



# Longboat Key News

April 14, 2023

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FREE

## InsideLook



Health through  
imperfection  
...page 13



Be careful what  
you wish for  
...page 7



Who really owns  
LBK's beach?  
...page 15



He really does  
not live here  
...page 10

## Trio barely survive capsizing off LBK

*Reportedly “distressed mariners” were found grasping the hull of a boat that capsized Friday in the Gulf of Mexico. They were rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard Station members out of Cortez. Their vessel overturned 25 miles west of Longboat Key. All passengers were rescued without injury, the Coast Guard said.*



## More than 1,000 run for turtles



*The 37th Annual Run for the Turtles was one of the most successful in the history of the event. While the final amount is still being tallied, over \$55,000 was raised.*

Mote Marine Laboratory’s 37th Annual Run for the Turtles hosted 1,000 runners, both on Siesta Key Beach for the 1-mile fun run and Manasota Track Club-sanctioned 5k, and across the globe with the virtual run. All three run types brought a variety of participants. Ages ranged from one to 92 years old. Participants spanned the globe from 27 states plus Canada. The 37th Annual Run for the Turtles was one of the most successful in the history of the event. While the final amount is still being tallied, over \$55,000 was raised for Mote’s Sea Turtle Conservation & Research Program (STCRP). This annual event provides major support for STCRP, which conducts daily surveys of 35-mile of beach during turtle nesting season, as well as tags and satellite-tracks turtles.

See Run, page 2

## Stranded female dolphin finds new home

The Clearwater Marine Aquarium said it is creating a permanent home for the young rough-toothed dolphin rescued off Longboat Key earlier this year. The female dolphin, which is about 6.5 feet long and 154 pounds, was found stranded in February and brought to the aquarium’s rehab facility at Fred Howard Park in Tarpon Springs. There were reports of beachgoers attempting to push the dolphin back to the water before trained professionals arrived on the scene. When the dolphin arrived at Clearwater Marine Aquarium’s Fred Howard Park facility, she had



See Dolphin, page 2

## St. Armands future look: Spruce it up or shelve the plan?

On Tuesday, April 18, the City of Sarasota will host a public meeting to share information and gather public comments about a proposed St. Armands Key Complete Streets improvement project, the city has announced. “We’re seeking input with the decision-making process,” said Chief Transportation Planner Alvimarie Corales in a news release. “We’ll explain the history of the proposed complete streets project and share different project options,” Corales continued in the release. “We’d like citizens’ feedback to inform our decisions and next steps.” The meeting will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the SRQ Media Studio, which is located in the City Hall Annex standing at 1565 First St. in downtown Sarasota, the release adds. “A complete street is an age-friendly design that promotes safe travel to and from a destination, whether walking, biking, riding the bus or driving a vehicle,” the release explains. Among the features may be enhanced sidewalks, street lighting, benches, street trees and landscaping, and public art, the release said. “The City of Sarasota selected a consultant in December 2022 to study and design a complete streets improvement project on St. Armands Key,” the release adds. Because of climbing design and construction costs and insufficient available funding, “the project has been paused,” the release continues. Members of the public are being asked at this time about the level of improvements they desire on St. Armands Key, the release says. Three options will be presented: • Wait for additional funding

See Circle, page 2



# NewsWorthy

## Town Hall Art Exhibit - 7th Annual Artists' Reception

The Town of Longboat Key is hosting a reception recognizing over 20 years of local artists' participation in Town Hall Art Exhibits installed in the Town Hall, Commission Chambers. This exhibit is the 75th since inception. Over the past 20+ years, the Town Hall Art Exhibits have featured the works of 112 local artists and 1559 pieces of artwork. Thirteen local artists are participating in the current Town Hall Art Exhibit and each will attend the reception, showing additional work in the Commission Chamber and common areas of Town Hall. The April 18, 2023 The event will begin at 5:30 PM with wine, beer, and appetizers, provided by local sponsors. Call Town Hall at 941-316-1999 to register, or RSVP to sphillips@longboatkey.org. There is no charge. Town Hall is at 501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, FL 34228

## Circle, from page 1

from the State of Florida for a comprehensive complete streets project

- Move forward with a limited streetscape beautification project.
- Shelve the project/take no action.

The meeting will include a presentation by city staff regarding the options, timelines and proposed costs; a question-and-answer session; and the opportunity for community comments.

## Dolphin, from page 1

a mild infection that was treated by CMA veterinarians.

Typically the staff will try to heal the animal enough to be released back out into the wild, and this dolphin made good progress.

But then came a hearing check that ends her chances for release.

The rough-toothed dolphin underwent a hearing test March 9. Experts from the National Marine Mammal Foundation and the National Marine Fisheries Service found that the dolphin has severe hearing loss, meaning that she cannot echolocate. Echolocation is essential for finding food and avoiding predators.

## Run, from page 1

"Run for the Turtles is the longest-standing fundraiser for Mote; we have been monitoring and protecting endangered sea turtles along local beaches for 41 years, and the Run raises thousands of dollars each year for this important service," said Dr. Jake Lasala, Mote's Sea Turtle Conservation and Research Program Manager.

In 2022, STCRP had their fourth best nesting year in the history of the program, with 4,483 nests in the 35-mile stretch of beach that the program monitors. In the past 41 years of the program's history, STCRP has monitored over 136,784 turtle crawls, tagged over 10,000 sea turtles and protected more than 3.5 million sea turtle hatchlings.

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MOVE IN FALL 2023

**LIDO SHORES • 1212 CENTER PLACE** **\$5,699,000**  
Currently under construction. Spectacular location, steps to private beach and St. Armands Circle. This desirable, custom residence offers an open, bright, and airy floor plan with 5BR/5BA. Impressive 23-ft. ceiling in great room. Fantastic outdoor area w/custom pool, spa, kitchen and lanai.



