



Longboat Key News

July 11, 2025

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Major beach bolstering to fix storm-ravaged Lido shoreline

The City of Sarasota with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Sarasota County will begin a comprehensive coastal protection project to restore and fortify Lido Beach.

Beach renourishment is estimated to begin late 2025, with construction of a new vegetative dune system south of the Lido Beach Pavilion for additional resiliency anticipated to begin in late 2026.

Lido Beach has experienced accelerated shoreline degradation due to the cumulative impacts of multiple

See Lido Beach, page 2



Longat Key News Shorts

Here is the latest news from Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Community Hall Fundraising Goal Reached – \$ Million

Longboat Key has officially met its fundraising goal of \$4 million for the new Community Hall at the Town Center Green. This future 200-person facility will provide a versatile space for community events, educational programs and hurricane recovery efforts. It will be constructed as part of the new Sarasota County Library, supported by an \$11 million contribution from Sarasota County. Next steps include finalizing the design and

See News Shorts, page 2

Thunder and rain cannot dampen island spirit

Longboat Key's Fourth of July most patriotic dog contest was a virtual success.

When thunder, lightning, and torrential rain forced the cancellation of the Longboat Key Chamber of Commerce Freedom Fest on July 4th, the dog lovers who had registered for the Rotary Club of Longboat Key's "Hot Diggity Dog Parade & Costume Contest" portion of the festivities were particularly disappointed after having spent much time and effort in coming up with clever and patriotic costumes for their dogs and themselves.

Minutes after the cancellation was announced, the Rotary Club reached out by e-mail to the soggy

See 4th of July, page 2



The winners are: Most Patriotic is Ahshoka, an Australian Shepherd/Border Collie mix owned by Anne Ambtman (bottom left pic). Most Creative is Lottie Lowry, a Mini Poodle, with Magnolia (age 9) and Goldie (age 6) in their festive Barbie Jeep. Best Owner & Dog Combination is Susie Q, a Pembroke Welsh Corgi, with Asher (age 4).



preparing for groundbreaking in 2026.

Undergrounding Nears Completion

All electrical conversions are now complete for all four (4) project phases. Wilco has installed new backlit street name signs. Upon design and permitting, Wilco will begin installing new light poles along the multi-use trail on the east side of Gulf of Mexico Drive. FPL's contractor, Irby Construction, is in the process of removing all remaining electrical poles.

FY26 Budget

The Fiscal Year 2025–2026 (FY26) Budget process continued on June 27, 2025, at 10 a.m. The first Budget Workshop was held on May 19, followed by a second on June 23, which furthered discussions on identifying and funding the Commission's priority projects for the upcoming year. On June 27, the Commission set the maximum millage rate for FY26. They will reconvene on September 8 and 22 (both at 5:01 p.m.) to hold public hearings, approve the final millage rate, and formally adopt the FY26 Budget.

Sea Turtle Nesting Season Underway

Beachfront lights now glow red or yellow to protect nesting and hatching turtles. Dogs are not allowed on Longboat Key beaches—only leashed, trained service animals are permitted. (note: therapy and emotional support animals are not included under this exception). Even well-behaved pets can disturb wildlife and disrupt nesting. Remove beach furniture, fill holes. Learn more at www.longboatkey.org.

Country Club Shores Turn Lane

Construction continues to progress in accordance with the

project schedule. Superior Asphalt, Inc. is currently installing base rock. The contractor will pause construction during the week of the 4th of July. Looking ahead, embankment and swale work, additional tree removal and the installation of a drainage structure and piping are expected upcoming construction activities in July.

Lido Beach, from page 1

hurricanes. This infrastructure project, paid for by \$12 million in federal funding, will restore 1.2 miles of eroded shoreline and improve resiliency by depositing 200,000 - 300,000 cubic yards of sand sourced locally from the dredging of New Pass.

"The renourishment of Lido Beach will not only improve the area for residents and visitors but also increase the resiliency of our coastal community," said Mayor Liz Alpert. "We thank our local, state, and federal partners for working alongside us in fortifying Lido Beach against sea level rise, tropical weather, and future climate impacts."

Lido Beach will remain open for the duration of the project. Sections of the beach may be temporarily inaccessible as renourishment takes place. Signage will be posted notifying the public of temporary closures.

Minimizing impacts to beachgoers and wildlife is a top priority. Coordination with Mote Marine Laboratory and the Sarasota Audubon Society has helped guide the renourishment plan to reduce environmental and wildlife impacts, and the project has been timed to take place outside of shorebird nesting season and sea turtle nesting season, which ends Oct. 31.

Renourishment of Lido Beach is estimated to be complete in early 2026. The vegetative dune system, providing added

protection against erosion and weather impacts, is anticipated to be complete by spring 2027.

"As Sarasota continues to face the growing impacts of severe weather and sea level rise, this project exemplifies a comprehensive and forward-looking approach to shoreline resilience grounded in long-term planning, scientific insight, and meaningful collaboration with our community," said City Engineer Nikesh Patel. "With strong federal investment and robust community engagement, the City of Sarasota is proud to lead this critical effort to protect and preserve one of our region's most treasured natural assets for generations to come."

This renourishment is the second under a long-term agreement between the City of Sarasota and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The first renourishment of Lido Beach under this agreement took place in 2021.

4th of July, from page 1

dogs and their owners and invited them to put their costumes back on and submit photos of themselves dressed to celebrate our country's 249th birthday to participate in a "virtual" costume parade and contest.

The panel of Rotarians who judged the photos had a VERY tough job determining who should be honored with the 3 prizes that were announced in advance of the July 4th event, with those winners to each receive a gift bag full of toys and goodies and a \$25 gift certificate provided by the locally-owned Dog Perfect stores.

Due to the enthusiasm of the dogs and their owners, the Rotary Club members felt compelled to honor all who submitted photos by awarding "Honorable Mention" prize bags, distributed at the Bayfront Dog Park (4052 Gulf of Mexico Drive) on Friday, July 11th, between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.

– by Carol Erker, Rotary Club of Longboat Key



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Better living with booze?

Alcohol also represents culture, pleasure, sociality. Many societies celebrate victories and defeats, successes and the major events of life with a drink. Humans are profoundly social animals. They are often more social when they drink together.

MATTHEW EDLUND M.D.
Featured Writer
health@lbknews.com

Can alcohol be good for you? Much evidence would argue yes. Compare “moderate” drinkers who have perhaps one glass of wine a day versus those who never drink. Who lives longer? Those who drink small amounts regularly. Yet alcohol causes lung cancer, stomach cancer, kidney cancer, brain cancer, oral cancer. It’s a pantoxin — give enough of it to virtually any cell in the body, and that cell will die. Alcohol addiction and alcoholic cirrhosis continue to be leading causes of death in young people. Alcohol related dementia is a major scourge. So how can such stuff be good for you? You have to recognize that alcohol modulates literally hundreds of bodily processes. Food drugs do just that.



