Thanksgiving,
Dan Diggins
Longboat Key

FDOT Website for Cortez Bridge

To: Robert McMullen
Thank you for bringing this important issue to the town’s and the public’s attention. We know that AED’s can and do save lives. We also know that they are not exorbitantly expensive, so it is surprising to hear that a community association board would vote down the purchase of an AED unit. My association, just north of the Westchester, purchased one for our fitness

center on a rent-to-own program, costing less than \$3K. I urge you and other associations to be proactive and take this important (and not so expensive) step to help save a life.
Debra Williams
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

EDC Sarasota County Board of Directors Legislative Update

To: EDC Board Colleagues
A State Bill was proposed Tuesday November 21, 2023 that could potentially affect the EDC of Sarasota County. The purpose of this email is to notify you in advance of possible inquiries.
The bill filed in the State House of Representatives would essentially repeal the abilities for Counties to levy a Local Business Tax (LBT), ending all existing LBT in July 2024. As it stands, the bill does not have the companion measure required to move forward and has not been assigned to a committee. You can review and track the bill here: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/609>
Our team will continue monitoring the status of the bill closely and keep you informed. If you receive any media inquiries, please forward them to me.
A quick background on the local LBT. This tax was levied in Sarasota County in the early 90’s to support an Economic Development program. The EDC of Sarasota County is the major beneficiary of the LBT, which represents \$475,369 in our FY 2024 budget.
Sarasota County’s LBT ordinance was adopted in 1991, eventually supporting the development of the EDC of Sarasota County.
Sarasota County LBT payments range from \$3.15 to \$1,047.69 per business.
The most common amount paid is \$14.43 with nearly 16,000 businesses paying that.
LBT fee rate structure is prescribed by state law.
EDC research suggests about 52% of Florida counties currently levy a LBT.
Thank you for your continued support of the EDC of Sarasota County.
Erin Silk
President & CEO
Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County
Sarasota

Election Qualifying

To: Longboat Key Town Commission
At the close of qualifying for the Town Commission election in March 2024, two candidates qualified for Town Commission seats. Congratulations to incumbents Commissioner Gold and Commissioner Williams on their re-election to the Town Commission.
Trish Shinkle
Town Clerk
Town of Longboat Key

Property Visit

To: Michael Drake
It appears we need to physically visit your property and survey the lights emitting from Whitney’s Plaza. Both David and I start very early in the morning and would like permission to walk to the rear of your property before sunrise to do this. We can do this as early as tomorrow morning or a day next week. Please get back what would work best for you and your family.
Bryan Wisnom
Code Enforcement Officer
Town of Longboat Key

Property Visit

To: Longboat Key Code Enforcement Officer Bryan Wisnom
Thank you for sending an email regarding a site visit to my home. It would be better for us to have you come to our home during the early evening hours, say around 6:45 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. And you can do this as early as tonight. Please let me know your thoughts on what evening you would like to do this as I would like to be present when you visit. Would you like to visit the other neighbors that are impacted as well? Please let me know as soon as possible
See Letters, page 8

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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 7

as I will need to coordinate with my neighbors. Have a great afternoon.
Michael D. Drake
Longboat Key

Gulfstream roundabout travel times

To: Longboat Key Vice Mayor Mike Haycock
I wanted to follow up with you after the MPO meeting. Attached you will find the travel times from Ken Thompson parkway to US 301 at Fruitville coming off longboat Key. This also contains traffic volumes. As mentioned in the meeting today, we are seeing a significant increase in volumes. I will work on getting some data to you that shows travel times before the roundabout was ever constructed, so you can compare the roundabout to the true before condition.
Neal Turner
TSM&O Engineer
Florida Department of Transportation

Gulfstream roundabout travel times

To: FDOT Neal Turner
Neil, thank you for the follow-up. During the season traffic typically backs up 1-2 miles north of Ken Thompson Parkway. Is it possible to pick a point mid key like Bay Isles Parkway. Comparing traffic before and after the Roundabout Construction will allow is to see if further improvements are needed. When will your dashboard be complete and what will it include? Thanks again for furnishing this data and analysis during our peak season periods.
Mike Haycock
Vice Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