GULF FRONT NEW CONSTRUCTION

SEAWARD HOMES

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



PENDING SALE

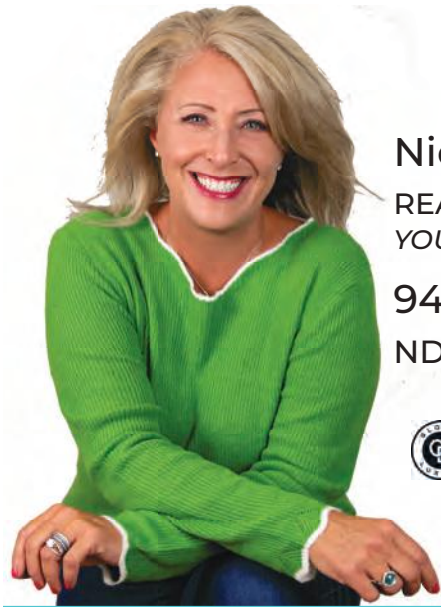
**LIDO KEY • 129 TAFT DR., #201** **\$2,799,000**  
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NOW PENDING SALE

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



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# EditorLetters



*Longboat Key News and Sarasota City News encourages Letters to the Editor on timely issues. Please email to: [letters@lbknews.com](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.*

## Correction

The letter printed in the April 7 edition — “Please vote no on PCB-RRS 23-02 - A blow to Florida Tourism” — should have named Florida State Rep. James Buchanan as the recipient.

## Questions on new Town Sign

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
Tried to connect with you over the past two weeks (know you are busy). So let me try email.  
Here is the background and a few questions that have come up from the LBK North group regarding the new Town sign north of Gulfside road that states "Areas landward of rocks and seawalls are private property and subject to trespassing enforcement."

First a bit of background: Historically the north end is very much a beach community. Some sections of beach erode faster than others. This often results, in any given year, in neighbors having to respectfully walk on the edge of another neighbors property to get from one section of the beach to another. For 40+ years this tradition of fully sharing the beach and allowing access for walking (and relatedly, fully supporting taxes for re-nourishment) continued without complication, difficulty or objection - until last year - when the new Ohana owners erected signs "no trespassing, bad dog guarding - bites" (along with alarms and beach cameras).

So when the Town decided to put up this new sign - it raised several questions and concerns: Some concerns/questions were about the Town's decision vs resident's decision to put up the sign and the Town's choice of wording:

1. The Town sign reflects a strongly worded position that does NOT reflect how many beach front owners there feel. Where the Town sign was placed is the primary beach area for Sleepy Lagoon and many Gulfside Dr residents are members of the Sleepy Lagoon HOA. If this is an issue with one neighbor complaining about someone walking on the edge of their property (and it appears to be) - why put up a large Town sign? Just let the neighbor put up a "no trespassing" sign on their property if this is an issue for them. People walk children and dogs on the edge of my property to get off the street when cars are coming by. If I don't want them to do that, I should put a sign up (not the Town) and I should call the police if this is an issue for me that I want enforced. This is exactly what Ohana did. The Town thankfully did not put up the signs there.
2. Is this the best tone for Town signage? "seawalls and rocks are private property and subject to trespassing enforcement" - why not just end at "seawalls and rocks are private property" or add "so please be respectful".
3. Can the sign be taken down or reworded?
4. Why was no one in the Community (LBK North, Beach Volunteers, Turtle Watch, Sleepy Lagoon) notified proactively that this sign was being put up by the Town - especially when beach access has been such a hot issue over the past two years- and the subject of many

neighborhood & resident letters and comments to Commissioners? Proactive communication allows time to explain rationale, provide input and work together. Sometimes the best approach is neighbors talking to neighbors first. How can we ensure better, proactive communication on topics of high interest to neighborhood and volunteer groups.

There were also a few questions that are probably more legal in nature versus public relations:

1. When the Town re-nourishes the beaches - and specifically in this area along Gulfside, the taxpayers pay for sand that more often than not goes over the old seawalls and behind the rocks there. No one has complained about this in the past, but since the sign, the question is - why do we pay for sand if the owner does not allow the public to walk on the edge of their property (on that sand) - especially when there is erosion?
2. If the water line goes over the rocks and old seawalls on the beach - is the area of sand with water considered an area that is public beach (vs private property).

There is an LBK North Meeting this Monday (25 Reps representing the various HOA and Condo Associations in District 4&5) - let me know if you have any info that I can relay - call if easier to discuss. Thanks and best wishes on a good strategy session this week.

Maureen Merrigan  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

## A couple of questions

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Great weather this season although the red tide put a crimp in my traditional beach walks. How are you? Have you had a successful legislative session to date? Do you live in a condo on LBK? If so, are you on the Board? Secondly, I suspect that you are well aware of the insurance crises all of the associations along the coast are experiencing.

The chair of insurance committee of Bayport informed us that he expects our rates for wind insurance alone will increase a minimum of 100 percent leaving our association with a significant shortfall.

It seems to me that the Governor of Florida should be focusing on this crises which undoubtedly is or will affect all coastal associations.

Can LBK as a representative coastal community call on the Governor to address this crises immediately? Thanks for continued consideration.

Marc Pachtman  
Longboat Key

## A couple of questions

To: Marc Pachtman

My wife Cynthia and I live in a single family home in Sabal Cove, one of the subdivisions in Bay Isles behind Publix. She is the President of the Sabal Cove Homeowner Association and I try not to interfere.

If you are referring to the Florida State legislative session, we have been much more active than usual, as many bills have been introduced that could impact LBK negatively by, for instance, decreasing our sovereign immunity protection from lawsuits, eliminating our ability to contract with one solid waste carrier for the island, and decreasing the fees we can charge for building permits and the time we have to approve plans. There are many others. Some are stalled, while some are moving forward.

As for property insurance, we are well aware of the issues, both personally and town-wide. Many condos have experienced premium increases of well over 100 percent, and many prop-

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# Editorial Opinion

## Be careful what you wish for in Trump saga

*Politically, both parties face significant downsides. A legally weakened Trump as the Republican nominee would solidify swing voters for the Democrats. The nightmare scenario for the Democrats is a slow, aged and confused Biden walking onto a debate stage against an alert, tenacious Ron DeSantis, Nikki Haley or Tim Scott.*

**GREGORY RUSOVICH**  
Guest Writer  
Rusovich@lbknews.com

Trump, Trump and more Trump. For the next 20 months, the Democrats and their media mouthpieces will ensure that the airwaves and public dialogue are dominated by stories about the Orange-Haired Beast and “extreme MAGA Republicans.” Trump’s allegedly paying hush money to a porn star, brushing off Justice Department requests for classified documents, calling Georgia officials to juggle 2020 election results, and provoking a post-election ruckus on the Capitol are far more convenient political issues for the Democrats than petty annoyances such as crippling inflation, a faltering economy, surging crime, open borders, a serious China-Russia threat or a woke cultural takeover.