EDLUND

The Micro Level

For physicians of a certain generation, the idea that alcohol can be good for you seems quite a stretch. Some of my more memorable medical school days involved the lectures of C.S. Leiber, a liver specialist at Mt. Sinai Medical School. Leiber was not one of our S.U.N.Y. professors, but an unusual guest presence from cross-town somehow induced to take the subway and enter a large, dark lecture hall in Brooklyn.

Leiber’s research made him drinkmaster of a large group of mandrill baboons. Mandrill baboons are muscular, powerful, violent animals — especially when drunk. Leiber would get them very drunk. And then shove a large biopsy needle into their livers. We were amazed that anyone — even a human separated by iron bars — would be brave enough to biopsy drunken baboons.

The results on their livers were more surprising. Leiber had an electron microscope. At enormous magnification, the drunken baboon hepatocytes looked like air photos of Hiroshima. Organelle after organelle was blown to bits. The nucleus survived somewhat intact, but everything around it bubbled and burst.

How could cells come back after such an aggressive assault? Only in later years did I begin to understand how cells could survive such destruction — because they normally regenerate and rebuild themselves extremely quickly. How fast you rebuild can negate how quickly you use up or destroy internal cellular structures. Fortunately for us, life is fast. So is regeneration.

The Macro Level

So how can alcohol be good for you? Alcohol appears to cut back the risk of heart disease in many different ways. That’s because alcohol goes almost everywhere in the body and changes many processes. Cholesterol and other lipid levels shift up and down. Clotting becomes less likely. Gut bacteria live or die depending on the dose. And alcohol is also a major immunomodulator. Some of the changes are good, some bad, depending on who you are, what you’re doing and your dose. Alcohol also represents culture, pleasure, sociality. Many societies celebrate victories and defeats, successes and the major events of life with a drink. Humans are profoundly social animals. They are often more social when they drink together.

Alcohol and Alzheimer’s

So here is a pantoxin that can prevent heart disease and stroke if given in low dose. That’s a big if. In high dose alcohol causes holiday heart syndrome — arrhythmias common at Christmastime. Yet higher doses of alcohol, particularly the kind you see with bingeing, can over time lead to heart failure.

Recently alcohol has been touted as a way to prevent dementia. Maybe not. A recent study done at the San Francisco VA looked at women 60 and older. Would alcohol consumption prevent dementia of all types, particularly Alzheimer’s? Alzheimer’s is known to be caused in part by clogging of arteries. Amyloid buildup and Alzheimer’s plaques are bad, but things really turn nasty if arteries clog up.

With alcohol preventing heart disease and stroke, it looked like alcohol might lower these women’s dementia risk. No luck with this population. Any increase in alcohol consumption increased the risk of dementia — any amount.

Here was a spot where the pantoxin wreaked its damage at all dose levels.

Booze and other food drugs

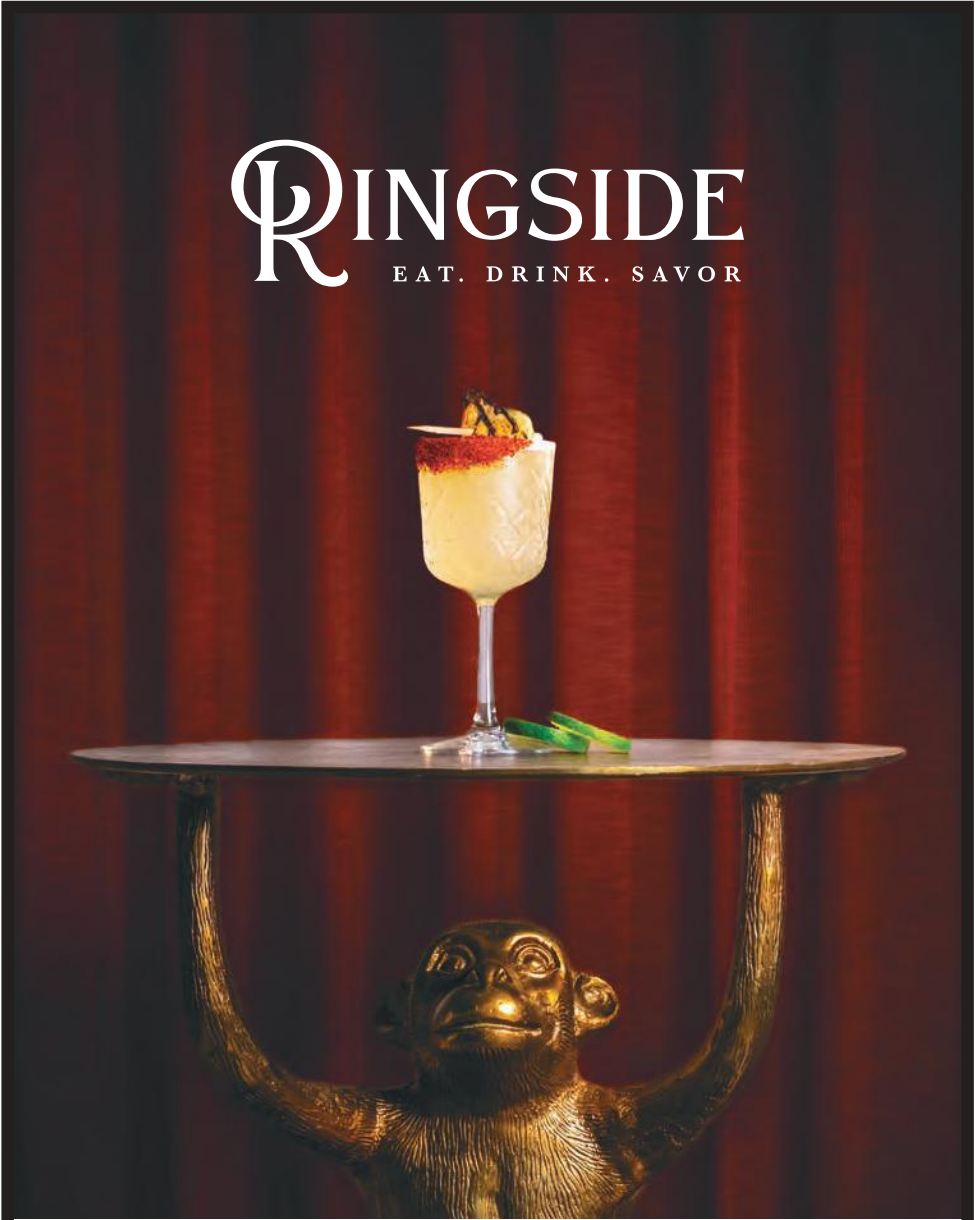
It’s the nature of food drugs — coffee, tea, alcohol and others — to be simultaneously useful and easy to abuse. Half the antioxidants of the American population may come from coffee, but too much coffee and people develop gut problems, can’t sleep and become caffeine addicted.

