



# Longboat Key News


August 4, 2023      *Serving Longboat Key, St. Armands, Downtown Sarasota & Anna Maria Island*      FREE

**InsideLook**




*Busy beach days spur tourism ...page 6*

*L' Ambiance tops \$3.8 million ...page 9*



*Long Island to Longboat Key ...page 13*



*Fishing for the police to come ...page 10*

## Punta Gorda teen arrested after St. Armands shooting

*Police saw on surveillance video a male running across residential property with a rifle in his hand. He was also seen running past one of the victims, who had collapsed onto the ground.*

A Punta Gorda teenager has been arrested in connection to a shooting in a residence off St. Armands Circle on the morning of July 24, around 1 a.m., according to the Sarasota Police Department (SPD). Two adult victims sustained minor injuries and were taken to a local hospital.

Police said surveillance video showed a male running across a residential property with a rifle in his hand. He was also seen running past one of the victims, who had collapsed to the ground.

Detectives also placed a white Cadillac with a Florida tag

**See Arrest, page 2**

## The Players launches The Stage at Payne Park

*The Players, Sarasota's community theatre, intends to remodel the existing Payne Park auditorium for its new home at a project cost of \$8 million.*

The Players will match dollar for

**See Players, page 2**

### Closing Act




Photo by Blake Fleetwood

## focus on Sarasota School of Architecture

*Display to remain in place through June 2024*

The second free exhibit celebrating the City of Sarasota's rich cultural heritage is on display in the City Hall lobby, which is located at 1565 First St. in Sarasota, the city has announced.

"This new exhibit focuses on the historic Sarasota School of Architecture. It includes models, renderings, reproductions, original blueprints, and archival photographs provided by Architecture Sarasota and Sarasota County Libraries and Historical Resources," a news release notes.

"As conceptualized and overseen by the City's Public Art Program and the Historic Preservation Divisions," the release continues, "the project highlights how the Sarasota School of Architecture — which focused on post-war, Mid Century modern creations — had such a profound impact on the medium that is now widely recognized around the world."

## Treasure the tartness of Key Lime Pie

*No matter if you are in the Hays Loft at Euphemia Hays, at Ventura's Restaurant in Whitney Plaza, The Lazy Lobster or Harry's Continental Kitchen, they all have great Key Lime Pie.*

**TRYLA LAESON**  
Guest Writer  
larson@lbknews.com

I will see you one Bread Pudding and raise you a Key Lime Pie. I feel like everywhere I go out to eat, at the end of the meal the server always asks, "Did you save room for our delicious Key Lime Pie?"

Almost every place offers it and they all claim to be the best. Well guess what, they are not lying. They all really do have the best Key Lime Pie.

No matter if you are in the Hays Loft at Euphemia Hays, at Ventura's Restaurant in Whitney Plaza, The

**See Tartness, page 8**



City Senior Planner Clifford Smith noted in the release that the Sarasota School of Architecture "was one of simplicity, of linear design and transparency by harnessing natural light. Architects Jack West and Victor Lundy used those tools to express themselves to create something entirely different and new," according to Smith, the release adds.

"There's an inherent elegance in the design. It tells a story, one that captures the cultural heritage of our great city," Smith said. "This is part of what makes us unique. These architects were in tune with their surroundings."

The Sarasota School of Architecture exhibit will be displayed

**See NewsWorthy, page 8**



# THE DIPINTO COLLECTION



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**LIDO SHORES • 1212 CENTER PLACE** **\$6,649,000**  
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NOW PENDING SALE



**LIDO KEY • 159 TAFT DR., #206** **\$2,699,000**  
Just listed- This coastal contemporary home offers attractive one-level-living, an abundance of natural sunlight and boasts a full array of developer upgrades. Desirable end unit with 3 BR/ 3 BA. Only 18 unique owners, perfectly situated between Sarasota Bay and the Gulf of Mexico.

NEW CONSTRUCTION TO BE BUILT



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

GULF FRONT NEW CONSTRUCTION



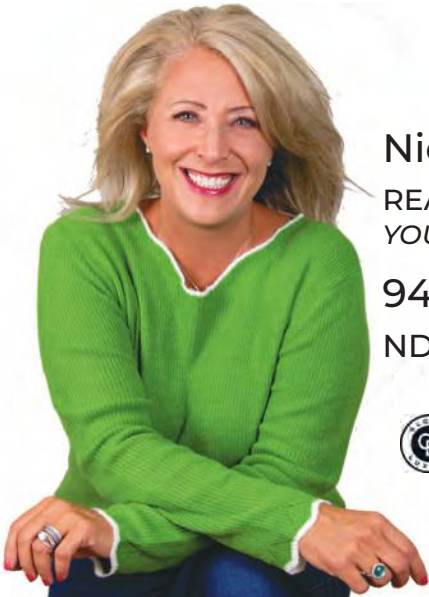
**LONGBOAT KEY • 6489 GULFSIDE DRIVE** **\$16,900,000**  
Fabulous Gulf front lot offering nearly 100 ft. of sandy beach, this gorgeous DSDG Architect designed home is a rare find. Boasting almost 6,000 AC/SF, this spectacular home is custom built with the finest details throughout. Architect designed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

NOW PENDING SALE



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

I am looking for properties on Longboat and Lido for my buyers.  
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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](mailto: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.

## Charlie Bishop Named Acting Manatee County Administrator

To: Longboat Key Commission

The Sarasota Bay Estuary Program is excited to announce its plans for a Ribbon Cutting Event at FISH Preserve! FISH Preserve is 100+ acres of land adjacent to the fishing village of Cortez. The land was purchased in 2000 by the Florida Institute of Saltwater Heritage (FISH) and was environmentally restored by a network of dedicated partners. The Preserve serves as a sanctuary for bay fish and wildlife, while also representing the value of regional collaboration and a shared vision.