Trump Derangement Syndrome actually has been with us since Hillary Clinton created the Russia-collusion hoax that consumed the nation for several years. Remember that sham? The Clinton campaign hired Fusion GPS to pay Christopher Steele for a phony dossier on the former president. Friends at the FBI then used this discredited document to spy on the Trump campaign. The progressive media machine swallowed the hoax hook, line and sinker and endlessly regurgitated the lie. And then there was the infamous Mueller investigation, which led to an exhaustive, nearly-two year investigation of Trump that found no criminal conduct by the former president. Enter New York County District Attorney Alvin Bragg. His basic charge? Trump paid a porn star and falsified business records to do so. Next up: a state prosecutor in Georgia is weighing whether Trump tried to overturn the 2020 election results in that state. And Biden’s Justice Department is considering Trump’s possible mishandling of classified documents, while lawsuits allege that Trump incited the January 6 mob foray into the Capitol. Other scenarios are evolving as well, but you get the point. More indictments, more Trump and more turmoil are yet to come.

At this point, we do not know whether any other potentially pending cases have merit. Each will require separate review to assess whether it is legitimate or merely political theater. We do know that the Bragg indictment is a legal overreach with political impetus. We also know that while the current political fallout has improved Trump’s standing among Republicans, it has hurt his standing with critical swing voters. On the day of Trump’s indictment, the RealClearPolitics average showed the former president leading his closest rival, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, 46% to 30% among GOP primary voters. That lead has since increased, with Trump at 52% to DeSantis’ 25%. But a new NPR-Marist poll shows only 37% of independents approve of Trump and 64% don’t want him to be president again. A recent ABC News/Ipsos poll found that 48% of Americans think Trump should suspend his presidential campaign. So, since the Bragg indictment, Trump has increased his chances of winning the Republican nomination but decreased his odds of winning the general election.

Democrats may not want to gloat quite yet. Independents also view President Biden poorly. Only 31% of independents approve of Biden’s handling of the economy. Only 27% percent



RUSOVICH



approve of his border policy. Polling also consistently reports that even Democrats do not want Biden to run again. In a recent Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, only 37% of Democrats say they want him to seek a second term.

The political dynamic can also change quickly. While Trump’s approval among Republicans has increased recently, the more serious legal cases to come ultimately could dissuade GOP voters from nominating a vulnerable Trump. And the GOP Trump bump actually could be a rally against Bragg rather than one for Trump. As Judson Berger noted in National Review, “Even if every point Trump gains reflects genuine backing, there’s no guarantee he can hold together the sympathy coalition once his legal woes deepen.”

Both Trump and the progressive Democrat machine share culpability for this mess. Much of it is Trump’s own doing, but opponents have frequently weaponized the legal and judicial system in order to destroy him — no matter the damage to the country or to the rule of law.

Politically, both parties face significant downsides. A legally weakened Trump as the Republican nominee would solidify swing voters for the Democrats. The nightmare scenario for the Democrats is a slow, aged and confused Biden walking onto a debate stage against an alert, tenacious Ron DeSantis, Nikki Haley or Tim Scott. The president is unable to hold a press conference with friends in the media. How can he debate a formidable challenger? A stay-in-the-basement strategy is bound to fail this time.



### Town of Longboat Key

## ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS

The Town of Longboat Key is accepting applications for appointment to the following board:

- Citizens Tax Oversight Committee
- Consolidated Retirement System Board of Trustees
- Planning and Zoning Board
- Zoning Board of Adjustment

All applications must be submitted to the Office of the Town Clerk by **12:00 p.m. on April 20, 2023**. All applicants must be registered voters of the Town of Longboat Key. Late applications may not be accepted. Any member who fails to attend two of three consecutive, scheduled, and called regular meetings without cause, and without prior approval of the chair, shall automatically forfeit the appointment, and the Town Commission shall promptly fill the vacancy.

All members of the Consolidated Retirement System Board of Trustees, Planning and Zoning Board, and Zoning Board of Adjustment are required to file a financial disclosure form within 30 days after appointment and annually thereafter for the duration of the appointment as required by Florida Statutes Chapter 112.

The Town Commission may schedule a Meet and Greet with applicants at a later date. Please call the Office of the Town Clerk at 941-316-1999 for an application or if you have any questions. Applications are also available online at: [www.longboatkey.org](http://www.longboatkey.org). Completed applications may be submitted to:

Town of Longboat Key – Office of the Town Clerk  
501 Bay Isles Road  
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Stephanie Janney, Administrative Assistant  
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# EditorLetters



Letters, from page 4

erty owners can't get coverage at all without performing extensive renovations, including roof replacements. We have an excellent relationship with Senator Jim Boyd from Manatee County, who has been responsible for the recent legislation designed to address the insurance crisis. It is extensive and appropriate but, unfortunately, will take time to kick in with positive effects.  
Ken Schneier  
Mayor  
Longboat Key

Beach issues

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman  
Have been in conversation with some SLHA property owners about the current beach erosion/access issues near LBK's Gulfside Road beach access point, and would like to get some more information about the town's renourishment efforts, possible proactive plans to reduce erosion and programmatic/legal positions to date.  
Any chance I can get on your calendars for a one-hour tops meeting sometime soon? I've copied Laurel as well, since I suspect she may want to sit in.  
John Connolly  
Longboat Key

Beach issues

To: John Connolly  
John, we are working with our Coastal Engineer on a potential beach nourishment, as early as some part of the next FY (after Oct 1). We are looking for sand sources and a potential to utilize Longboat Pass again. We are also looking to update the permits and biological opinions so we can conduct this work. The only way to reduce the erosion rates in the Gulfside area is with some engineered structural solutions. Attached is the Slides from the Dec. 13, 2021 commission workshop that will help explain some of the legal and engineering positions to date. We hope this finds you well.  
Charles "Charlie" Mopps  
Program Manager/Assistant Public Works Director  
Town of Longboat Key Public Works