Yet the public health results of alcohol addiction are so severe as to constitute their own class. Russia has managed to be one of the few modern countries to see its overall lifespan go down. The major culprit for these shorter lives is excessive alcohol use.

So how should someone treat food drugs, like alcohol? Like drugs. Alcohol provokes the desire but prevents the performance, as Shakespeare noted four centuries ago in Henry the Fifth. It’s both fuel and fat — a major problem for an overweight population. As a sleep-



inducing agent, it is both immensely popular and highly deleterious, causing some of the nastiest, most prolonged insomnias clinically seen. But drinking can — can — be a lot of social fun. So drink understanding the power of alcohol as drug. In the right populations, alcohol may make you feel more joyous and slowly decrease your risk of heart attack and stroke. But take more than one or two drinks a day, and the whole risk cavalcade turns negative. The body is an information-processing unit. Alcohol shifts major information flows in the body. Dose it quite small — and at the right times (effects can double or triple between 6 p.m. and midnight) and it just might help you. The right information at the right times — that’s what you need to really regenerate your body.



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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.

NEST items for you

To: Deborah Di Carlo
Here's the full thread. Give me a call if you'd like to discuss further.
Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

NEST items for you

To: Deborah Di Carlo
I appreciate your kind words and yes, please do keep in touch. So happy that your church is partnering with Paradise Ctr, great for our community!
Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

NEST items for you

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon
Thank you so much for your response, Sarah. It explains a lot because the church I go to is the Longboat Island Chapel, and the person I talked to may have heard about that collaboration. I think she got the renewed relationship between the Paradise Center and the Chapel conflated with the North End community center. So interesting how these conversations take place and how decisive the context is.
As you probably know, the first generation of the Paradise Center found its home at the Longboat Island Chapel years ago. So it's actually a bit of a homecoming! Reverend Brock is indeed committed to our community here on Longboat.
Thank you so much for bringing clarity to the situation. I'll continue to reach out as I hear things that need clarification from you and appreciate that you represent our north end interest so well.
Thanks for your help,
Deborah Di Carlo
Longboat Key

NEST items for you

To: Deborah Di Carlo
Thank you for your work on the NEST project. I remain hopeful regarding the Chiles property, but there's nothing concrete in the works. As far as I know, the town has no plans in mind with the Paradise Center as regards programming the eventual space (wherever we land), but I wouldn't be surprised if some general conversations have taken place as folks dream up possibilities. Currently, the Paradise Center plans to move into the Longboat Island Chapel thanks to their kind invitation. It will be wonderful to have them with us on the North End and I am so impressed by the church's proactive, neighborly invitation. Let me know if you would like to discuss further, I'm available.
Sarah Karon

Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

NEST items for you

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon
First, I want to thank you for your contributions to establish a north end community center. You may know that I am the NEST team lead for exercise activities at the north end center.
We have collected several exercise related suggestions from residents of the north end neighborhoods, and I've had a few of discussions along these lines. You may have seen the results of the data we collected.
Someone at my church, mentioned that you are discussing the programming of the north end space with the folks at the Paradise Center.
Can you confirm that please? If this is the case, will you include me in such discussions, or bring me up to date on what has taken place?
I know it is still early days in the discovery and feasibility study of the purchase of the Chiles property by Mantee County, so I suspect any discussions you had were very preliminary.
We can meet and SIPs for a conversation or simply have a phone call. I want to ensure we are collaborating on programming and make you aware of the item we already have on the schedule. I look forward to hearing from you,
Deborah Di Carlo
Longboat Key

Hydrofoil/Ferry Service to Bayfront Park

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
Thank you for the response. I do believe there is confusion as I am not interested in having a ferry on LBK (especially Bayfront Park). Not sure where the idea of purchasing tickets came into play.
Elise Kidd
Longboat Key

Hydrofoil/Ferry Service to Bayfront Park

To: Elise Kidd
Ferry service to LBK has been discussed for many years. The closest version to reality is the Manatee County ferry that now runs from Bradenton to Anna Maria Island. We are discussing a future expansion of that service to LBK, but a docking point here has yet to be established.
Sarasota County has been studying a ferry service as well with the most likely island stop being on City Island. No stop on LBK itself has been seriously discussed and I am not aware of any ferry plan for Sarasota that is near approval. For many reasons, our Bayfront Park would not be a candidate for a ferry terminal and, to my knowledge, that has not been considered. I suggest not buying your tickets at this time.
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 6

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Cloudy mornings on Longboat’s beaches

Further out on Beer Can, a pale sun is reflecting off two patches of grass. Between them is a great blue heron that is either resting or in a semi-trance.



MICHAEL GIVANT
Guest Columnist
givant@lbknews.com

Cloudy mornings on LBK beaches have a pleasing two-fold effect. They allow me to see birds without the glare of water and sand that is found on bright sunny days. They also turn the landscape into a theatrical stage setting, thereby creating mood.

Beer Can Island has numerous bare ash-colored trees, some of which are standing, while others lie fallen with their huge root systems exposed. The trees lend a hint of mystery to the landscape.

An osprey is on a leaning tree at the end of a broken vertical branch with a large sheepshead porgy dangling from its left claw. The fish’s mouth is partially open and light gray spiny scales protrude from its back like spikes. I can see both eyes of the fish atop its head, which weren’t vigilant enough. The “fish-hawk” is facing the water looking intently, with its tail partially fanned. Why isn’t the fierce-looking raptor eating its catch? Is it waiting for its mate?

Wanting a better look, I sit on a fallen tree off to the side. However the osprey moves its head around nervously. Not wanting to scare it off, I walk out in front where it can keep an eye on me.

A young boy approaches the tree twirling something and the osprey hefts the fish, flapping its wings and makes loud high sounds. A man with a camera approaches. Ospreys don’t like people getting close. It looks directly at me with those intense yellow eyes on either side of its dark hooked bill. How long will it stay?



The osprey starts flapping wildly as the man gets too close. Holding the fish in its right claw the raptor lifts off the branch. It’s flapping hard but seems to be suspended in mid air by the fish’s weight. However the osprey turns toward some Australian pine trees, goes around them and vanishes.