It’s a week of green and blue at the EcoSummit

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
I believe that until tomorrow, tickets for the December 4-6 ECO Summit are being offered at half price. If anyone from the Town plans to attend all or part, this might be a good offer to take advantage of. I have signed up for
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

It’s a week of green and blue at the EcoSummit

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
Thanks for sharing and good to know you’ll be attending.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Whitney Plaza lease

To: Manatee County Commissioner Kevin Van Ostenbridge

I reviewed the LWV summary of the Manatee School Board’s November 14 meeting and saw no reference to the Memorandum of Understanding between the County and the School Board or the Lease for a portion of our Whitney Plaza center on Longboat Key. Have either or both been approved or executed? This project has been in the works for about two years and was on the brink of finalization over a year ago. We are eager to have the Manatee presence here on Longboat and are ready to provide any further information you may need.
Thanks and Happy Thanksgiving.
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Whitney Plaza lease

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
Good morning. Here is the latest:
ILA: A draft ILA was created and needs input from the School Board as far what activities they plan to run, etc. The draft ILA was provided to the School Board /Pendley /Gansemer/ Ranaldi on September 27th. We also have requested a mock-up of the proposed layout so Tom Yarger can work on some interior design concepts and cost-estimates. As of this email, we haven’t received the Draft ILA back from the School Board and have not received a mock-up of their proposed layout.
Lease: A draft lease was sent to the CAO on November 2nd for review (it’s a lengthy commercial lease).
See Letters, page 11



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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

KeyRealEstate

Bird Key, Lido Key, Longboat Key latest sales

Address	Sq. Ft.	List Price	Bed/Bath/Half Bath			Days On Market	Sale Price
2045 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#M1-210	928	\$765,000	2	2	0	6	\$727,500
3499 BYRON LN	2,206	\$1,059,000	3	2	1	1	\$1,029,201
2364 HARBOUR OAKS DR	2,245	\$1,200,000	3	2	1	44	\$1,124,200
3235 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#A105	1,260	\$1,690,000	2	2	0	5	\$1,595,000
3235 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#A104	1,260	\$1,690,000	2	2	0	35	\$1,600,000
1211 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#802	2,100	\$1,995,000	3	3	0	90	\$1,800,000
511 SPINNAKER LN	2,586	\$3,495,000	4	4	1	16	\$3,495,000
1241 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#201	5,225	\$5,500,000	5	6	1	171	\$5,500,000



1241 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#201

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OnPatrol

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

Nov. 16 Suspicious person

4:09 p.m.
Officer Nazareno responded to North Shore Road for a suspicious person call regarding a man talking to himself by the dumpster in the parking lot. Upon arrival, patrol units canvassed the road but were unable to locate the man. The caller was unable to give a clothing description or direction of travel. Case clear.

Nov. 18 Fire assist

8:29 p.m.
Officer Miklos and Sgt. Puccio were dispatched to Harbourside Drive in reference to a marine rescue due to an upside down boat in the water tied to another larger boat. Upon arrival, Longboat Key Fire Department advised that the boat was unoccupied when it had overturned. Longboat Key Fire Department advised they did not see any sheen in the water from the boat, however, advised they would “boom” the boat by placing an absorbent material around it to catch any leaking fluids. Sarasota Sheriff’s Office Dispatch contacted St. Petersburg Coast Guard station in an attempt to gain further information on the boats. A moorings employee, the complainant, was able to provide the registered owners of the boats. Longboat Key Fire Department found documents with an address of Wingfield Drive in Sarasota. Sarasota Sheriff’s Office was able to provide a phone number that was linked to that address. The Moorings employee contacted the number and made contact with the owner who were advised of the boat incident and the owners said they would call Sea Tow. The Fire Department advised they would stay with the boat until the owner arrived and no longer needed police assistance. Case clear.

Suspicious vehicle

11:55 p.m.
Officer Martinson while on patrol, observed a vehicle parked in a closed commercial parking lot. NCIC/FCIC showed that the vehicle was not reported stolen or abandoned. There were no occupants and the vehicle was not derelict. Case clear.