The Ribbon Cutting is scheduled for Friday, November 3 from 10 AM to noon. Event parking will be at 4404 116th Street West Bradenton, FL 34210. The ceremony tent is located a short walk, or free shuttle ride, away from the parking lot. Please see the link below for additional information.

Attached is a printable invite that includes key information. Seating is limited, so we kindly request that those planning to attend RSVP using this webpage: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fish-preserve-ribbon-cutting-tickets-687276441337?aff=oddttdtcreator>. Please reach out to me with any questions you may have. We hope to see you there!

Megan Barry  
Public Outreach Manager  
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

## Charlie Bishop Named Acting Manatee County Administrator

To: Longboat Key Commission

More changes for the interim position in Manatee. The County is actively in the process (search) for a permanent administrator and would guess that the new person would be in place around Oct. 1.

Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

## Utilities Undergrounding Project Update

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

The SBEP and its stakeholders are working hard to improve the health of Sarasota Bay, by acting on pollutant loads from wastewater and stormwater, by working to better inform the public about things they can do on their own to help with bay recovery, by deploying more

oysters and artificial reefs into the bay, and by increasing public access to the bay, so that the general public has more opportunities to experience (and thus care about) this beautiful bay.

We’ve hopefully helped make the point that for all the work that we do locally, we are still going to be impacted by activities outside of our direct control. Piney Pont comes to mind, but also - red tide. While humans don’t cause red tide, we can cause it to be worse due to nutrient enrichment. By far, the biggest nutrient load to the coastal waters of Southwest Florida is the Caloosahatchee River (CR). The CR has a TMDL, developed by FDEP, that calls for an approximate 20% load reduction, similar to our preliminary load reduction target for Sarasota Bay. Reaching that 20% nitrogen load reduction target for our 150 square mile watershed will require the expenditure of multiple hundreds of millions of dollars spent on wastewater upgrades and stormwater retrofits. Now consider the fact that the CR watershed extends not only to Lake Okeechobee, but also includes the waterways that drain into Lake O, which extend all the way up to north of Orlando. How close are we to bringing about that proposed 20% nitrogen load reduction for the CR watershed? Not very close – at all. Which means, land uses and pollutant loads from outside of our watershed will continue to make future red tides bigger, more toxic, and longer lasting, and that will likely be the case for years to come, if not decades, unfortunately.

That connectedness works both ways. A healthy Sarasota Bay is not only good for us here, but it is good for everyone who lives, plays or works in the Gulf Coast region. Gag grouper (*Mycteroperca microlepis*) are found as adults near natural ledges (and artificial reefs) in areas typically over 60’ deep. But as juveniles, they are found in nearshore areas such as Sarasota Bay, where they use habitats such as seagrass beds. Lose the habitats for juveniles, and you will adversely impact the adult population. For those – like me – who love to catch and eat grouper, taking care of our estuaries is also taking care of the species as a whole.

This picture below is from a recent sampling event in Blackburn Bay, where researchers from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission sample fish populations on a regular basis. Each year, more than 200 sampling events are conducted across our five bay segments, and fish like this one below are captured, and then released alive back into the bay. These fish might be tagged, or samples taken to test their genetic diversity, but this juvenile gag grouper and others are mostly released back into the bay after they are counted.

According to the National Marine Fisheries Service, nearly 900,000 pounds of gag grouper were harvested in 2021, mostly from the west coast of Florida, for a dockside value of \$4.8 million. Our ability to continue to catch these fish, or to have them served to us at a seafood restaurant, depends on the health of places like Sarasota Bay. So let’s keep up the good work, and we’ll hopefully benefit not only our own system, but an ecosystem and an economy that extends beyond our boundaries.

Dave Tomasko  
Director  
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

## Undergrounding Update

To: Longboat Key Commission

A carryover item from the June 30th meeting was to get a undergrounding update out to the community with a statement from FPL to help explain what’s going on. We now have that statement and Public Works has drafted the following overview that will accompany the FPL statement. This will go out over our normal social media channels, our website, and a statement will be included in our next utility statement that will direct customers to our website if they want to know more.

Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

## Undergrounding update


To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Does this reflect further delays from what we were told on June 30? When will pole and wire removal begin at Phase 2?

Thanks.  
Ken Schneier  
Mayor, Longboat Key


See Letters, page 6

### GULF VIEWS




2109 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #1203  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
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\$1,200,000

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**5910 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY**

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



\$2,299,000

**793 JUNGLE QUEEN WAY | LONGBOAT KEY**

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



\$1,995,000

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

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



\$2,995,000

**830 TARAWITT DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY**

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



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**524 HALYARD LANE | LONGBOAT KEY**

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





# EditorLetters



Letters, from page 4

Undergrounding update

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

I have been reviewing this matter for a while now. I think the initial response from P&Z was not the right response to a more useful/environmentally safe option for us, the community and the Turtles. I would love an opportunity to come together and discuss this in greater detail and hopefully agree on the best option.

I have 8/2, 8/3-pm only, 8/4, 8/7, 8/8 and 8/9 available and would be happy to meet at the Town offices. Please let me know what dates work for you. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Marge Langteau  
Emerald Harbor Neighborhood Association - President

Utilities Undergrounding Project Update

To: Longboat Key Commission

A carryover item from the June 30th meeting was to get a undergrounding update out to the community with a statement from FPL to help explain what's going on. We now have that statement and Public Works has drafted the following overview that will accompany the FPL statement. This will go out over our normal social media channels, our website, and a statement will be included in our next utility statement that will direct customers to our website if they want to know more. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

Undergrounding Update

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider

This is generally the same or similar update as the June 30th Town Commission update, with one note that Phase 2 transformers are manufactured and in route now, and we were hoping to have received them a couple weeks ago in mid-July. Once we get them, Wilco is prepared to immediately begin installing so we can then finish Phase 2 conversions. FPL has informed us they are working on options to begin pole removals where they can, but we do not have an ETA on that yet. It does not change what we reported on Phases 3 and 4, which are the longer

timeframes, and FPL has committed to continue to push to advance that timeframe. On a positive note with Phase 3, FPL and Wilco are working together on a plan to begin energizing Phase 3 feeders along GMD without having Phase 2 complete nor some of the remaining neighborhood transformers in hand. This plan has not been confirmed yet, but it is a work in progress.