Further out on Beer Can, a pale sun is reflecting off two patches of grass. Between them is a great blue heron that is either resting or in a semi-trance. From the rear its head has a black breeding plume waving in the breeze. The neck is the color of sandstone and its gray back appears smooth as suede. Gray feathers hang over the bird’s back like a frilly wrap. The bird faces straight ahead, as I pass to its side, but keeps a wary yellow eye on me.

On Whitney Beach the tide has left a steep ledge in the sand. Some clumps of seaweed lay scattered on it, but I don’t notice until a large section of the weed seemingly gets up and starts to move! It’s an oystercatcher, a large bird with a black head and dark back that has been resting. Another, near it, also gets up but a third further away apparently sees no need. Did I miss them in the mood created by this cloudy morning?

The next morning, also partly cloudy, a ruddy turnstone is carrying a shell, which it puts on the sand. Then the bird stabs repeatedly taking out the meat faster than I can see. Willets, large non-descript sandpipers and lean as greyhounds, are feeding in the shallow water. At first there are only four, then there are eight and finally there are 12. Sanderlings, smaller chunky sandpipers, race after the waves sticking their bills into the soaked sands in search of aquatic invertebrates.

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Letters, from page 4
Hydrofoil/Ferry Service to Bayfront Park

To: Longboat Key Commission
Recently I saw an advertisement for a hydrofoil/ferry service aimed to go to Bayfront Park on LBK... I'm not sure if it was just an advertisement of a concept or soon to become a reality, but as this is a concern, I wanted to reach out promptly as to be sure my voice could be heard if on any future meeting agendas.
Allowing a ferry (of any type) to dock at Bayfront Park would be problematic for many

reasons.
(1) The park already has limited parking for users and is often already overrun by beachgoers on weekends and in high season. Assuming islanders would like to take the ferry service into town, they would need to park their vehicles at the park. This poses a problem for our residents (especially families) who try to enjoy the park's offerings.
(2) The single bathroom would be immediately overused and maintenance wouldn't be able keep up on basic cleanliness - this is already a problem at times.
(3) This would bring significant traffic into an area of LBK that is heavily residential. To traverse up-and-down island, ferry users from the mainland would have to call on-demand transportation services - thus increasing traffic. It also would bring a lot more foot traffic from those who think it would be a good idea to walk — Zota is 1 mile, Lazy Lobster is 2 — and those are the close options. Our neighborhoods do not need tourists poking around and getting lost.
(4) A ferry, especially a hydrofoil, would disrupt the quiet, serene bay and wildlife. It would disrupt habitats for manatees, dolphins, birds, and more. It would pose a safety threat to local kayakers.
Thank you for reading and entertaining my thoughts and worries.
Elise Kidd Slansky
Longboat Key

Traffic control

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin
We are always happy to help. I appreciate your support.
Frank Rubino
Deputy Police Chief
Town of Longboat Key

Traffic control

To: Longboat Key Deputy Police Chief Frank Rubino
Chief, a huge thank you to Sergeant Butler and yourself for assisting in our major tree operation today. Keeping the road safe and keeping the personnel out of harm's way. Your department is a true asset to our community's quality of life.
Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Sidewalk issue

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin
Thank you! We'll follow up with FDOT right away.
Isaac Brownman
Assistant Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 8

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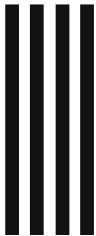
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EditorLetters



Letters, from page 6
Sidewalk issue

To: Longboat Key Assistant Town Manager Isaac Brownman
Isaac, that sidewalk expansion joint danger spot is about 50 feet south of Ranger on Gulf of Mexico Drive. It's been bad for a long time, but after the flooding, it settled even more. It's right at a storm drain.
Gary Coffin
Commissioner, Town of Longboat Key

Thank You for Meeting with Us

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
How is your summer going? We have been abroad since we saw you. Portugal, Provence and now Greece. It's been lots of fun. We will be returning in a couple weeks so I wanted to reach out to the Friends of Tennis rep that you suggested I connect about (hopefully) linking the non-profit LLC. Would you please send me his/her email and phone if you have them.
Shawn Leven
Longboat Key

Pickleball

To: Longboat Key Commission
On behalf of Eric and myself, thank you for taking the time to meet with us to discuss the future of pickleball on Longboat Key.

We truly appreciated the opportunity to hear your thoughts and to share ideas about how to meet the growing demand for this sport. It was encouraging to explore ways the tennis and pickleball communities might work together to support each other and make the best use of shared resources.
We are especially grateful for your willingness to broaden the conversation and consider new possibilities for identifying land that could accommodate additional pickleball courts. As we mentioned during our meeting, we believe that imaginative thinking leads to creative solutions—and we appreciate your openness to thinking outside the box with us. Thank you again for your time, insight, and support as we work together to enhance healthy social and recreational opportunities on Longboat Key.
Eric Drummond and Shawn Leven
Longboat Key

Pickleball

To: Eric Drummond and Shawn Leven
Happy to keep thinking of future opportunities. Thank you for your positive attitude and ideas.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner, Town of Longboat Key

Does Florida believe in climate change, or not?

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission
One of the things I've learned over the course of my career, and as a father, is that what some might say in public is not necessarily what they are doing in private. As Ronald Reagan said about the Soviet Union and its willingness to abide by nuclear weapons treaties, "Trust, but verify". Or, on the other end of the political spectrum, "Question Authority." Trust is something that is earned, not given, and I hope our advice and communications over the past 4 ½ years have allowed us to earn your trust. A bit more than four years ago, I told the Policy Board members that I not only thought that we could solve the bay's nutrient-related water quality problems in 3 to 5 years, but that we also needed to – lest we slip into the condition of the Indian River Lagoon, where most of that system is struggling to recover from multiple environmental stresses.
Instead, the stakeholders, led by local governments, have already invested over \$300 million in upgrades to wastewater infrastructure, the completion of two large regional stormwater retrofit projects, multiple millions of dollars of both large and small habitat restoration projects, and a public that is better engaged and educated about how to live a more bay-friendly lifestyle. And the results are something that most people would love to have, but don't. Across Florida,
See Letters, page 12

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Larry Moskowitz has practiced law in Florida for more than 35+ years, beginning his career as an Assistant State Attorney/Prosecutor in Broward County, FL. He is an accomplished trial attorney with over 150 jury trials to verdict.

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PRICE IMPROVEMENT

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 4 Fishing

10:26 a.m.