Nov. 19 Noise

8:48 a.m.
Officer Maple was dispatched to the 5000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a noise complaint. Upon arrival, Officer Maple heard music playing at one of the units and requested individual on property to turn down music and he complied. Case clear.

Found property

12:55 p.m.
Officer Maple and Officer Nazareno were dispatched to the 6600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of found property involving unknown pills in a clear ziplock bag. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno located and collected approximately 84 pills from the sidewalk around the east side of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Pills were identified as possibly pain medication. They were not a controlled substance under the Controlled Substances Act. Found property was inventoried and submitted into evidence for destruction. Case clear.

Citizen assist

2:22 p.m.
Officer Nazareno was dispatched to the 3700 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a citizen



assist call regarding a parking complaint. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno made contact with the caller who advised that his daughter who lived in one of the units had parked her white pickup truck too close to his vehicle at the parking lot. Officer Nazareno observed the white pickup truck legally parked inside the parking spot and went to the unit, but no one was there. The caller advised that they might have went out on their boat and will have his neighbor parked behind him move to his vehicle instead. Case clear.

Nov. 20 Agency assistance

11:00 a.m.
Officer Ferrigine responded to the 100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for an agency assist with the City of Sarasota Police Department. Dispatch advised there was a man that called into dispatch and stated they were going to jump off the New Pass Bridge. Upon his arrival, Officer Ferrigine was unable to locate any subjects matching the description. Sarasota Police Department advised the located at the John Ringling Parkway. Case clear.

Nov. 21 Agency Assistance

9:46 a.m.
Officer Mathis was dispatched to the 5500 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to an animal complaint. Upon arrival, Officer Mathis was flagged down by a white woman. The woman advised that there were two dogs unleashed in the park and she was in fear of her life because she could not use the park. Officer Mathis asked the woman for her driver’s license and other information so he could list her as the complainant for the code violation. The woman refused to provide her information and insisted to remain anonymous and demanded the park be cleared of all animals. Officer Mathis then checked the park for dogs off their leash. Officer Mathis had negative contact, no further police services needed at this time. Case clear.

Suspicious person

9:22 p.m.
Officer Butler was dispatched to Longboat Bridge for a call of suspicious persons. Upon arrival, Officer Butler met with the bridge tender who stated numerous individuals were fishing from the bridge violating the posted signs. Officer Butler observed approximately 10 individuals in the no fishing area. A verbal warning was made for all parties in which they complied. Case clear.

Nov. 22 Noise

2:37 a.m.
Officer Martinson was dispatched to Lois Avenue on a call of a noise complaint. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson could hear people talking loudly in the backyard behind the fence and observed a large group of people in the living room through the front window. Officer Martinson knocked on the door and it was answered by the resident. Officer Martinson told the man there had been a complaint about the noise and then advised him of the town’s ordinance. The man apologized and stated they would all quiet down. The complainant did not want to meet with police. Case clear.

Agency Assistance

8:56 a.m.
Officer Maple was dispatched to the 100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for another agency assist due to traffic congestion on Longboat Key south Bridge. Upon Officer Maple’s arrival he stood by to monitor traffic caused by construction on Sarasota side of the bridge. Relayed updated congestion information to dispatch and Sarasota Police Department. Construction delays minimized after approximately 30 minutes and normal traffic resumed. Case clear.

Fire 1:40 p.m.

Officer Nazareno was dispatched to the 4600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a structure fire. There was a report of smoke coming out of the electrical outlet on the patio area of the first floor. Prior to arrival, the caller advised that the smoke and fire were extinguished. Fire Department units BN9, Engine 1, Truck 91, and Rescue 91 responded to the scene and conducted their investigation. Officer Nazareno was advised by the Fire Department supervisor that there was minor damage on the exterior wall of the outdoor electrical outlet and that the fire was caused by the rainwater that got into the outlet. No injuries were reported. Case clear.

Nov. 24 Animal complaint

9:47 a.m.
Officer Nazareno was dispatched to the 7000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for an animal complaint call regarding a possible injured possum at the parking lot. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno canvassed the property, but was unable to locate the injured animal at the parking lot. The caller did not wish to be seen or contacted. Case clear.