Beach issues

To: Longboat Key Assistant Public Works Director Charlie Mopps  
Thanks. I'd still like to meet. Among other things, per a conversation w Maureen Merrigan yesterday, I'd like to understand whether any other Gulfside Road residents besides the one complainant have been actively pushing on the "no trespassing on private property above the

rocks/seawalls" thing (while most are SLHA members and I've spoken with a number of them, not all who own on the Gulf are), and implications of this issue moving forward for future abatement or renourishment projects. I'd also like to know what's involved in pushing forward design concepts/plans for structural mitigation efforts and what we might do to assist.  
It seems to me that this issue is something that can really pick up steam, especially as \$17 mil spec houses get built on Gulfside, etc., and it is very much in the town's interests given impacts on quality of life and property values for all involved to address this comparatively small area much more directly before it becomes an island-wide problem. I understand that ultimately many of these issues fall into a far wider category than PW, but would like to start w your thoughts.—John Connolly  
Longboat Key

Beach issues

To: John Connolly  
Thank you John, we can meet and discuss. Timing will be tough. These two weeks are pretty well booked. I will ask Julie to reach out to you and see what we can do.  
Isaac Brownman  
Director Public Works  
Town of Longboat Key

Tiki Bar

To: Longboat Key Commission  
We strongly object to the proposed Tiki Bar at 5620 Gulf of Mexico Drive. This is a problem waiting to happen for multiple reasons. The overserved crossing Gulf of Mexico Drive after dark for a stroll, or a tryst, on the beach creates a dangerous situation. There also is no way the noise ordinance will be obeyed. This beach across from this address is all private access that will be continually violated. This is not Bradenton Beach. This is a nice residential neighborhood and it should be kept that way. We neither need, nor want hoards of guests from the Zota and the St. Regis flooding our neighborhood with drunken vacationers. Please vote to keep Longboat Key the nice place it is.  
Peter and Betty Aden  
Longboat Key

Tangerine Bay Cub - Town Filing Fee Matter

To: Gary Coffin  
It was a pleasure to meet you today. Thanks so much for stopping by Tangerine Bay Club to introduce yourself. And, thank you for your service to our LBK Town Commission.

See Letters, page 8



JEFF RHINELANDER

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ACITVE LISTING \$515,000



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1507 BAY POINT DRIVE  
SOLD \$6,350,000



LONGBOAT KEY  
2525 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #4E  
SOLD \$1,600,000



FOX TRACE  
2547 FIREFLAG LANE  
PENDING \$520,000



BIRD KEY  
314 BIRD KEY DRIVE  
SOLD \$4,600,000



# EditorLetters



Letters, from page 7

Following is a summary of the issue we discussed. Perhaps you could inquire about how the Town came to adopt the methodology described to assess condo associations a new administrative filing fee.

Tangerine Bay Club (TBC) received the letter-invoice below from the LBK Planning, Zoning, & Building Department charging us \$500 per building as an administrative fee to file with the Town our Building Safety Act (BSA) Phase One Milestone Inspection Report.

TBC has 10 low-rise buildings with a total of 90 units. Therefore, at \$500 per building, this is a \$5,000 fee to file our BSA Milestone Inspection Reports with the Town on top of the thousands of dollars spent with a structural engineering firm to do the Milestone Inspections to comply with the BSA. The Town’s methodology is not fair. For TBC’s 90 units, this administrative filing fee is \$56/unit. Compare that to Beachplace that also has 10 buildings (\$5,000 total fee) with 336 units for a cost of \$15/unit. Or, Longboat Key Towers with 2 buildings (\$1,000 total fee) and 88 units for a cost per unit of \$11.

I wonder if the Town would be amenable to rethinking this burdensome fee structure it has levied on condo associations that are financially suffering under the weight of BSA compli-

ance costs and skyrocketing insurance premiums.  
Again, thank you for visiting TBC and for listening.  
Clare Villari  
Board President  
Tangerine Bay Club

Tangerine Bay Cub - Town Fee Matter

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
I met with Mrs. Villari today and she expressed some concerns about our formula for BSA filing fee. I asked her to send a note, which she did and advised her I would send it up the line.  
Gary Coffin  
Longboat Key

Tangerine Bay Cub - Town Fee Matter

To: Clare Villari  
The pleasure was all mine, you folks have a beautiful property I’m sure you’re all very proud of. As promised I have sent your letter up the chain to our Town Manager Howard Tipton to assign your concerns to the right place. If there is anything else the Town can do to assist you, please don’t hesitate to call.  
Gary Coffin  
Longboat Key

Tangerine Bay Cub - Town Fee Matter

To: Clare Villari  
Thank Ms. Villari for sharing this concern and Commissioner for forwarding it to me. Unfortunately, I am not familiar with how our rates were constructed but we will review and get back with you.  
Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

Florida Morning Webinar

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
Two topics during the morning webinar - both seemed more useful for staff than a Commissioner, but I will pass on the material.

The first topic was Resilient Florida - program manager, Eddy Bouza 850-245-7562. Legislation was passed in 2021 to address challenges for “at risk areas”. The program can fund planning grants and fund construction projects that address at risk areas due to flooding or sea rise. Eddy stated that this is state specific funding and if you also have Federal funds you can use that as your matching requirement. Their largest grant to date was almost \$30million for a relocation of a wastewater plant and smallest for a lift station at \$33,000. Don’t know if we have explored this as a possibility for our buried line under Sarasota Bay.

Resiliency Assessment project can be fully funded by program. Must file for funding begin July 1-September 1. Must deal with flood risk or sea level rise only. No wind issues.

The second part of the program was about the FL Benchmarking Consortium. I know the City of Port St. Lucie participates in this program so you probably know about it. I see their dues are \$3,000 annually and am not sure LBK is large enough to truly benefit from the program, though I personally would love to see comparable data for police/fire/rescue/parks as we address salaries, equipment, and programs from other cities similar to LBK.

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

Florida Morning Webinar

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
Thanks Commissioner. I’ll check with PW and Finance regarding the Resilient Florida grant program.

As to Florida Benchmarking Consortium, I am very familiar with them and we are already exploring the value of their membership for the Town. One of the things they can do is provide Lean Six Sigma training for Yellow, Green, and Black Belts. The Yellow Belt course is one whole of training and could be worthwhile for a number of our team members. From there we can determine Green Belt interest which is a much more involved training schedule/commitment. Both are great for understanding processes and systems and how to focus on those things that will move the bar to higher levels of performance.

Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

Live aboards

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier  
After talking with our Public Works team on this subject, they would suggest that we watch the readings over a period of time to see if there are any trends worth exploring. As Dave noted, there are many reasons for higher level readings and we have apparently seen it at the ramp location over time; however the vast number of the samplings come in with much lower numbers. The sea grass in that area has been high and staff concurs that it can give a false positive (so to speak). If we can watch it over time and the trends are going badly, we can then certainly work with Dave to develop a sampling strategy. They (sampling near sources) can be expensive to  
**See Letters, page 11**

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**TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC QUASI-JUDICIAL HEARINGS  
OF THE PLANNING & ZONING BOARD  
APRIL 18, 2023  
REQUEST FOR PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT/OUTLINE DEVELOPMENT PLAN AMENDMENT  
AND FINAL SITE PLAN AMENDMENT**

Please take notice that quasi-judicial public hearings of the Town of Longboat Key’s Planning & Zoning Board will be held at the request of the property owner, SR LBK II LLC, for property located at 1621 Gulf of Mexico Drive. Specifically, the applicant is requesting to amend a previously approved Planned Unit Development (PUD)/Outline Development Plan (ODP) and Final Site Plan for the St. Regis Hotel and Residences to:

**Construct a two-story parking garage where a surface parking lot was previously planned; increase lot coverage; decrease open space ratio; decrease living space ratio; increase recreation open space; increase the total number of parking spaces from 468 to 520 parking spaces; modify setbacks of the Fire Lane; remove beach shelters and tiki hut from the plan; and modify landscaping.**

The quasi-judicial public hearings before the Planning and Zoning Board on the Applicant’s Planned Unit Development/Outline Development Plan Amendment, and Final Site Plan amendment proposals will be held on **April 18, 2023, at 9:15 a.m.**, or as soon thereafter as may be heard, in the Town Commission Chambers at Town Hall, 501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, Florida. **This hearing will be held in accordance with established quasi-judicial procedures.**

All interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to the request for Planned Unit Development/Outline Development Plan Amendment, and Final Site Plan amendment proposals submitted by the Applicant. Copies of the Applicant’s proposals and related material associated with the requests may be viewed at the Planning, Zoning & Building Department, 501 Bay Isles Road, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays prior to the hearing. Questions may be directed to the Planning, Zoning & Building Department at 316-1966. The proposed amendment will affect property within the corporate boundaries of the Town of Longboat Key as shown on the map appearing at the bottom of this advertisement.

No verbatim record by a certified court reporter is made of these proceedings. Accordingly, any person who may seek to appeal any decision involving the matters noticed herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony and evidence at these proceedings upon which any appeal is to be based (see Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes). In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Town Clerk’s office at 941-316-1999 forty-eight (48) hours in advance of this proceeding. If you are hearing impaired, please call 941-316-8719.

David Green, Chair  
Planning and Zoning Board  
Published 04/14/2023





# OnPatrol

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

## April 7 Suspicious incident

12:11 a.m.  
Officer Martinson was dispatched to the 2900 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a suspicious incident. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson met with the complainant outside their driveway. He said that at approximately 8 p.m. he went out to eat with his family at a restaurant in Sarasota. He said that he arrived back home at approximately 11 p.m. and while at home his daughter's cell phone linked up with the vehicle's Bluetooth and notified her that there was an air tag on the vehicle. He said the air tag GPS showed his vehicle leave the restaurant, drove around downtown Sarasota, and then back home. He said that he and his family were fearful for their safety because they did not know who put the air tag on the vehicle and that whoever did, now knew where they lived. However, while Officer Martinson was speaking with the man, his daughter informed him that her sister had just texted her and said that her boyfriend had left one of his air tags inside the vehicle. Case clear.



## April 8 Boating

5:25 p.m.  
Officer Connors while on marine patrol in the area of Longboat Pass was flagged down by a boat driver who advised that they were having engine problems and in danger of drifting into the bridge abutment. The operator was able to throw anchor but was unsure how good it was holding. Officer Connors stood by until the boat rental company arrived on scene and towed the boat to a safe distance. Case clear.

## Property damage

8:05 p.m.  
Officer Martinson responded to the 5300 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a call of property damage. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson met with the complainant standing next to his vehicle in the parking lot. The complainant stated when he parked his vehicle the front bumper got caught on the top of the cement parking block bumper in the parking space. The complainant stated when he backed up the front bumper on the driver's side was pulled off by the parking block bumper. The complainant was able to pop the bumper back into place and it appeared that he would just have to replace some screws. The complainant stated he took pictures of the damage and wanted a police report in case he decided to make a damage claim with his insurance company. Case clear.

## April 9

Officer Ferrigine responded to the 7100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of found property of a wallet. Upon his arrival, he met with the complainant who advised he found a wallet on the sidewalk on the bridge. The items located in the wallet was one Florida Driver's license, three cards and \$6. All property was submitted into evidence. Officer Ferrigine spoke to the owner of the wallet and he advised he will be coming down to the station to pick up his property.

## April 10 Citizen assist

4:58 a.m.  
Officer Miklos was dispatched to Norton Street in reference to a broken backflow preventer. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos came into contact with the complainant who advised the homeowner was an elderly man who may not be able to open the front door due to medical issues. Officer Miklos contacted Public Works would be enroute to the location. The complainant was able to make contact with the homeowner via telephone. Officer Miklos advised him of the situation and that public works would be on their way to his residence. Case clear.

## Boating

10:22 a.m.  
Officer Montfort responded to Broadway for a report of a sinking boat. The caller advised that a sailboat was on its side and possibly taking on water. Officer Montfort notified communications that derelict vessel was in the area and proceeded to the area to confirm. Officer Montfort arrived on scene and it was confirmed that it was in fact the stamped derelict vessel. Manatee County Sheriff's Marine Patrol advised the same. Good intent call. Case clear.

## Citizen assist

10:46 a.m.  
Officer Montfort was dispatched to the 5200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of a residential burglary. While in route to the location, it was further reported that the owner's daughter-in-law is arriving this evening and someone has been staying at the residence. Officer Montfort arrived on scene and was greeted by the complainant who stated he is the caretaker for the property. The complainant then stated he went to check on the property and located clothing and food inside the apartment. The complainant contacted the owner of the property who said she was unaware someone was staying at the apartment and requested that the complainant contact law enforcement. Officer Montfort proceeded to the apartment and observed that the clothing belonged to a woman and a suitcase was in a bedroom. No one was inside the apartment. Officer Montfort then had the complainant contact the owner of the property who immediately apologized and stated that her daughter-in-law's friends had arrived early at the location and that there was no emergency. Good intent call. Case clear.