Officer Troyer was dispatched to the 3800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on the report of a suspicious person. The complainant reported a couple fishing at the condominium dock and were not residents. While enroute, Officer Troyer called the complainant by phone and she said the same couple had been warned before and he was requesting the couple leave the property. The complainant identified himself as a board member of the condominium. He also did not wish to meet or sign a trespass warning and only wanted them to leave the property. Upon arrival, Officer Troyer made contact with a couple who said they were residents and had permission to be fishing at the dock. The woman said she had a friend who lived there and gave them permission to fish. Officer Troyer informed the couple that one of the board members did not want them on the property and the property was marked by signs indicating no trespassing. Officer Troyer asked them for their IDs, which they provided and asked them to leave on behalf of the complainant. The couple did not want any issues and left the area without incident. Case clear.



observed the odor of alcohol emit from the vehicle slightly and the driver had bloodshot eyes. The driver reported he had a few beers but quit drinking around 6 p.m. Officer Troyer asked the driver who said he would be willing to conduct a sobriety test due to the observations by the officer. Officer Troyer did not observe sufficient indication of impairment from the driver as a results of the investigation. Case clear.

July 6
Cat

12:15 a.m.

Sgt. Montfort responded to the 5500 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of a cat locked in a motor vehicle with the vehicle running. Sgt. Montfort arrived on scene and it was determined no animal was in the vehicle and due to a language barrier, the registered owner just locked the keys in the vehicle. Sgt. Montfort advised the owner that per policy, Longboat Key Police Department does not conduct vehicle lockouts. Case clear.

Incident

4:11 p.m.

Officer Pescuma was dispatched to the 3400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a three foot by four-foot hole on the beach. The caller was concerned of someone falling in. The caller stated it was already there when they arrived. Upon arriving on scene, Officer Pescuma located the hole and filled it in with sand. Case clear.

July 7 Highway

1:08 p.m.

Officer Martinson observed a chlorine container fall off of a moving pool cleaning truck in the 2100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. The chlorine container came to a rest in the middle of southbound traffic causing vehicles to slow down and swerve around it. Officer Martinson pulled up alongside the chlorine container and put it in the trunk of the squad car and he will dispose of it at a later time. Case clear.

Citizen assist

2:20 p.m.

Officer Ericsson while on marine patrol in the area of Jewfish Key, observed a distressed woman hanging onto an inflatable kayak, treading water, near the sand bar. Upon approaching the woman, she advised she kayaked out to the sand bar. Upon approaching the woman she advised she kayaked out to the sand bar and was unable to get back to the boat launch due to the current and wind. She was clearly fatigued and in need of assistance, but refused medical assistance. Officer Barrett and Officer Ericsson assisted the woman and kayak into the vessel and transported them to the Linley Street boat dock where she was parked. Case clear.

July 9

Citizen assist

4:33 p.m.

Officer Ericsson was dispatched to Fair Oaks Place on a found property involving a sailboat on its side in the bay behind the caller's house. Upon arrival, Officer Ericsson contacted the homeowner who stated they noticed a white sailboat caught on a sandbar behind their house. The homeowner stated they left their house in the morning and the sailboat was not there. When they returned home, they noticed the boat obviously stuck on the sandbar and partially on its side. Officer Ericsson's investigation revealed a white sailboat with the name 'Wind Dancer' ensnared in an apparent sandbar behind the house. The sailboat appeared to be derelict. The hatch was open and the sails were down. There appeared to be no people on board. The hull number was unreadable from the land. Three pictures were taken and uploaded to this report. The marine unit was notified while on scene.

Citizen

11:11 p.m.

Officer Mathis was assisting Officer Troyer on a traffic stop when he observed a vehicle stop in the roadway while traveling south on Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Mathis made contact with the driver who said that he was traveling to Miami and was lost. He advised that he was traveling to Miami and was lost at the moment and that he was from Haiti and his cellphone did not work in the U.S. and he flew in to see family and somehow got lost going from Fort Myers to Miami. Officer Mathis spoke with the driver and Sgt. Montfort printed out directions to the Miami International Airport. The driver was given the directions and felt confident he could follow them. The complainant was given the directions and felt confident he would follow them.

Suspicious

6:08 p.m.

Officer Ericsson responded to the 4200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on a suspicious vehicle involving a vehicle in the church parking lot. Upon arrival, Officer Ericsson contacted the man who said he got a flat tire and was waiting on an Uber to come pick him up. He said he was going to get his father along with tools to fix his tire. Officer Ericsson advised him of the laws regarding leaving his vehicle parked in a private lot and the risk of being towed, especially if he does not return in a timely manner. A check of the vehicle's license revealed it to belong to the father. The registration belonged to the vehicle and was not listed as abandoned or stolen. Case clear.

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KeyExpert

Dealing with legal issues before and after storms

Collectively, property owners in Sarasota and its barrier islands are no sooner sorting out the damage and destruction from last year’s storms than having to face the fast-approaching 2025 storm season. Some are still fighting claims and dealing with reconstruction, new construction or relocation.

LARRY MOSKOWITZ
Guest Writer
info@windylaw.com

We see in the news issues with the speed of permits being processed, we hear of staggering reserves and assessments and many have had to struggle to try and reach that nebulous goal of becoming “whole” again after tremendous loss.

Longboat Key News spoke with attorney Larry Moskowitz, founding partner at WindyLaw.com, about his 20 years of dealing with these exact situations and what has made the most recent storms difficult for our region.

Moskowitz has nearly over two decades in the very specific field of property damage and loss. His legal team has handled thousands of civil cases, conducted over 150 jury trials to verdict and has extensive experience handling and litigating property damage claims and business interruption claims resulting from catastrophic storms. Here is what Larry had to say:

Now that we’re nearly nine months out from Hurricanes Helene and Milton — what are some of the biggest pitfalls property owners are still facing in the aftermath?

Under Florida law, insurance carriers have sixty days to either pay, deny, or underpay a claim. However, many carriers routinely sidestep this requirement by employing delay tactics — such as repeatedly requesting documentation from policyholders over extended periods without issuing a decision or payment. This can drag on for months, during which time key evidence may degrade, and witnesses’ memories may fade. While cooperation is important, policyholders should be cautious about ongoing delays. If nine months have passed and your claim remains unresolved or unpaid to your satisfaction, it may be a sign that your insurer is not acting in good faith.

What are some of the common insurance practices you are seeing?

Following major storms — whether classified as tropical storms or hurricanes — it’s common to see insurance companies attribute damage to flooding rather than wind. This distinction is crucial, as flood damage is often excluded from standard homeowners’ policies. In many cases, insurers quickly bring in engineers who frequently work on their behalf to support this position, leading to denials or reduced payouts. Homeowners often assume that an engineer’s visit is a positive step, but it can signal the start of a dispute. Too often, policyholders wait until they’re deep into the claims process — after delays, silence, or a denial — before seeking competent legal representation. By then, critical deadlines set by the homeowner’s insurance policy — along with valuable time and evidence — may already have been lost.