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 8

Funding: I don't believe a business case has been created or funding has been determined/established. That is from staff. I will talk with Charlie Bishop about it this afternoon.
Kevin Van Ostenbridge
Commissioner
Manatee County

Bradenton Beach Hotel Project

To: Longboat Key Commission
Isaac did speak and share concerns about the project impacts. The hotel hearing was continued to December 6th at 6 p.m.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Pix From Manatee Ferry Inaugural

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debbie Murphy
Thank you Debbie. Now when we talk about water taxis and say that ship has sailed we will actually be correct.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

MPO Board and PTTF Meetings Monday, Nov 20

To: MPO Chair Commissioner Cutsinger and MPO Board Members
The Sarasota/Manatee MPO Board will meet Monday November 20, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Sarasota Airport, at the Holiday Inn Sarasota Airport, 8009 15th Street East, Sarasota. The Public Transportation Task Force (PTTF) will meet at 8:15 a.m. at the MPO office, 8100 15th Street East, Sarasota. Please plan to attend in person. Electronic agenda packets were sent out last week.

MPO Board agendas are based on required documents and activities, and implementing planning documents focused on delivering projects within the region and for your jurisdictions, consistent with priorities approved by the MPO Board. As always Board member comments, questions, requests and suggestions are welcome during the meeting and at any time before or after. Please call me anytime at 941-704-2525; I'm also available to meet in person upon request.

The MPO Board Meeting agenda includes:
· Public Comment (if any);
· Reports: Public Transportation Task Force (Vice-Chair, Vice Mayor Kocher); FDOT (Secretary LK Nandam and FDOT staff); MPO (David Hutchinson); MPO Chair (Commissioner Cutsinger); and the statewide MPO Advisory Council (Commissioner Neunder);
· Consent Agenda items:
Sarasota/Manatee MPO Board Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2023
City of Holmes Beach Multi-modal Path Support Letter Action Items
Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments
Multiple changes requested by FDOT related to project cost increases and involving allocation of additional funding received for MPO prioritized projects; Addendums received from FDOT after agenda preparation will also be presented
Urbanized Area Formula Grant Funds (Discussion Requested by Sarasota County) This hot-button item involves a 40-year-old agreement between Manatee and Sarasota Counties creating a 50/50 split of certain Federal Transit Administration funds. Sarasota County would like to update the distribution formula, which will be presented as long overdue. The MPO was involved in the original arrangement but it is really a matter between the counties.

Presentations (May Require Board Action) These presentations will provide both high level and deep dive looks at the transportation planning process, infrastructure projects that are underway, and before/after analysis of recent safety operational investments

MPO Presentations
Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) LECOM/Arts District Planning Study
Metro Forecasting Models Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Socioeconomic Data Projections Update/Progress Report
FDOT Presentations
Draft Tentative Five-Year Work Program
FDOT Process and Projects Update
Traffic Safety and Operations in Sarasota/Manatee Counties Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2024
Member Comments
As always, your comments and direction regarding regional projects, priorities and transportation issues are vital to the MPO collaborative process and are an essential part of the meeting.
David L. Hutchinson
Executive Director
Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization

Importance of Sarasota Bay to offshore fisheries

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission
As you likely know, we track the health of Sarasota Bay by more than water quality alone. Our Report Card on Ecosystem Health includes two water quality parameters (the amount of nitrogen in the water and the amount of phytoplankton in the water) but also trends in seagrass coverage, and a citizen-scientist effort to collect information on the amount of macroalgae on the bay bottom. The water quality data are collected by Manatee County staff and Mote Marine Lab staff and are paid for – as has been the case for about 30 years – by Manatee and Sarasota counties. The seagrass maps are conducted by SWFWMD staff and its hired consultants.
Staff from FFWCC sample over 200 sites in Sarasota Bay for fish populations, using various gear types. Since the gear