Isaac Brownman  
Director Public Works  
Town of Longboat Key

Longboat Key North

To: Manatee County Commission

Our organization, LBK North, is a large community group consisting of 26 HOA / Condo associations on the North end of Longboat Key, all which completely reside within the Manatee (vs Sarasota) borders of Longboat Key. We have hosted BOCC District 3 and at-Large Commissioners at our monthly meetings.

It is with great enthusiasm that we write in support of Manatee County School District and the BOCC working together to establish an education-focused community facility for the residents on Longboat Key.

We understand you are reviewing a proposal for the County and School District to lease space in the Whitney Plaza Shopping center on Longboat Key in order to build out a facility which can support our community with programming and space for adult education, art classes, seminars, recreation and community meetings.

We strongly support this BOCC and School District initiative for several reasons:

There are a number of active community groups on the Key (Rotary, Kiwanis, HOAs, senior groups, environmental teams, beach volunteers, neighborhood associations), particularly on the north end, that do not have formal or adequate meeting space. This investment would immediately address this issue.

There are many education, arts and recreation programs currently offered “off island” (in Bradenton, Sarasota, Lakewood Ranch) that would love to have a presence on the Key and currently do not benefit from LBK resident attendance and support due to traffic.

The site provides a physical, visible Manatee County investment on the Key (something Sarasota has done with Bayfront Park and will do again, in a significant way, with the Town Center Library).

We have a strong, active group of community volunteers here that could help with programming, staffing, etc. Our group is more than willing to collaborate with your staff and the School District to contribute to the success of this project.

The location you are selecting anchors several businesses on the Manatee County end of Longboat Key that would provide synergies (fitness, food, health, etc.) to this community space. There is also adequate parking on site - something that is a rarity on our Key.

As property owners, we / Longboat Key provide a significant amount of tax revenue to the County and School District with a relatively low need for services (e.g. in 2022 we contributed \$14 million to the BOCC and \$17 million to Schools and have only 30-40 students).

While we are supportive of being, in your words a “donor community”, we do look to you to invest back in our community.

Manatee’s approach to lease space, and not build from the ground up, is an extremely cost-effective way to use taxpayer money to provide a high quality facility and service with a relatively quick impact. As you are aware, Sarasota has set aside \$1 million of its fiscal 2023 budget to advance the planning and design for a state of the art library facility at our Town Center, which they will ultimately build to completion.

The BOCC has done much in recent years to re-establish the relationships between our County and Town of Longboat Key. We ask that you approve and work with the School District to ensure funding for this project and to direct staff to work together with the Town of LBK and residents’ groups to ensure the programming and use of the building fully align to our community’s needs.

Thank you for what we believe will be a worthwhile, much needed and visible asset for our County on Longboat Key.

Paul Hylbert, Maureen Merrigan, Pat Kaufman, Jeff Driver  
Longboat Key North Board

Longboat Key North

To: Longboat Key North Members

Please insure that LBK North does not encourage programs that would take away from The Paradise Center or The Education Center at the new Manatee County facility.

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

Longboat Key North

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

Look forward to seeing what the LBK Town Manager and the School Superintendent and staff work out at their meeting this week.

Not clear yet if, how, and when LBK North gets involved beyond initial brainstorming of ideas and the request for meeting space and that local community needs are met.

See Letters, page 7


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# EditorLetters



Letters, from page 6

Agree, both The Paradise Center and Education center are local treasurers and we all should do what we can to support their continued success. Am hopeful both organizations could use the space as an outpost and they would be involved once the Town and County get to a programming stage.  
Maureen Merrigan  
Longboat Key North Board

Manatee County

To: Paul Hylbert  
Good afternoon. Actions taken in regards to executing the Whitney Plaza lease at the Manatee County Commission meeting on Tuesday were a tad confusing. My understanding is the motion which passed via the Consent agenda has created the path forward to negotiate an inter local agreement with Manatee County Public Schools who will be responsible for operating a Longboat Key community center. What that means in regards to signing a lease agreement between the owner of Whitney Plaza and Manatee County remains to be determined.  
Tip will be meeting with the new Superintendent of Manatee County Public Schools next Friday to discuss the particulars of the inter local agreement. We hope to learn what the next steps might be to execute the lease agreement. Will keep LBK North posted on what we learn.  
Debbie Murphy  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

Manatee County

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debbie Murphy  
I went onto the tape of meeting last night and watched awhile and heard no change in the Consent Agenda with respect to the Whitney Plaza project. Did I miss anything? Did it pass?  
Paul Hylbert  
Longboat Key

June tourism

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission  
Good morning. I am happy to provide you with the June tourism numbers for Sarasota County. June was a very strong month for us and we were delighted to see continued growth in our international visitation this fiscal particularly from Canada which is up 62.6% for the fiscal.  
We had great promotions in the month of June with Sarasota Day in Baltimore with the Orioles and Sarasota Day in Atlanta with the Braves. Fans in both stadiums received sunglasses co-branded with the team and Visit Sarasota. We were able to entertain clients from Southwest Airlines and Delta Airlines with our partners the Bradenton Area CVB and the Sarasota Bradenton International Airport. Thanks to Commissioner Ron Cutsinger for helping out at both events and bringing his winning streak to both the Braves and the Orioles!  
Here are the June 2023 numbers compared to June 2022:  
Visitors 134,580, an increase of 5.7%  
Visitor direct expenditures were \$149,947,500, an increase of 16.1%  
Lodging occupancy was 69.7% a drop of -5.8%  
Lodging average daily rate was \$253.47 an increase of 12.9%  
Room nights sold were 282,400 an increase of 1.8%  
Virginia J. Haley  
President  
Visit Sarasota County

St. Regis’ New Proposal

To: Longboat Key Commission  
Again thank you for your unanimous support in rejecting the St. Regis parking garage as originally proposed. I see now they are coming back for another bite of the apple. As I mentioned in my first letter to you, I used to be on your side of the Dais for a number of years in a small town outside of Chicago reviewing many of these same issues so I will try and make this short and sweet.