As we enter another hurricane season, what steps should homeowners be taking now to prepare — and if a storm does hit, what should they do in the immediate aftermath before reaching out to their insurance company?

Before storm season begins, homeowners should take time to thoroughly document the condition of their property. This includes photos and videos of both the exterior — particularly the roof, windows, and doors — and the interior, including furnishings and valuables. It’s a simple step that can make a significant difference if a claim becomes necessary.

It’s also wise to keep both a printed copy and a digital version of your insurance policy on hand. If evacuation becomes necessary, internet access may be limited, so having a physical copy available can be critical.

After a storm, homeowners should again document the condition of their property, capturing all visible damage through photos and video. This ‘before and after’ comparison can serve as powerful evidence during the claims process. It’s also important to have your insurance policy ready, along with receipts for any repairs, prior inspection reports, and mortgage information — since many policies list the mortgage company as an additional insured. The more organized and thorough you are, the better positioned you’ll be to navigate any claim.

What is the insurance company’s obligation, and how can it vary?

An insurance policy is a contract — one that carries obligations for both the policyholder and the insurance company. The homeowner agrees to pay a premium, and in return, the insurer is expected to pay for losses that fall within the terms of the policy.

In Florida, most homeowners’ policies are written as ‘all-risk’ or ‘open peril’ policies. This means that unless the policy specifically excludes a type of damage, it should be covered — as long as the damage occurred during the coverage period.

However, in recent years, there has been a steady shift toward policies with more exclusions and limitations. As a result, coverage has become narrower, and the language more complex. This shift has created confusion for many policyholders, who often struggle to understand what is actually covered and what isn’t. The reality is that today’s insurance policies are far more difficult for the average homeowner to interpret without professional help.

What are some issues with permitting and right to rebuild when it comes to dealing with local municipalities?

When dealing with property damage claims, one often-overlooked issue is how current building codes and local municipal regulations may affect your right to rebuild. In many cases, if you need to repair or reconstruct your home, you’ll be required to comply with updated codes — whether they’re local, state, or even federal (such as FEMA requirements).

Most insurance policies offer what’s known as ‘law and ordinance coverage,’ which helps cover the additional costs that come with these mandatory code upgrades. This coverage is especially important for older homes that were built under outdated standards.

Homeowners should carefully review whether their policy includes this protection. And in the aftermath of a storm, it’s critical to assess how any changes in building laws or municipal permitting requirements might impact the overall cost of repairs. These factors can significantly

cantly influence the scope and timeline of the rebuilding process.

Can you explain what the Fifty Percent rule is and how it’s being applied in practice? Are there differences in how various communities interpret or enforce this rule during the rebuilding process?

The ‘Fifty Percent rule’ refers to a regulation that requires a property to be brought up to current building codes if the cost to repair or rebuild it exceeds 50% of the home’s market value. On its face, the rule sounds simple — but in reality, it’s far more complex.

The rule is governed by a combination of federal, state, and local laws, and how it’s applied can vary depending on the municipality. Navigating it often requires the input of multiple professionals, including property damage attorneys, contractors, architects and engineers.

In most cases, the rule comes into play during the permitting process with local building departments. However, it’s something homeowners should keep in mind much earlier — particularly when negotiating a settlement with their insurance carrier. Overlooking it can lead to significant surprises in cost and compliance down the line.

How do you advise clients going forward, looking to future storms?

The most important advice I give clients at the start of hurricane season is to be proactive — and that starts with understanding what your insurance policy actually covers. Too often, homeowners assume they’re protected, only to find out after a storm that key damages aren’t included or are subject to significant exclusions.

Reviewing your policy before the storm season begins can make a major difference. Look at your deductibles, especially for hurricane or windstorm events, and make sure you understand the limits of coverage, including personal property, additional living expenses, and law and ordinance provisions.

I also encourage clients to ask questions — of their insurance agent, or a legal professional if needed — and to keep thorough records. Having digital and physical copies of your policy, updated photos and videos of your property, and an emergency plan in place puts you in a much stronger position if disaster strikes.

Preparedness isn’t just about boarding up windows — it’s also about knowing your rights and responsibilities before a claim ever needs to be filed

Larry Moskowitz is an attorney specializing in Property Damage claims, with offices in Florida, Texas, and North Carolina, serving clients nationwide. If you have questions about this article or any property damage issues, you can reach him at info@WindyLaw.com.



LARRY MOSKOWITZ



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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 8

a 2020 report from FDEP (2020 Integrated Water Quality Assessment for Florida: Sections 303(d), 305(b), and 314 Report and Listing Update) found that about half of sites sampled by FDEP showed a trend of increasing concentrations of chlorophyll-a, the plant pigment used as a surrogate for the amount of algae in the water column. This percentage (47% to 48%) matches up well with the percentage of sample locations with an increase in the concentration of nitrogen, about 46% to 49% (see Table 2.9). Only about 20% to 26% of locations sampled by FDEP showed a decrease in chlorophyll a. In contrast, the reductions in nutrient loads to Sarasota Bay have brought about a bay-wide reduction in the amount of algae in our water. These improvements were large enough that the state concluded that Sarasota Bay no longer exceeds nutrient-related water quality standards which were developed for SBEP, reviewed by the SBEP's Technical Advisory Committee, and then reviewed and approved by both FDEP and the US EPA - Director's Note: FDEP determinations of water quality trends – Sarasota Bay Estuary Program.

And, subsequent to these improved conditions, our colleagues at the Southwest Florida Water Management District informed us that seagrass coverage had increased by nearly 2,000 acres between 2022 and 2024, a 19% increase, and the second biggest increase in over 30 years - Director's Note: 2024 Seagrass results – further good news on the bay's recovery – Sarasota Bay Estuary Program.

So, hopefully, we've earned your trust in terms of the

concerns that we should have about nutrient supply to our waters. Unfortunately, there is not the same amount of consensus, much less concern, about the impacts of releasing CO2 into our atmosphere as there is about the impacts of releasing NO3- into our hydrosphere. And let's be honest with ourselves and each other – there isn't the same amount of publicly-announced consensus.

But...that doesn't mean that people aren't looking into the potential impacts of climate change, even if they aren't highlighting their findings in press conferences on the steps of the State Capitol.