types vary between different bay segments, we can't really compare one part of the bay to the other, but we can track the number of fish in each bay segment over time, and we can compare our findings to those from Tampa Bay and Charlotte Harbor, also sampled by FFWCC.
You might have heard that “over 70 percent of commercially and recreationally important species of fish in the Gulf of Mexico spend at least some portion of their life cycles in estuaries.” That is true, and the photo shown below is proof of that. This photo is of three FFWCC staff, holding three juvenile Gag Grouper (*Myctoperca microlepis*) that were sampled (and then released) in upper Sarasota Bay. Without healthy estuaries, Gag Grouper and other species would not be able to complete their life cycles.
We often highlight how a healthy Sarasota Bay is good for our quality of life and our economy. It's also the reason why we don't have masses of starving manatees being carted away, compared to much of the Indian River Lagoon the last three years. But if you go out to a restaurant over the weekend and have blackened grouper for lunch or dinner, it could be that that fish – caught as an adult way offshore in the open waters of the Gulf of Mexico – made it to an adult stage by being fortunate enough to have been “raised” in a cleaner and healthier Sarasota Bay.
Dave Tomasko
Executive Director
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

\$1 Million Investment to Expand Mentoring Services for Florida's Youth

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Any news on the execution of the lease by Manatee County Public Schools?
I came across this announcement about additional funding for mentorship opportunities for Florida youth. The

See Letters, page 12

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 11

Hope Florida program could provide a possible funding source for a program at the Whitney Community Center.

<https://www.flgov.com/2023/11/15/first-lady-casey-desantis-and-the-florida-department-of-juvenile-justice-announce-1-million-investment-to-expand-mentoring-services-for-floridas-youth/>

Debbie Murphy
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Future Skate Parks in Sarasota

To: Sarasota City Vice Mayor Jen Ahearn-Koch

Thanks for chatting with me today. We discussed potential skate park sites together and I just wanted to recap on sites we believe are feasible and interested in moving forward with a +/- 10k sf brand new skate park / wheel plaza (in no particular order):

Whitaker Bayou Park (14th st)
North Water Tower Park
Orange Avenue Park
MLK Park
Robert L Taylor
Bobby Jones
Arlington Park
Joey O'Mahoney
Sarasota

Future Skate Parks in Sarasota

To: Joey O'Mahoney

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families. Thanks for the email and short list per moving forward with looking at potential sites in the City for skate parks. I have copied the City Manager and Staff on this email, along with Commission Liaisons Alexya and Christina, to schedule a quick meeting so we can assess where we are and what the next steps might be. Thanks so much for following up!

Jen Ahearn-Koch
Vice Mayor
City of Sarasota

Tempe AZ Homeless Solutions Dashboard

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown

At some point, it will probably be worthwhile for every department to consider a data strategy. What data could contribute to improved decision making?

What data, if shared with the community, could increase support for City actions?

Development Services won kudos by posting a map of projects in the pipeline. Would there be value for Planning in mapping data like percentage cost burdened households; vacant land in residential and mixed use zones; or general data like cost components of developing new housing (adding up to local range of cost per unit) and similar data on ongoing costs (e.g., taxes, insurance, maintenance, debt service, management)? Noting year-over-year changes and

projections into the near future should also be useful.

Sharing such information with the public might make some feel included in the problem solving process, and could surprise us with creative ideas and offers of help (like the recent citizen request for the McAlpin House). The bottom line is: what data — and in what form — would increase the City's effectiveness?

Debbie Trice
Commissioner
City of Sarasota

Tempe AZ Homeless Solutions Dashboard

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown

As discussed, here is how Tempe shares status of their homeless response with the public – including soliciting public reporting of “encampments.”

<https://homeless-solutions.tempe.gov/pages/progress-indicators>
Debbie Trice
City Commissioner
City of Sarasota

Tempe AZ Homeless Solutions Dashboard

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Debbi Trice

Awesome. I have copied Dede and Kevin Stiff (new Suncoast Partnership CEO) so they are both aware of Tempe's dashboard to determine if it is something we wish to adopt on our websites. Thanks again for sharing.

Marlon Brown
City Manager
City of Sarasota

Tempe AZ Homeless Solutions Dashboard

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown

Sounds great, thank you!