Facts:  
\* The whole reason for this garage issue was a mistake on St. Regis’ part in allocating 62 parking spots to the condo side of the development vs. the hotel side of the development.  
\* Nothing was done at the time to address or rectify their mistake.  
\* A solution of a lift system was proposed and supported by St. Regis and approved by Longboat Key .  
\* The proposed and supported lift system that St. Regis requested to address their mistake in the first place now comes with lost valet time because they do not want to make the investment in additional valet’s/technology to rectify the 2-3 minutes of additional valet time required to access a vehicle  
\* One of the Commissioners in the last meeting mentioned a possible compromise and putting 1 or 2 stories of the garage underground. An option that St. Regis did not look into for their original garage proposal and I am guessing will not be included in this new proposal. Their response to this possible compromise was lame at best. Citing possible sub-terranean issues and mechanical costs associated with underground garages.  
\* When asked how much St. Regis sold those 62 additional parking spots for on the condo side no figure was provided.  
\* When the landscape architects were asked how long would it take for the proposed landscape plan to cover the proposed parking garage you would have thought they were running for political office with their evasive answer.

My Two Cents:  
St. Regis’ mistake should not become our problem. There are three easy fixes to this problem. None of which St. Regis wants to embrace due to costs or aesthetic impact to their development. Instead they want the residents of Longboat Key to suffer the burden of their mistake for years to come and set a precedent for future developments. Here are the solutions for St. Regis without burdening the current and future of Longboat Key.  
1) Put as many stories as you propose you need underground  
2) Add additional valets and technology to your valet process to eliminate the 2-3 minutes of additional valet time needed for the lift system  
3) Put the parking garage on the gulf side of your development  
St. Regis can use the money they benefited from the sale of the 62 additional condo spots their mistake generated to subsidize any of the above options. I am guessing that mistake made them millions of dollars of additional parking spot revenue on the condo side.  
Thank you for taking your precious time to read my thoughts and recommendations. More importantly, thank you for your service that goes so often without any gratitude or acknowledgement.  
Tom Simonian  
Longboat Key

St. Regis’ New Proposal

To: Longboat Key Commission  
I wanted to respond to Mr. Simonian’s timely email, and further inquire regarding the St. Regis parking issue:  
As I stated in my presentation at the recent Town Hall meeting, I do not believe it was a “mistake” for St. Regis to reallocate the 62 parking spaces to the condos. I’m sure they wanted all along for each condo unit to have 3 (rather than 2) parking spaces each, and they unilaterally reallocated and SOLD these spaces to the buyers. Of course a condo unit with three spaces is more valuable than one with only 2, and this was certainly reflected in the price they charged the buyers. as Mr. Simonian so eloquently stated.  
My question for the Town is: Are there no consequences for this? Such as requiring them to do whatever is necessary, structurally and otherwise, to “reallocate” these spaces back to their originally authorized use (and likely compensating the condo buyers)? And if not, why not? It seems to me there may be a cause of action here, as they violated the original site plan, if nothing else than to reclaim the profits they made at the expense of the Town and its taxpayers (No I’m not a lawyer. But I am a taxpayer!).

See Letters, page 11

Growing in Jesus’ Name



**CHRIST CHURCH**  
OF LONGBOAT KEY  
PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)

**Worship With Us at Our Church**  
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NewsWorthy, from page 1

played in the City Hall lobby through June 2024, the release points out. “The inaugural exhibit unveiled in November 2022 focused on Sarasota’s circus heritage and the Sarasota Colony Artists,” the release notes. Those pieces have been relocated throughout City Hall and the SRQ Media Studio and are still available for public viewing, the release says.

At 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 31, the public is invited to an open house featuring a lecture program on the new exhibit. The session will be held in the Commission Chambers. Among the speakers, the release adds, will be Joshua Goodman, manager of the Sarasota County Division of Historical Resources, Architecture Sarasota President Morris Hylton III, and Sarasota County Libraries and Historical Resources Director Renee Di Pilato.

Sarasota County Libraries and Historical Resources “curates and preserves the County’s large collection of archival records, historical newspapers, fossils, artifacts, and other items that tell the story of the county’s past,” the release explains.

Architecture Sarasota is the steward of the legacy of the Sarasota School of Architecture, the release adds.

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Tartness, from page 1

Lazy Lobster, or Harry’s Continental Kitchen, they all have great Key Lime Pie. Each a little different, but all are delicious in their own way. I highly recommend doing a taste test. When I spent a week driving through Southern Ireland, I ate a bowl of Irish Stew in every city and town I stopped. I wanted to see which place had the best Irish Stew. I know this is a very subjective test and outcome. However, my tastebuds told me that I thought the small dark basement pub in Limerick Ireland had the best Irish Stew. I suggest you conduct your own taste test right here on Longboat Key. I would be interested in your test results.

I felt ambitious one day and thought I would make my own Key Lime Pie. I went to the grocery store, but could not find any Key Lime Pie filling. Unfortunately, I did not feel ambitious enough to make it from scratch. That got me to wondering just how a Key Lime Pie is made. I assumed it was just made from regular ole limes. But I was not sure where the word “Key” came from in the name. I started to wonder why Key Lime Pie is so popular in this area of the world. Then one day I heard someone talking about key limes. I thought to myself, is a key lime different than a regular lime? Have I gone my whole life not knowing about this fruit? Am I the only person in the world that does not know what a key lime is? That is when I started my investigation.