The Resilient Florida Program, signed into law in May 2021 by Governor DeSantis, clearly acknowledges that our climate is changing and that the recent past may not be all that useful for predicting our near future. For example, the State's estimates are that sea level in our region should increase between 8 to 9 inches between 2020 and 2050, and by 16 to 24 inches between 2020 and 2080. The increase per decade over the next three decades averages about 3 inches per decade. For the three decades beyond then, the expected rate is 3 to 5 inches per decade, indicating an increase in the rate of increase is expected - Resilient Florida Program | Florida Department of Environmental Protection. What are the likely implications of such changes? Well, we'll likely see more street flooding in low-lying areas, particularly when it rains during high tides. This will likely become a more widely noticed phenomenon than water coming over the top of seawalls, at least during days with no tropical weather events - Director's Note: Sea

level rise – SBEP values compared to FDEP estimates and their implications – Sarasota Bay Estuary Program.

But what else might we expect? Well, thankfully, and as expected for a state with such a large agricultural economy, the State of Florida has an official Office of the State Climatologist, which compiles data on the likely impacts of climate change - Climate Change - Florida Climate Center. The Office of the State Climatologist clearly lays out the link between CO2 levels and global temperatures, and highlights (Figure 2) that the CO2 levels we're recording now are the highest in over 800,000 years. Frankly, we are running a global experiment - while sitting inside the test tube.

What kind of impacts are expected to occur as a function of these changes? Well, under the same range of scenarios as those used by the Resilient Florida Program, our region would be expected to have an increase in the number of days with air temperatures higher than 95°F of more than 30 days, as illustrated below. Think of how gross it is to be outside when the air temperature is that high. And now consider the conclusion from the State Climatologist is that we will be adding another month's worth of such days in the future.

What else? Well, the Office of the State Climatologist predicts that under the same scenarios accepted by the Resilient Florida Program, it is likely that we will see a 10 to 20% increase in "extreme precipitation amounts" as shown below. By their definition, that would mean that rain events that are considered so rare as to have a 1 percent probability of occurring in any given year are anticipated to become more common by somewhere between 10 and 20%. As stated by the Office of the State Climatologist, "Extreme precipitation events are expected to become more frequent and intense in a warmer world. Recent heavy rainfall events, such as the extreme rainfall event in Fort Lauderdale on April 12, 2023 and recent hurricanes (Idalia, Ian, Nicole), are consistent with expected increases in precipitation, tropical cyclone intensity, and coastal storm surge flooding..."

Our local stormwater treatment and conveyance systems appear to be based upon an expectation that rainfall amounts greater than 10 inches in 24 hours are expected to be so rare that their probability of occurrence is about 1 percent for a given year. That is the more precise way to phrase the term "once in a century" rain event. But at the same time, the Office of the State Climatologist is telling us that those "rare" events aren't going to be as rare over the next few decades as they were over the past few decades. Are we ready for that? Are we even discussing this topic in forums that could give us effective responses to these predictions?

I hope I've earned your trust on matters related to water quality and the restoration of our bay. So I would like to think that you would be open to the idea that climate change is real, humans are playing a role in those changes, and the next thirty years are not likely to be the same as the last thirty years, in terms of air temperatures, water temperatures, rates of sea level rise, and the intensity of rain events and tropical weather.

Going back to the original theme, just because the state and/or DC don't highlight concerns about climate change and its likely impacts doesn't mean that no action is being taken. That's not the case here in Florida. You may agree or disagree with the scenarios being used, but the State's Resilient Florida Program and the Office of the State Climatologist both accept that climate change is real, as do the State of Florida's current and former Chief Science Officers (Drs. Mark Rains and Tom Frazer, respectively). This is good, because over 90% of Floridians believe that our climate is changing, and nearly 70% of Floridians want state and federal governments to do more to address their concerns - FAU | Floridians Believe in Climate Change and Want Government Action.

It's unknown to me why climate change isn't being discussed and debated with the same openness and urgency as our state-wide water quality problems. But similar to raising a teenager, what people say they're doing (or not doing) is not always the same as what they are actually doing. Florida does take climate change seriously, even if we don't talk like we do.

Dave Tomasko
Executive Director, Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

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BreakPoints



How can I win with a weak partner?

In countless doubles matches my opponents always hit the ball to my partner who is a weaker player. I get it, they want to win. Should I aggressively poach or go for winners every time I get the ball? It makes for a tense and confusing game. What should I do to better my chances of winning (other than getting a stronger partner)?

JACKIE BOHANNON
Guest Columnist
tennis@lbknews.com

Definitely do not go for winners every ball. That is an extremely low percentage strategy and will only put more stress and pressure on your partner who you do not want to feel inadequate. Do your best to give your partner confidence and get the most out of their abilities.



BOHANNON

For starters, identify your opponents' weaknesses and try to expose them. Do they have a partner that is significantly weaker? Can they hit a forehand, a backhand, a volley, and overhead? Can they run? Focus on your opponents' shortcomings instead of your partners.

The next step is for you to be consistent and reliable. Play the big points well. Get your first serve in, don't miss your return of serve, and put the ball away when the opportunity presents itself. Always hit high percentage targets. (I.e. down the middle or at the net player's feet)

Finally, I suggest mixing up your positioning. Don't be predictable. This will help you poach more and be more interactive and also confuse your opponents. For example, if you are serving sometimes serve and volley, sometimes have your partner poach, sometimes fake, sometimes have your partner play both back. When you are receiving, try chipping and charging, lobbing and charging, drop shot a 2nd serve, playing both back, etc. If you find a strategy that works stick with it until it stops working and then change it up again. When there is a significant differential amongst the partnership the key is for the opponent to never know where the stronger player is going to be, and never know what you are

going to do. Keep them on their toes, and while you are at it, stay on your toes too!

Jackie Bohannon is the Director of Tennis at the Bird Key Yacht Club.

What's your tennis question?