Debbie Trice
Commissioner
City of Sarasota

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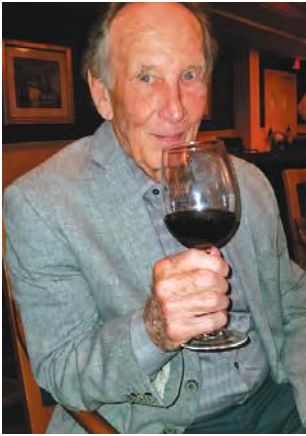
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Back to Beaujolais with a new market approach

Fortunately for Beaujolais, winemakers committed to organic, sustainable farming and making high quality wines are taking the lead in the region. They are championing traditional growing and winemaking practices that are reducing vine yields but increasing the quality of grapes harvested.

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

Wine producers in the Beaujolais, south of the Mâconnais region of Burgundy in eastern France, have a long tradition of making and bottling wine in record time. Competing Beaujolais winemakers have collapsed the usual months of preparing and fermenting grapes into a few weeks, and rushed the new vintage to market. During the early 1950's, the Union Interprofessionnelle des Vins du Beaujolais assigned the name Nouveau Beaujolais to this style of wine. Producers set the third Thursday in November as the target date for the release of new vintage of the Nouveau Beaujolais. French wine drinkers in Paris and other cities in France recognized Nouveau Beaujolais as the light, refreshing, and lower alcohol Beaujolais wine often poured from barrels and served in pitchers in cafes. By the 1970's, cities across the globe joined the celebration. In the brief interval each year when the Nouveau Beaujolais held sway, the producers of the wine realized a surge in sales that paid off their investments in the current vintage within the year.



The rise and fall of the leading seller Georges Duboeuf Nouveau Beaujolais sales in the USA began with an increase in sales of from 500 9-liter cases (12 of the standard 750 ML bottles) to 800 cases in 1995, followed by a peak of 1,200 cases in 1999, decreasing back to the 800 case level in 2004, down to a mere 100 cases in 2019 (Source: AAWE Wine Handbook). Though the sales consisted of those of only one brand, the decline affected all Nouveau Beaujolais. Wine shops and restaurants report few calls for the wine.

What went wrong? Well, as happens with many fads, the Nouveau Beaujolais release event faded in popularity. Young wine buyers have turned to California for buttery, oaky Chardonnay, to New Zealand for citrusy Sauvignon Blanc, and to Australia and Argentina as well as California for robust and higher alcohol red wines. Sales of French red wines have lagged drastically, even in France.

Fortunately for Beaujolais, winemakers committed to organic, sustainable farming and making high quality wines are taking the lead in the region. They are championing traditional growing and winemaking practices that are reducing vine yields but increasing the quality of grapes harvested. The red Gamay Noir grapes that winemakers use to produce Beaujolais wines have deep roots, viticulturally and figuratively, in the region. Gamay grapes belong to the Pinot Noir – Chardonnay family, and they share the characteristics of their close cousins.

The highest rated and higher price Beaujolais wines come from the ten Grand Cru regions that form an archipelago going north to south from Mâcon. Wine producers in these areas often put the name of the Grand Cru and not Beaujolais on the label. Progressing north to south, these Grand Cru grapes come from plots generally considered closer to ideal for Beaujolais: St-Amour, Juliénas, Chénas, Moulin-à-Vent, Fleurie, Chiroubles, Morgon, Regnié, Brouilly and Côte de Brouilly.

Besides being classified as a light and acidic wine, typical of Beaujolais, the 2021 Jean-Claude Lapalu Vieilles Vignes Brouilly (\$33) has both fresh cherry and raspberry first tastes, a firm structure, and a robust finish. This wine seems a worthy alternative to more expensive Pinot Noir, though ready to drink now and for at least a few more years.

Grapes in the 2021 Jean Arthaud Morgon Côte du Py (\$21) grow in an area famous for wines that could benefit from aging in the bottle ten years or more. Expect a darker, more robust wine with the strong influence of tannins.