According to allrecipes.com, “A key lime, also known as a Mexican lime or West Indies lime, is a type of hybrid citrus fruit commonly grown in the Florida Keys.” They also grow in other parts of Southern Florida and California. How did they end up in Florida you ask? Once again according to allreciepes.com, “The citrus fruit is actually native to Southeast Asia. From here it traveled through the Middle East to North Africa and eventually made its way to Europe, where Spanish explorers brought it with them to Florida.” They are still green when they are picked, but then turn a yellowish color after they ripen more. They are a small fruit measuring around one or two inches in diameter, much smaller than regular limes which are also referred to a Tahitian or Persian limes. They are tarter that regular limes because of their higher acidity level. Unlike regular limes which can be found in your store year-round, key limes generally have a peak season is June through September. Because they are so tart, they blend well with sweeter ingredients.

When eating a piece of Key Lime Pie, you may notice that some have more tartness than others. That is because when making a Key Lime Pie you can substitute regular limes for key limes. This is often done because regular limes are a lot of times more available, especially when it is not key lime season. The regular lime is a sweeter fruit and therefor makes the pie less tart. If you are lucky enough to get key limes for your pie, use them quickly. Similar to bananas, they have a short shelf life. Also, like bananas, do not put them in the refrigerator because the cold will speed up their aging process. Keep them at a nice cooler room temperature.

Bon Appetit!

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# KeyRealEstate

## Bird Key, Lido Key, Longboat Key latest sales

Address	Sq. Ft.	List Price	Bed/Bath/Half Bath			Days On Market	Sale Price
469 E ROYAL FLAMINGO DR	3,279	\$3,595,000	4	3	0	35	\$3,300,000
761 JOHN RINGLING BLVD Unit#7A	816	\$499,000	2	1	0	155	\$480,000
435 L AMBIANCE DR Unit#J603		\$3,950,000	2	3	1	15	\$3,850,000
690 OLD COMPASS RD		\$1,995,000	4	3	0	177	\$1,750,000
3235 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#A402		\$1,250,000	2	2	0	0	\$1,250,000
3235 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#A304		\$1,195,000	2	2	0	14	\$1,150,000
1095 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#504		\$995,000	2	2	0	225	\$977,500
4900 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#203B		\$849,900	2	2	0	133	\$815,000
6800 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#183		\$799,995	2	2	0	141	\$732,000
5260 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#404		\$719,000	3	3	0	50	\$690,000
2045 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#M1-502		\$549,000	2	1	0	9	\$530,000
2800 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#D-13		\$405,000				63	\$375,000



435 L AMBIANCE DR Unit J603



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



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



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



BIRD KEY  
449 E ROYAL FLAMINGO DRIVE  
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Send us your reaction: [letters@lbknews.com](mailto:letters@lbknews.com)



# OnPatrol

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

## July 27 Suspicious person

8:44 p.m.  
Officer Montfort responded to Bay Isles Road and made contact with a man who said, “I knew you were going to come and talk to me. Here is my ID.” The man noted that he is homeless and just traversing the area. The man further said that he had stopped for a short period to watch a movie and eat some food. The man plans on traveling north to Bradenton Beach. The man was sent on his way without incident. Case clear.

## Citizen assist

12:34 p.m.  
Officer Butler responded to Harbor Sound Drive in reference to a citizen assist. The caller wishes for police to pick up ammunition from his residence. The officer contacted the caller and said that Longboat Key Police policy is not to take possession of ammunition not used in a crime. He was advised to take the ammunition to a gun store. Case clear.

## July 28 Fire assist

10:35 a.m.  
Officer Martinson responded to the 3000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on a call of an elevator rescue. Upon arrival, the Longboat Key Fire Department was already on scene and the people were out of the elevator. Case clear.

## July 29 Agency assistance

8:22 p.m.  
Officer Nazareno responded to the 6300 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for an agency assist for Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission regarding a vehicle driving on the beach. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno made contact with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Officer who advised that he was flagged down by a citizen who advised that a black pickup truck backed into the beach area to load up jet skis. The Florida Wildlife Officer further advised that the vehicle was no longer in the area when he arrived at the beach access. Officer Nazareno observed the tire track marks and the turtle nests were undisturbed. Case clear.

## July 30 Dog on the beach

11:12 a.m.  
Officer Miklos responded to the beach access at 5600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a dog on the beach by a caller who did not wish to meet with police. The caller advised that the dog was running off leash near a turtle nest and owner had entered via a private beach access. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos came into contact with the owner who said he was unaware that dogs were not allowed on the beach. Additionally, the owner was told that all dogs need to be on a leash. The owner said he was a guest at the condominium and had accidentally used the wrong beach access. The owner and the dog left the beach without incident. Case clear.

## Found property

3:00 p.m.  
Officer Miklos was in the 6100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive when a man on a blue motorcycle advised he had placed a blue wallet on the ledge of the third door at the Longboat Key Police Department. The complainant advised he had found the wallet in the road on St. Armands and could not find the owner. The complainant advised he did not know what to do with the wallet and placed it on the door at Longboat Key Police. Upon arrival at the police



department, Officer Miklos discovered a light blue wallet on the ledge of the third door. The wallet contained 9 miscellaneous credit cards, \$19, three Columbia IDs and one U.S. Military ID. Sgt. Puccio and Officer Miklos verified the amount of currency and sealed it into a currency bag. The bag was filled out and placed into a temporary locker with the wallet for safekeeping. Officer Miklos contacted Sarasota Sheriff’s Officer Dispatch and asked if there was a lost or stolen wallet, with negative results. Sgt. Puccio and Officer Miklos were unable to find anything with a phone number to contact the owner of the wallet. Case clear.

## Suspicious incident

9:19 p.m.  
Officer Nazareno responded to the 2500 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a suspicious incident call regarding flashing lights on the 7th, 8th, and 9th floors of the building. Upon arrival, there were no fire alarms activated and no flashing lights were observed on those floors. The caller did not wish to be seen or contacted. Case clear.