Welcome to the debut of Break Points with Jackie. Long-time tennis pro and recently-named America's Top Coach Jackie Bohannon will answer any question on tennis. Please email questions you have on strategy, technique, mental game, fitness, equipment, etc., to: tennis@lbknews.com

KeyCrossword



Multiple Choice

Across

- 1. Disputed strip in the mideast
- 5. Olympic skater Cohen
- 10. Minute meadow mammal
- 14. Offs
- 15. Transparent
- 16. Foley on film
- 17. Sunday speeches: Abbr.
- 18. Flared fashion
- 20. Woes
- 22. Washer cycle
- 23. Lesser cinematic fare
- 26. Count follower
- 27. Dedicatory dip
- 31. Kinda
- 34. Meat in a can
- 36. Ketch's kin
- 37. Modern form of address?
- 38. Vice-like devices
- 41. Bad beginning?
- 42. Prefix with "-syncratic"
- 44. Opera set in Egypt
- 45. Word with library or tomato
- 47. Taoist principle
- 49. Dad's daughter
- 50. Gold, Juno, Omaha, Sword and Utah, historically
- 55. Seawall
- 58. Surfer's haven
- 60. Online answer
- 63. Melody at the Met
- 64. Agfa product
- 65. Slander
- 66. Member of an order
- 67. Like open-source software
- 68. A8s and TTs

69. "I drew my snicker-
____" – Mikado, Act 2

Down

- 1. Crux
- 2. Bitter tasting
- 3. Weightless state
- 4. Guarantee
- 5. Attacks with boiling oil
- 6. Aachen avenue
- 7. Temblor
- 8. Solo in space?
- 9. Exist
- 10. "The spice of life"
- 11. They can take a yoke
- 12. Dieter's portion
- 13. Ultimatum word
- 19. Cofee maker's method
- 21. Kind of training

- 24. He served in the Illinois Senate from 1997 to 2004
- 25. Siren
- 28. Hill's competitor
- 29. Babe Ruth's "sultanate"
- 30. Fr. miss
- 31. ____ pro quo
- 32. Pakistani language
- 33. Others in the forum
- 34. Slug-like
- 35. Something to do with a budget or a bra
- 39. Diego's dwelling
- 40. Dune's "melange"
- 43. Traditional
- 46. Hindu hermitages
- 48. Pastoral poem
- 49. Hooved partiers, in myth

- 51. Chimp or chicken, but not cheetah
- 52. China' Zhou ____
- 53. Kenneth Lay's company
- 54. Vertical fishnet
- 55. Comedian Foxworthy
- 56. Kuwaiti chief
- 57. It may be tall and short at the same time
- 59. The house's receipts
- 61. Cape Town country: Abbr.
- 62. Ostrich's Aussie auntie?

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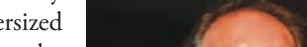


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We try to find light, refreshing, and healthy alternatives to supersized sugary soft drinks, six-packs of mass market beer, and bottles of buttery, oaky California Chardonnay or supermarket Cabernet Sauvignon.

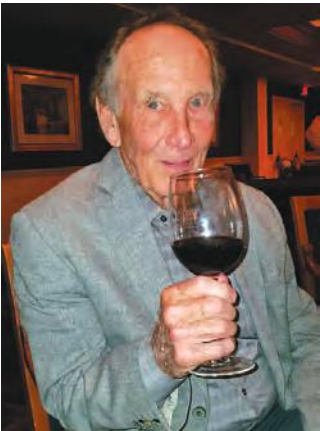
Summer has its own special outdoor events and adventures, celebrations, and menus for lunch and dinner. Choosing the right beverages for these occasions takes some thought and smart shopping. We try to find light, refreshing, and healthy alternatives to supersized sugary soft drinks, six-packs of mass market beer, and bottles of buttery, oaky California Chardonnay or supermarket Cabernet Sauvignon. So here goes bargain beverages for summertime settings.



Beverages in cans seem better choices for these occasions. For those who prefer not to drink from cans, bring along “keeper” plastic glasses such as Turvis Tumblers or stemless plastic wine glasses. A twelve-pack of Samuel Adams Beers of Summer (\$20) will match up to a wide range of tastes: Summer Ale, Porch Rocker, American Light, and Blueberry Lager. Also consider a non-alcoholic alternative, Dos Equis Lime and Salt Zero (\$11/6-pack). Wine drinkers enjoy Sofia (Coppola) Brut Rosé and Blanc de Blancs sparkling wines in cans (\$10/4-pack), or an Underwood Pinot Noir or Pinot Gris (\$7/12-ounce can) from Oregon. Children and adults find seltzer infused with fruit juices tasty and healthy. Add a light dose of agave nectar to drinks for children, and red wine or a liquor such as Vermouth Rosso with bitters to seltzer drinks for adults.

Selections of beverages depend on the setting. Casual lunches or dinners ranging from hot-dogs to hamburgers and chicken quarters, and to pork or beef ribs work best with mixtures of beer and lemonade, Shandy's in England, pale ale, or white wines with body such as Marsanne and Rosanne from the Provence region in southern France or light red wines such as Beaujolais from France or a Garnacha (Grenache) from Spain. For a more formal dinner with grilled meats, think game birds with Pinot Noir, rack of lamb with Syrah, or beefsteak with French Bordeaux or California Cabernet Sauvignon. The 2022 Comstock Pinot Noir (\$20) from the Sonoma Coast in California rates as an amazing value. The 2021 d'Arenberg Footbolt Shiraz (\$18) has the depth of dark fruit flavors required to tame the savory fats in a grilled rack of lamb, while the 2021 Auspicious Cabernet Sauvignon (\$13) has the knack of Cabs to enhance heavy beef hot from the grill.

Whether in a restaurant overlooking the water, on the deck of a beach house, or in a backyard, a feast of lobster, shrimp, oysters, crab, scallops, shrimp, grilled fresh fish, or other deli-



cacies from the ocean or lake enhance summer afternoons and evenings. A White Burgundy (Chardonnay) highlights the drawn butter and sweet, salty tastes of steamed or broiled lobster. The 2021 La Chablisienne Vibrant Petit Chablis (\$24) works well with lobster, oysters, shrimp, and grilled white fish, and it costs a fraction of what other fine White Burgundies cost. Steamed blue crabs don't require anything more than a basic lager or pilsner beer (in Baltimore, "Natty Bo" National Bohemian), though a citrusy Sauvignon Blanc such as the 2023 Matua Sauvignon Blanc (\$11) from the Marlborough region of New Zealand. Spanish sparkling Brut Blanco or Brut Rosé Cava, true bargains, pair well with most of the summer seafood specialties.

When travelling by car, consider buying wines and spirits before going to vacation spots. Prices may be higher and availability problematic at your destination. When travelling by airline, check online beverage shopping sites for possible shipments to your destination. Safe travels this summer!

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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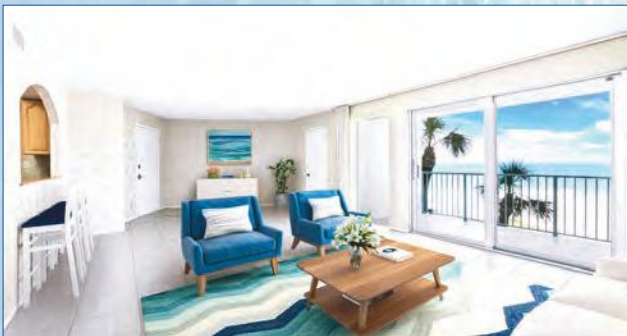
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