Extreme weather, drought, and disease have limited production of Beaujolais grapes. Some of the better Beaujolais may be hard to find.

The Beaujolais Villages wines tend to be more affordable than the Grand Cru wines. The least expensive Beaujolais come from the just plain Beaujolais area, the farthest south region. At the moment, the Nouveau Beaujolais may be an equal but more interesting alternative to the Beaujolais Villages and Beaujolais wines.

Climate change in Beaujolais has had strange effects. Warmer and drying conditions led to an earlier than normal harvest in 2022, riper grapes, and a dark violet color of the 2022 vintage of the Nouveau Beaujolais-Villages. It seemed closer to a more robust wine, say, one of the riper Grenache from the Provence with more of the cherry nose and violet color and aroma. The 2022 Nouveau Beaujolais-Villages has a 90 point rating by wine expert, Dr. Walter Labys. The 2023 vintage seems equally promising. Last year he said that he expected the 2022 vintage of the wine to improve with longer ageing in the bottle. I recommend stocking up now on the 2022 vintage as well as the 2023 vintage.

Wine experts are going back to tradition Beaujolais wines as a happy medium between generic varietal blends created for consistency rather than taste and the high alcohol, jammy wines that overpower food. Beaujolais has to play catch up in restaurants and wine shops, but has quality wines to offer.

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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Lawn Party, from page 1

the Children’s Guardian Fund. The fund helps more than 1,200 foster care children on an annual basis, in both Sarasota and Manatee Counties.

Event organizer Michael Garey, owner of Lazy Lobster on Longboat Key, is particularly passionate about the opportunity the Guardian Fund provides.

“We chose the Children’s Guardian Fund because it provides tutoring and all the tools these kids need to help them succeed and make it to college,” said Garey.

Garey is thrilled to hold the event at the expansive Bayfront site.

This time of year, Garey and the Kiwanians spend countless hours volunteering to sell tickets and sponsorships and raffle tickets all to make the event a success.

At this point, the event tickets are selling well, but Garey really hopes residents and businesses will either call him or go online to sponsor a table of 10 for the event. Many community groups, organizations and businesses enjoy the recognition that is placed prominently as well as the culinary delights and free-flowing wine.

Raffle tickets are for sale with a chance to win a \$5,000 prize or a trip.

The band Blues Pig, as well as all of the 25 restaurants and wine and beer distributors are all donating their time, energy and products to help the cause.

To learn more about the event or to buy tickets, go to www.lbklawnparty.org

If interested in buying a table or sponsoring at any level, email Michael Garey at Michael@lazylobster.com or call the Lazy Lobster at 941-383-0440.

Admission is \$75 and gives you access to all restaurants, wine, beer, soft drinks, live entertainment by Blues Pig and complimentary valet parking.