## July 31 Suspicious person

4:05 p.m.  
Officer Connors responded to the 2600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of a suspicious person. Upon arrival, Officer Connors spoke with the complainant who is an employee of the resort. She advised that throughout the day she noticed a man wearing a construction type fluorescent vest/shirt walking around the parking lot and beach area of the property and eventually walking towards the neighboring properties. She advised that the man had drank from the hose by the pool area and when confronted, stated that he was waiting for friends who were staying in the area. She advised that the man left the area found the incident suspicious and wanted it documented. Case clear.

## Suspicious person

11:25 p.m.  
Officer Montfort while on patrol in the 100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive observed white lights in the area of Quick Point Park. Officer Montfort proceeded out to the area and located a woman in the park after hours. She said she was crabbing and thought the park closed at midnight. The woman was given a warning and sent on her way. Case clear.

## Aug. 1 Suspicious person

9:15 p.m.  
Officer Montfort while on patrol observed a man on the golf course in the area of the 300 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Montfort made contact with the man who works at the resort and just assumed he could fish the golf course. The man had been previously been warned about trespassing on the golf course on April 15. The man was sent on his way without incident. Case clear.

## Aug. 2 Suspicious person

3:09 a.m.  
Officer Ferrigine observed a man walking on the sidewalk swinging a white bag and his arms around and appeared to be lost. Officer Ferrigine made contact with the person who appeared to be a transient and could only speak French and could not speak much English. The man kept pointing to the City of Sarasota and was offered a courtesy ride off the island to St. Armands Circle. Case clear.

## Noise

7:29 a.m.  
Officer Miklos responded to Jackson Way in reference to construction noise prior to 8 a.m. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos observed a concrete truck and masonry workers with pneumatic tools working on the construction site. Officer Miklose came into contact with the supervisor and advised him of the construction hours on Longboat Key. The man was issued a written warning for violation of sound regulations. The warning was issued to the company. The construction crew stopped working and waited until 8 a.m. to resume work. While completing his report, Officer Miklos met with the contractor and the officer advised him that there was no construction before 8 a.m. He was issued a citation and the contractor advised he would make sure all his subcontractors knew the hours of work. Case clear.

## Aug. 3 Citizen assist

5:45 p.m.  
Officer Miklos responded to Sands Point Road in reference to a woman who was asked to leave and was causing a disturbance. Upon arrival, Sgt. Puccio and Officer Miklos were advised by the resort staff that the woman was asked to leave and they were trying to find her another hotel to stay at. The staff advised they did not wish to issue a trespass warning against the woman or have officers get involved. The staff advised the woman’s family arrived at the hotel room and were assisting the woman pack up her belongings. The staff advised they had made reservations for the woman at a Sarasota hotel and no longer needed police. Case clear.

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# Editor Letters



**Letters, from page 7**

P.S. Just parenthetically, it does not seem feasible to me to dig a level underground; water table is too high and it would probably be prohibited in a V flood zone.  
Jim Whitman  
Longboat Key

**St. Regis’ New Proposal**

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier  
I must say that I am surprised by the lack of response to my previous email as copied below. I believe it is an issue which is important and also timely, due to the fact that the Town now has leverage which will essentially disappear when St. Regis’ current issues are considered and resolved early this Fall.  
Do I need to submit this correspondence to our Town attorney?  
I have noted that our Town has in the past tended to ignore or minimize various quasi-legal issues, presumably in an effort to avoid unnecessary entanglements. I do not believe that would be advisable in this case.  
It is very likely that whatever the cause, St. Regis failed to live up to their obligations regarding the distribution of parking spaces, as detailed previously.  
And should the Town fail to take the opportunity to pursue appropriate recourse, there might well be consequences for that as well.  
In my opinion, St. Regis owes the Town compensation, either financial or in action, for their behavior, which appears to me to be wrongful and injurious to the Town and its taxpayers.  
I request that you please respond to these serious concerns, either directly or by making appropriate referrals.  
James R. Whitman  
Longboat Key

St. Regis’ New Proposal  
**To: Jim Whitman**

Jim: While I confess to having seen Mr. Simonian’s letter, I did not see your original, which arrived while I was away.  
As I am sure you understand, there is little we can say about the St. Regis matter while it remains a quasi-judicial matter before the Commission (hearings scheduled for September 12 and October 2). I have forwarded your correspondence to our Town Attorney for her thoughts, but as an attorney myself, I’m not sure what cause of action would lie against the St. Regis for having requested an amendment to their PUD and Site Plan. They had a right to request it, we had a right to deny it and they have the right to propose another solution to satisfy the Town’s parking requirement. Should a new proposal fail to be adopted, the 2021 approvals will remain in effect.

Ken Schneier  
Mayor  
Longboat Key

**St. Regis’ New Proposal**

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier  
Sorry I wasn’t clear, though I thought I had been. I wasn’t referring to the current ongoing amendment process. I was referring to the process in which they ripped us off for 79 parking spaces and sold them to their unit owners. That’s what they owe us for, which they claim was a “mistake” (it doesn’t matter if it was). And which was/is part of their rationale for now asking us for more public parking space to compensate for their “error.”  
A “cause of action”? I certainly believe it is. In whose world is that not a breach of the original agreement?  
Hope this clarifies things.  
Jim Whitman  
Longboat Key

**St. Regis’ New Proposal**

To: Jim Whitman  
1. We are dealing with zoning permissions here, not contracts. If a developer cannot or does not comply with the terms of permissions, they can be revoked. There exists no ability of a municipality to require construction of a project or to claim damages for non-construction. 2. In any event, in this case, the first permission expressly siting parking spaces was issued in 2021 and contemplated lifts in the podium, not fewer spaces in the condominiums. The proposed amendment of that approval is all that is before us.  
I hope this is helpful in clearing up any confusion about this process and why we are on the path we are on. Any further discussion will need to take place at public hearing. Thanks.  
Ken Schneier  
Mayor  
Longboat Key

**Longboat Key Chamber of Commerce President retires**

To: Longboat Key Chamber Members  
Many of you know that in January I had back surgery and was out for 3 months. Now I am at home recovering from knee replacement surgery. Just decided to get both surgeries over in the same year. Yes, I probably am a glutton for punishment. When I recovered from back  
**See Letters, page 12**



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# Editor Letters



**Letters, from page 11**

surgery, I informed the Board of Directors that I had decided to retire.