## Citizen assist

11:15 p.m.  
Officer Tillman responded to a complainant in the 6100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive who reported hearing a loud bang in his garage. Officers arrived on scene and canvassed the area. The noise could have come from a door slamming due to high winds in the area. Case clear.

## April 12 Found property

4:08 p.m.  
Officer Ferrigine responded to the 1000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive conducting traffic when a man came up to him and handed him a set of keys he found. The man wished not to give any more information. The found property was two keys with gym tags on them. The keys were submitted into evidence. Case clear.

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# Editor Letters



**Letters, from page 11**

do and so will want to make sure that we budget for it in the future if we go in that direction.  
Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

**Live aboards**

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
Makes sense to me. As long as we are watching the live-aboards as best we can.  
Ken Schneider  
Mayor  
Longboat Key

**Observations on Electric vehicles**

To: Greg Fiore  
Thanks for your EV story. You are not alone in your love affair with EV’s; they are not going away and I am sure represent the future, if not the present. We in LBK government are fully behind EV development on the island, including working with condo associations to facilitate resident charging stations, supporting commercial property owners’ efforts to include charging stations in their parking lots, and acquiring EV vehicles for the Town (we recently acquired three hybrids because EV’s were not available). So, our perspective is very much in sync with yours. Our only reservation has been to install or operate charging stations with Town funds, as we haven’t felt it appropriate for all island taxpayers to fund the powering of the cars of a few, who may or may not be LBK residents. All the best.  
Ken Schneider  
Mayor  
Longboat Key

**Observations on Electric vehicles**

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider  
Ken, thanks for your acknowledgement. A first step may be to install a simple 220v AC station as I did at home. This would be much less expensive than a high current quick charge station. The Connector is the same as your clothes dryer connector. One hour of charging would provide about 40 miles of energy. Another option might be to install a fast Charger requiring user payment much like the St. Armand parking meters. A full charge would complete in 25 minutes and cost less than \$20.

Greg Fiore  
Longboat Key

**Observations on Electric vehicles**

To: Greg Fiore  
Many homeowners have already taken one of these steps, and the condo associations are working on their individual issues, including allocating costs and assuring sufficient power to each complex.  
Ken Schneider  
Mayor, Longboat Key

**Observations on Electric vehicles**

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider  
After one year of ownership of an EV, and typical Longboat Key driving of 4,000 miles per year, my electric bill has gone up about 10 percent. Some people are concerned that the Electric Grid can’t support EVs. If you consider the quantity of new all-electric homes being built in Florida, the EV is a small percentage of future Electric power requirements.  
Greg Fiore  
Longboat Key

**Bayfront Park**

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman  
Today during the workshop, Commissioner Bishop pointed out to me that changes to the Bayfront Park needed to be made within the existing agreements between Longboat Key Township and Sarasota County. I asked you if the Township chose to re-purpose the asphalt tennis courts into six permanent dedicated pickleball courts, would that be allowed with the current scope of the existing agreement? I don’t think you had the chance to answer this question. Is that kind of change allowed in the current agreement with Sarasota County?  
Dave Levine  
Longboat Key

**Bayfront Park**

To: Dave Levine  
I just caught that I have not emailed you back yet. The interlocal agreement between the Town and Sarasota County was signed in 2015, and it covers the details of terms and maintenance.

See Letters, page 12



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# Editor Letters

Letters, from page 11

tenance for the southern 3.5 +/- acres of Bayfront Park. This southern portion of the park was bought and is owned by Sarasota County. The property was purchased using county Neighborhood Parkland funds. As such, there are restrictions on uses that can occur on the southern portion of the park. Those restrictions include no addition of hard-court recreation amenities to the southern portion of the park. The interlocal agreement does not govern what happens on the Town owned portion of the park. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Isaac Brownman  
Director Public Works  
Town of Longboat Key

Bayfront Park

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman

Isaac, thanks for the clarification. I believe this removes any doubt about the ability for the township to modify the current amenities, owned by the Town, to provide for the current and future interests of residents and guests.

Dave Levine  
Longboat Key

Gulfside Beach Access Sign

To: Longboat Key Director of Parks and Recreation Mark Richardson

Sounds good, thank you. Good afternoon Tip, please see below and attached. Gulfside Road

beach area sign installed.

Isaac Brownman  
Director Public Works  
Town of Longboat Key

Gulfside Beach Access Sign

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman

New signage in the Gulfside Beach Access area to alert beach walkers of where the private property boundaries are (which are in play due to the erosion in that area). If you have any questions, please let me know.

Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

Gulfside Beach Access Sign

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Thanks for sharing this information. As a new commissioner, I am unfamiliar with the community outreach that precipitated the impetus for the location and messaging conveyed by this sign. As you are likely aware, the regular beach walkers who were unhappy to lose the access previously afforded them to traverse the Ohana sea wall property are even more unhappy to see the Town of Longboat Key join the movement to further impede beach access in the place-

See Letters, page 14

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# Get Smart – Go Dirty

*The present fascination with “germ free” environments can be overplayed. Bacteria and viruses are not just on table tops and sinks. They’re everywhere. Outside of the nasty pathogens found in hospitals that are now bacterially resistant, you may not need to scour desks and doorknobs all the time.*

**MATTHEW EDLUND**  
Guest Columnist  
Edlundr@lbknews.com

To prevent cancer, change early childhood education. Not the book-kind, but the biologically intelligent kind. If you do, you might change the incident of type I diabetes, asthma, peanut allergies, and MS.

That’s the conclusion drawn by Mel Greaves of the Institute of Cancer Research in London, and now many other researchers. Decades of varied studies demonstrate that the immune system learns in a specific way. Give it the right education and it learns new ways that not just help fight cancer but prevent many major diseases.

The main teaching tool is dirt – especially dirty kids.



So it was time to extend the hypothesis, and at animal experiments. Greaves and others created genetically modified mice with an ALL inducing mutation. Those kept in sterile conditions and let out in a “dirty” environment developed cancer. Those kept in normal conditions, did not.

This doesn’t mean all infants should immediately spend most of their lives in the community sandbox.