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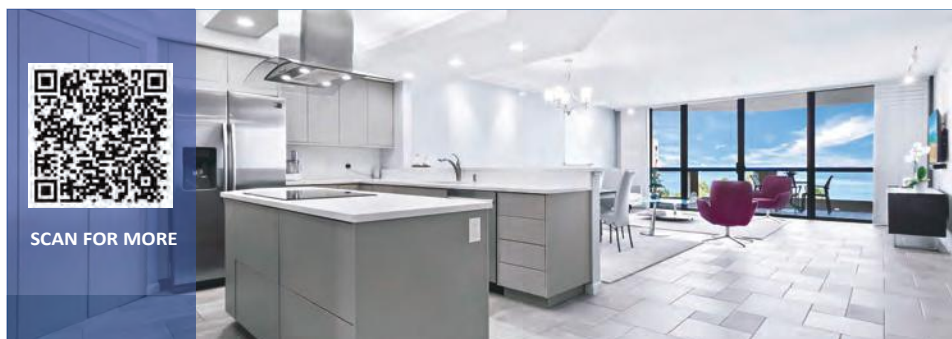
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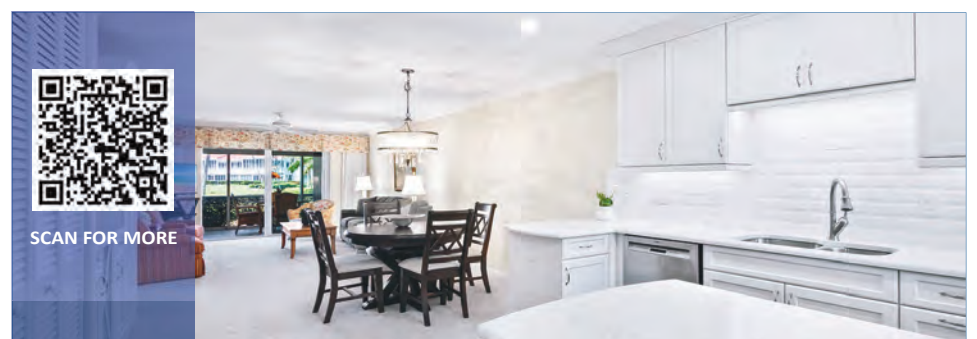
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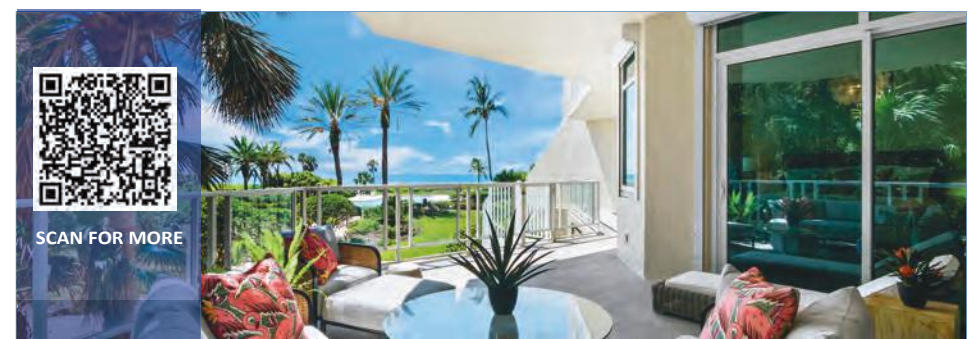
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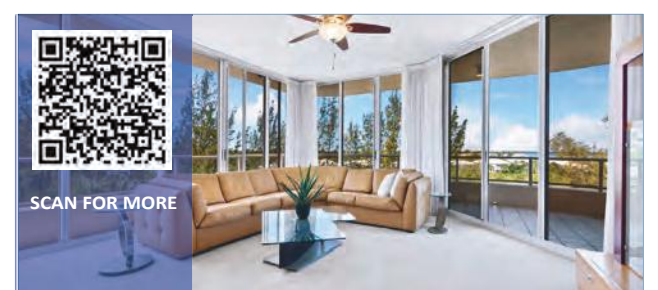
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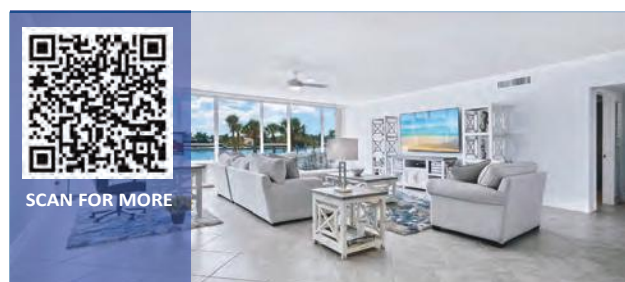
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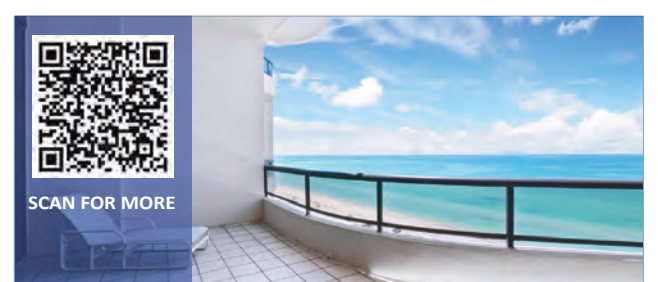
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