After dedicating 25 years of service to the Longboat Key Chamber, yes, retirement has finally arrived, marking the end of a remarkable chapter. Throughout my tenure, I have witnessed the growth and development of our vibrant community, fostering connections and supporting local businesses. From creating and organizing countless events and networking opportunities to providing valuable resources for entrepreneurs, it has been an honor to contribute to the Chamber’s mission. I am so proud of what we have accomplished together. The memories forged and the relationships built over the years will forever hold a special place in my heart. As I step into retirement, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to serve and be a part of this incredible organization.

Retirement is a bittersweet milestone, signaling both the end of an era and the beginning of a new adventure. While leaving the Longboat Key Chamber brings a sense of nostalgia and farewells to colleagues and friends, it also opens doors to explore personal passions and enjoy a well-deserved break. Reflecting on the past 25 years, I am proud of the accomplishments achieved, the partnerships formed, and the positive impact made within the community. All the while overcoming, Red Tides, hurricanes and Covid-19. As I embark on this next phase of life, I am excited to embrace new opportunities, pursue lifelong dreams, and cherish the memories and lessons learned throughout my time at the Longboat Key Chamber. Retirement marks a significant transition, and I am ready to embrace the future with a grateful heart and a spirit of adventure. I hope to have the opportunity to thank all of you who are a significant part of making the chamber and our events so successful.

When I was first hired, the chamber had only one program. That was Business After Hours. Now we have many events to connect our members, provide educational opportunities and have created, developed and organized community events such as the Freedom Fest, Savor the Sounds concerts and the 9-11 flags that stretch down Longboat Key.

I hope to be back in the office as soon as I get the okay from my surgeon and permission to drive. I have told the Board I will be here through the hiring and training process.

With my respect and gratitude to all who have believed in my ideas and made those ideas come true. You are my heroes!

Gail Loefgren  
President/CEO  
Longboat Key Chamber of Commerce

Economic Development Council  
**To: EDC Council members**

I hope my email finds you having a nice Summer! We have quite a few upcoming events that I wanted to share with you:

- August 15, 6pm – Board of Directors Social at Michael’s On East Wine Cellar; a calendar invite has been sent by Anna Eger, if you need assistance her email is aeger@edcsarasotacounty.com
- August 22, 4pm – EDC/Visit Sarasota County/Arts & Cultural Alliance “Get to Know Your New Leaders” event at CinéBistro Siesta Key register here
- August 31, 5pm – “Transforming the Community for Tomorrow” at Nathan Benderson Park; an invite-only, exclusive event for our partners and investors register here
- September 14, 11:30am – EDC Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon at Michael’s on East, tickets will sell out, register here

Lastly, a reminder that the Governance Committee has developed a short survey. If you have not already, please share your preference for the Board meeting schedule moving forward: <https://form.jotform.com/231695746370060>

Thank you and see you soon,  
Erin Silk  
President & CEO  
Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County

**Quay 1 & 9 One Park’s Amendment to Development Agreement**

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown

I have left a couple messages this week for Marlon to discuss this procedural matter. I do appreciate Pat’s call-back earlier today. As we have repeatedly discussed with you and others at the City, One Park’s Amendment to Development Agreement application has suffered unnecessary and inordinate delays because of the City’s refusal to schedule hearings and allow the application to otherwise proceed in the normal course of business. We have been unable to find anything in the City’s Charter, Code of Ordinances, Zoning Code or procedures that permits such delays or allows the City to refuse to process the application in the ordinary course of business. We request that you schedule this application to be heard by the Planning Board on its October 11, 2023, regularly scheduled meeting, or such other special meeting date in early October. Please promptly confirm with me the October date for the Planning Board to hear this application. Thank you.

William W. Merrill  
Sarasota

**Quay 1 & 9 One Park’s Amendment to Development Agreement**

To: Bill Merrill

Thanks for sharing your request. I will consult with the appropriate internal staff but as it stands right now, I am not willing to schedule any meetings related to the above subject matter until I hear from the appropriate law enforcement agency conducting the investigation or if I am legally obligated/compelled to schedule such a hearing given there is an on-going investigation related to the subject matter. I will be in touch once I am advised. Thanks again.

Marlon Brown  
City Manager  
City of Sarasota

**Kudos to your Staff**

To: Sarasota City Building Official Larry Murphy

I would like to take a minute to congratulate you on your incredible staff.

My first contact this morning was with Joshua. He was incredibly pleasant and helpful. Joshua answered my questions as best he could within his job limitations and then provided me with Tom Lifsey’s contact information.

Tom, as well, called me back quickly and was more than helpful, going above and beyond the call of duty to assist me.

As we all know, everything starts at the top and works down. Your staff are a huge indication as to the superior management skills in your department.

As we all know, if pats on the back were food, we would all starve to death. I would encourage you to give a pat on the back to Joshua and Tom, and maybe even a raise, a bonus and promotions.

I would also like to thank you for your very efficient phone menu. The options were minimal and I received assistance quickly from a “live person”, that being Joshua. Thanks again and have a good day.

Sheryn L. Deis  
Sarasota

**Kudos to your Staff**

To: Sarasota City Building Official Larry Murphy

Thank you for sharing, Larry. Great job Tom and Josh. Thank you for always striving to provide exceptional service to our customers. I am extremely grateful and thankful to work with such an amazing team.