### Smart Body

Biological Intelligence, how your body creates and uses knowledge, is a neglected subject. One reason is that most of biological learning does not involve language or books, or cognitive matters. The textbook for your immune system, your heart, your lungs, your muscles, is the place where you live. And most of that learning will not be conscious. Just as you don’t see your immune system destroy potentially fatal tumor cells, you don’t watch your arm muscles learn to throw a baseball. Most of what goes on in your brain isn’t conscious.

Just vital to your survival and enjoyment of life.

ALL, Hodgkin’s lymphoma, asthma, MS, all seem to have a similar story to tell about biological intelligence. Their teachings include:

1. You learn very different things in different environments, including “standard” cognitive learning. Putting students into three carrels to study for an economics test, rather than just one for the same study period, improved scores. Much of school learning is affected by “unconscious” environmental factors.
  2. Sequence counts. Encounter a virus early in life and it may prevent you from getting MS when you’re forty.
  3. Education starts at birth. Being around other infants does not just educate kids socially but immunologically, physically, and mentally. Our sociality as a species has many health implications throughout our lives.
  4. The present fascination with “germ free” environments can be overplayed. Bacteria and viruses are not just on table tops and kitchen sinks. They’re everywhere. Outside of the many nasty pathogens found in hospitals that are now bacterially resistant, you may not need to scour your desks and doorknobs all the time. Our fascination with “germ free” environments may be creating more antibiotic resistance at a time when our antibacterial armamentarium is highly compromised. And what really counts may not prove what pathogens we constantly run, but the robustness and flexibility of our immune response.
  5. Perhaps the most important teaching is that health is learned. The environment changes, we change. All the actions of our lives are potential teaching moments. All of them can make us smarter.
- A smart body is often well served by exposure to many different environments, with different physical, mental, social and spiritual elements. That’s not just true of politics. It’s also part of what helps you survive.



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### Exposure and Learning

It’s been known for a long time that kids on farms have far less asthma than city kids not exposed to the many antigens (immune stimulating substances) found in agriculture. For many years researchers were stumped by why MS was more common in affluent communities than poorer ones. Greaves looked at ALL and saw a familiar pattern: very low rates in the poorest countries with less fastidious early hygienic practices.

There were major outliers. One was Costa Rica. Not very rich, but with lots of Hodgkin’s lymphoma, type I diabetes, and ALL.

But Costa Rica had spent much of its health dollars on an extensive health care system. With economic development, family sizes decreased by nearly seventy percent. There were a lot less siblings around, and much greater social pressure to maintain a “first world” kind of home.

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# EditorLetters

Letters, from page 12

ment of this sign. As beach erosion negatively impacts the recreational use of this public amenity, I believe the Town of Longboat Key should consider adopting proactive beach access policies which first seek to identify the feasibility of any access workarounds prior to installing restrictive signage. Was consideration given to installing roping and/or pathway markings to encourage foot traffic around the private property prior to installing this sign?

May I suggest we place a discussion item on the Strategic Planning agenda that considers how we might provide beach access to areas which may be impacted by beach erosion in between beach renourishment projects in the future?

I hope my observations provide for thoughtful consideration in how we address citizen concerns regarding beach signage and access restrictions.

Debbie Murphy  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

Gulfside Beach Access Sign

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debbie Murphy  
Thanks for the feedback Commissioner. We can certainly add it to the retreat agenda if that's what you'd like to do although it might be a discussion better suited for another venue.

A few things to consider prior to the retreat or some other venue discussion:

The Town is not joining any movements. We have a beachfront property owner who has people trespassing on their property daily. We have alerted our Police Department that they may have property owners that call looking to trespass someone who is walking through their property and that our officers should know where that property line is. The Police Chief personally toured the beach with myself, Public Works, and Planning to understand just how bad the erosion is and to see exactly where the private property lines are. My first time seeing that area (other than drone shots) and there was no public beach west of the rocks to walk on. We witnessed a beach walker causally go up and back on private property while we were on-site.

As an example of property line confusion on this section of beach, the Police Department recently received a call that someone was on the beach with their dog and when they responded did in fact find this situation. The Officer was not initially aware of where the property line was and after being educated by the property owner found that in fact the dog was just in a private backyard and not on the beach (because there was no public beach landward of the rocks).

Staff has previously, at prior Commission direction, researched other possible private access points or other workarounds, negotiated preliminary settlements and to my

knowledge nothing was changed as there were no affordable options. I've attached two documents that provide some general background on how this was reviewed. I understand that at least one of the area property owners shared that whatever the Town did for Ohana that they would want provided too.

Because it is such an unusual situation, staff felt that if private property owners were unhappy with people walking over their property and that if there was a chance that the Police Department could be called into the situation, that the walking public should be better informed of exactly where the private property line is on that specific section of beach. Perhaps we were too proactive in providing a warning sign, but I felt that if it were me who was trespassing on private property I'd like to know it beforehand so at least I was aware of the boundaries. The additional information on our website (as identified on the sign) is on the website from a prior Commission's request due to the complicated nature of this subject and I felt would be helpful for beach walkers to better understand the details/history on this subject.

As to path markers or roping, the existing rocks seemed to be a fairly straightforward demarcation of public and private property for the area in question. We could look at those as an option, but the nature of the sand is that it shifts from season to season, year to year. We saw the sign as temporary during those times when the sand erosion is at its worst (like now) and it could be covered when and if the public beach returns.

Overall, there is no good affordable solution to this erosion issue from the briefings I've received and the material I've read and prior Commission discussions. The sand is at its worst right now but will get slightly better during the summer as some of the material is naturally returned. We are scheduled to put a small amount of sand in that area in the next couple of years, however it will not make much of a long term difference as the erosion in that area is high. The next full nourishment I believe is in 2028/2029.

Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

Gulfside Beach Access Sign

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
Thank you for your thoughtful email. I can see from the activity you shared that resolving the safety and security concerns of the property owner was a primary factor in the decision to place this sign on the beach. As posting a public sign to restrict beach access is a relatively new occurrence, residents are now questioning whether or not similar signs may be posted elsewhere.

I am unclear as to whether or not the beach erosion issues limiting beach access to walkers is primarily a North Longboat Key matter or a broader issue impacting the entire island. If this issue is primarily limited to District Five, I agree this topic does not rise to the level of importance to discuss at the Retreat.