Lucia Panica  
Development Services Director  
City of Sarasota

See Letters, page 14

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# WineTimes

## Beach Wines from Long Island to Longboat Key

*There’s something liberating about being at the beach. Calls, e-mails, or text messages? Either you’ve don’t have your cell phone with you or your cell and internet connections don’t work at the beach.*

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

At the beach! This time of year one day or more at the beach prepares us for the cooler weather ahead. After enduring the record heat of the Summer of 2023, a bright sun and ocean or gulf breezes give us a break from work, school, chores around the house, shopping, and the daily grind. There’s something liberating about being at the beach. Calls, e-mails, or text messages? Either you’ve don’t have your cell phone with you or your cell and internet connections don’t work at the beach. Waves rolling in reset your biorhythms, young beauties have a lot of skin on display, and the dancing feet of that little sandpiper working furiously at the edge of the surf rivals a ballerina at the Met.



What wine to pair with the beach?  
The best-selling Barefoot wines invoke images of bare feet on beaches. Some of the varietals (Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay) have high ratings in mass market categories but seem too heavy for beach wines. Chardonnay from Burgundy has a light and crisp taste that would pair well with a beach, but the Barefoot Chardonnay has a heavier butter and oak taste in the style of California Chardonnay. In the low-priced categories, the Moscato, Reisling, and Sauvignon Blanc varietals will work well as wines to sip on the beach.

At prices of \$10 or more, one can find wines specifically targeting beach goers. The Wölffer Estate Vineyard in the Long Island New York beach village of Sagaponack offers the 2022 Summer in a Bottle White (\$37) in its popular tasting room. It has a blend of 27% Chardonnay, 21% Pinot Blanc, 20% Riesling, 19% Gewürztraminer and 13% Sauvignon Blanc.

Wölffer Estate also sources grapes from the Provence region of France to make the 2021 Summer In A Bottle Côtes de Provence Rosé blend of Shiraz/Syrah, Grenache, Cinsault, and Vermentino (\$27). These wines have fresh berry, rose, and citrus tastes, plus an edgy acidity that brings out the flavors of fresh lobster, crabmeat, scallops, and lightly grilled fish. Or take a chilled bottle to the beach to toast the end of a summer day.

Less costly alternatives have much the same qualities. The popular 2020 Château d’Esclans The Beach Rosé by Whispering Angel (\$16), a blend of Grenache, Rolle, Cinsault, Syrah, and Tibouren, has the fresh berry and citrus acidity that appeals to beachgoers across the globe.

The Beach Juice Rosé With Bubbles comes in a 375ml can (\$7)., ideal for transport to the beach in a cooler. Its colorful can looks like a soft drink. Certainly a good substitute for light beer, but with close to three times the alcohol by volume. The Coppolo Vineyards Sofia Sparkling Blanc de Blanc wine in a 1.87ml can (\$16 4-Pack) has a better rating overall than the Beach Juice. The Sofia Sparkling brand also offers a popular sparkling Rosé in a 1.87ml can.

If you drink only red wines or plan to serve wines to someone else who only drinks red wines, we immediately think of a Nouveau Beaujolais from France. In prime beach time, wine shops tend to have very limited supplies of Beaujolais. A California wine, once mistaken for a Gamay Beaujolais, serves as a good substitute. The 2021 J Lohr Wildflower Valdiguié (\$11) has a dark fruit and acid structure that will please “red wine only” people.

None other than the British wine expert and author, Jancis Robinson writes “... the numerous wine writers and wine professionals I have introduced to J Lohr Valdiguié have consistently wanted more, and fallen in love with the wine, while also expressing shock at the price.”

Enjoy the beach! Please remember to protect beachgoers from the sun, and to take along a trash bag that you can use to carry empty bottles and cans with you when you leave the beach.

The Wine Times column last week (August 1, 2023) featured the Mediterranean Diet. The food section of the New York Times has published a comprehensive article on Mediterranean Diet recipes: <https://cooking.nytimes.com/68861692-nyt-cooking/43176323-mediterranean-diet-recipes>

Well worth reading ....  
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 has 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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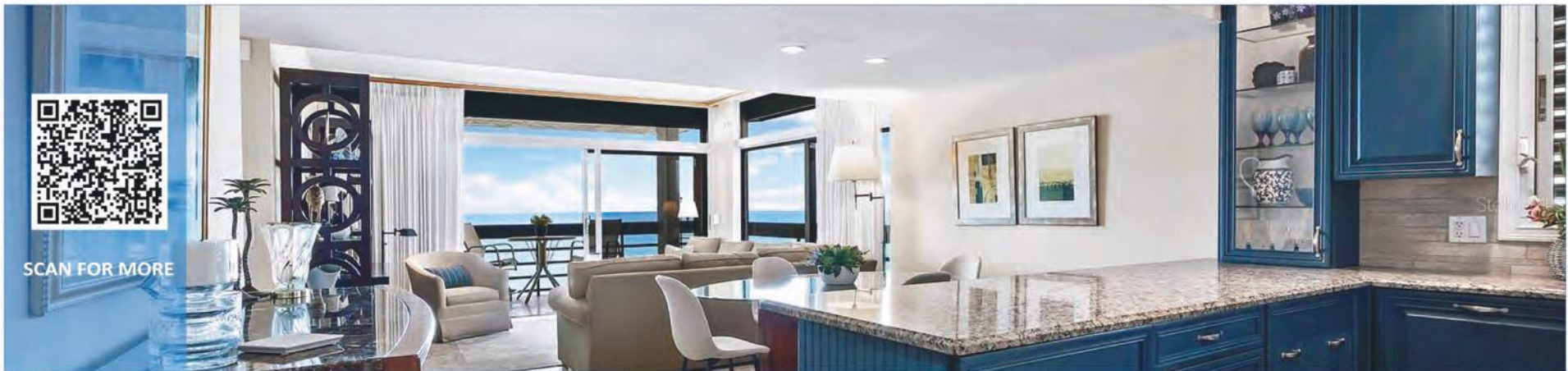
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