Since communication will be a topic for the Retreat, reviewing how this matter was resolved could afford us the opportunity to broadly discuss how employing proactive community engagement practices may produce more favorable responses in the future. My community service experience has taught me that while people may disagree with a decision, they are more willing to accept it if they have been given the opportunity to express an opinion.

Remembering the groundswell of negative community sentiment which resulted from the loss of pedestrian access over the Ohana sea wall, it could be reasonably anticipated that further limiting pedestrian access south of Ohana would produce a similar community response. Thanks for taking these thoughts into consideration.

Debbie Murphy  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

Gulfside Beach Access Sign

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debbie Murphy  
Hello Commissioner Murphy. Just an idea to solve the Ohana access issue would be to create another groin that would be Gulfside of the Ohana seawall. The groin rocks would then need to be as high as the Ohana seawall and level to provide access from the beach. Please see picture of what has been done at the Newport Rhode Island cliff walk. I'm sure there are obstacles that would need to be overcome to do this, but we already have 7 groins just north of this area.

Pete Rowan  
Longboat Key

Gulfside Beach Access Sign

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debbie Murphy  
Hello Deborah, I just read the thread of communications between you and the Town Manager and also with Pete Rowan and agree with your insights and possible concerns with public beach access 'eroding' with our shifting sands. Our Sleepy Lagoon area has a group email and I think your letter to Tip would be a good read for them- is that OK for John Connolly to send out?

Laurel Gilbert Phillips  
Longboat Key

Gulfside Beach Access Sign

To: Laurel Phillips  
To answer your question, I believe these communications are public record which I interpret to mean the information contained therein can be shared with everyone. I am happy to facilitate a meeting with the appropriate Town officials to discuss your concerns and to advance possible solutions regarding the pedestrian beach access problem. Look forward to being of assistance.

Debbie Murphy  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

Gulfside Beach Access Sign

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debbie Murphy  
Thank you Debbie, the issue is crucial to the whole island as beach access drives home sales, tourists and contented taxpaying residents. I do think it should be on the agenda for your commission retreat, not specific to Ohana but as you wrote previously, to allow notice for community awareness of beach signage and, in our opinion, ward off possible town bias of property owners on Gulfside.

Laurel Gilbert Phillips  
Longboat Key

Keep the Van Wezel and redirect SPAC's myopic replacement vision

To: Sarasota City Commission  
Please let the exploratory agreement with the Sarasota Performing Arts Center to replace the Van Wezel with a new \$300 million presenting hall sunset April 3. Sarasota already has an iconic touring hall - with a little TLC, some seat adjustments, and deferred maintenance, there is no reason we can't keep enjoying world class arts experiences in our landmark purple theater for decades to come. There are far more pressing investment needs for Sarasota tax dollars, like affordable housing and water treatment. The performing arts foundation should focus its philanthropic energies on supporting the integration of indoor and outdoor arts and leisure spaces throughout The Bay Park.

Pandora Seibert  
Sarasota

Keep the Van Wezel and redirect SPAC's myopic replacement vision

To: Pandora Seibert  
As I have received many emails stating the same thing, I hope you don't mind that my response will be essentially the same for everyone.

I do not believe allowing the exploratory agreement with the SPAC to sunset is in the best interest of the community. While the Van Wezel is iconic, it has gone beyond its ability to host modern productions. A little TLC, some seat adjustments, and deferred maintenance will not solve its problems.

We are looking at an adaptive reuse for it, so we are not planning to demolish it, but it is just not adequate for modern productions. Among many other things, it is too small for modern productions, it has inadequate wiring that can't be upgraded due to the current structure, there is not enough seating, and none can be added without removing and raising the roof at tremendous cost. The acoustics are not good. Water seeps into the ground floor. I can go on.

The money from the Tax Increment Funding district must be spent on capital improvements to the park, including the new Performing Arts Center. It is not available for us to spend as we please. If the extension is passed, then there is time for those supporting the Van Wezel and those supporting the SPAC to each explore their respective visions.

Liz Alpert  
Vice Mayor  
City of Sarasota

Longboat Key News

Sarasota City News

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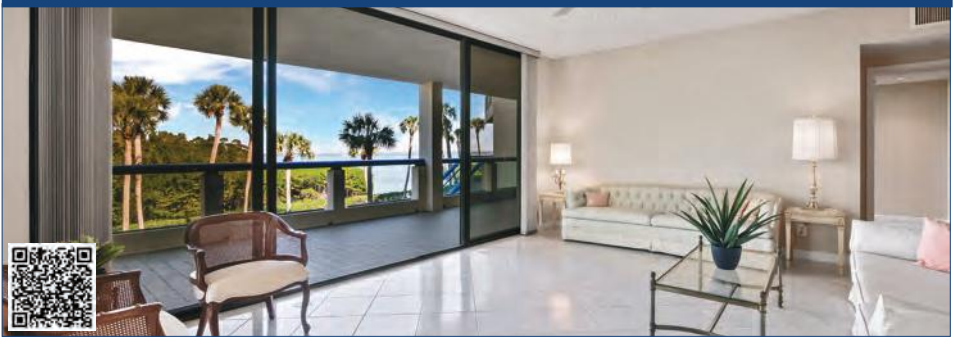
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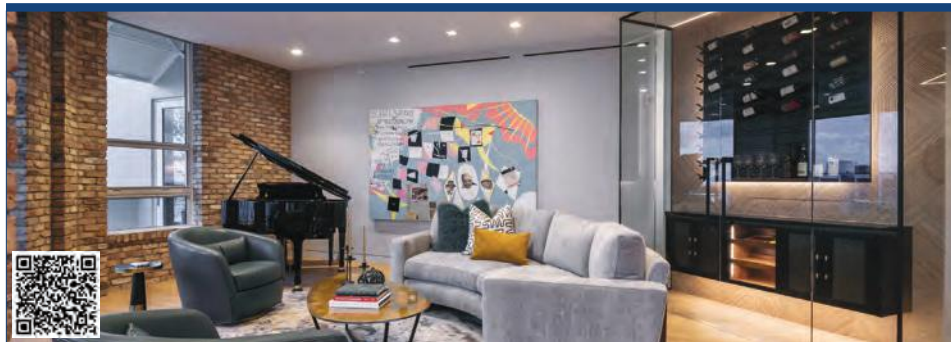
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