

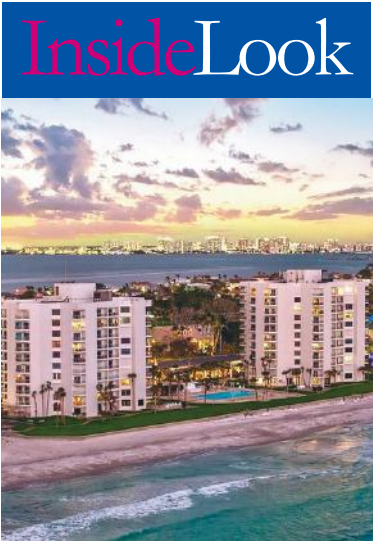


Longboat Key News

May 9, 2025

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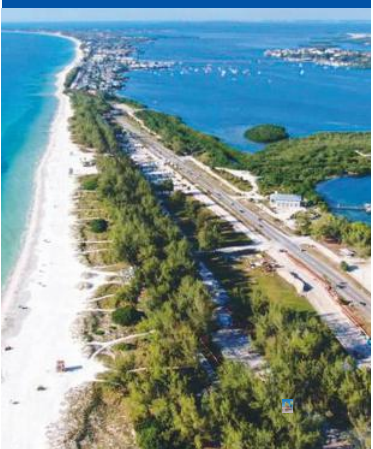


InsideLook

Longboat Key tops the list ...page 13



Drink in the finest month ...page 15



State of the water report ...page 8



They jumped then swam away ...page 10

Longboat Key relaxes rules on replacing storm-damaged trees

Town to no longer require the replacement of downed trees on multi-family properties following a natural disaster.

STEVE REID
Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

One does not have to be remarkably observant to notice that countless towering canopy trees were wiped out by last year's hurricanes on Longboat Key and across the region.

And although everyone, including property owners, wants to see the trees replaced, the Longboat Key town commissioners opted to soften the rules and no longer require the replacement of downed trees on multi-family properties following a natural disaster such as a hurricane.

This change was made last week by the town after a second reading of an ordinance. One of the main considerations was to help lessen the financial impact numerous communities are feeling in simply rebuilding the structural damage that followed last year's storms.

Town Manager Howard Tipton introduced the issue by stating that its genesis is from the severe damage by Milton and Helene last year that



impacted Longboat Key's tree canopy, mostly due to the intrusion of the salt water from the storm surge.

The longstanding ordinance that requires two trees to be planted for every tree removed by a property owner has been in place since 1974 said
See Tree Rules, page 2

Sarasota scraps, restarts City Manager search

The 3-2 vote to start the search over followed a breakdown between the commission and the firm it initially hired to conduct the search.

The Sarasota City Commission narrowly opted Monday to scrap its stalled replacement process for a new city manager and start again, reopening an applicant pool that attracted more than 50 candidates and scouting a new executive search firm to recruit potential hires.

The 3-2 vote to start the search over followed a breakdown between the commission and the firm it initially hired to conduct the search, with transparency concerns and board members' confusion eventually leading the search firm to resign. Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch's motion directed the city clerk and auditor and the city attorney to seek a new recruiting firm.

The city's top non-elected official oversees Sarasota government's day-to-day operations and administration at City Hall and attends commission meetings and workshops. Former city manager Marlon Brown initially recommended his deputy, Patrick Robinson, as his successor, but Robinson declined.

Doug Jeffcoat, the city's longtime public works director, has served as the interim city manager since Brown's retirement last October. Brown announced his retirement plans last August.

The commission hired the Daytona-based Colin Baenziger & Associates municipal executive search firm for \$30,000 to find prospective candidates to replace Brown, a process that Human Resources Director Stacie Mason told commissioners would probably take four to six months.

Commissioners were set to narrow a list of first 51 applicants, then 47 after four withdrawals, that the firm assembled at an April 11 special meeting. The applicants and their submissions were never released to the public, absent from the backup material for that meeting. ncerns stopped the process.

It's unclear when the city clerk and the city attorney will begin looking for a new search firm.

More red-light cameras go live in Sarasota

Sarasota Police have announced more red-light enforcement cameras are soon going online around town.

In a Facebook post, the department shared a list of cameras that recently became operational and others that will soon go live.

Just went live:

- S. Tamiami Trail at Waldemere Street (NB)
- Washington Boulevard at Mound Street (SB)
- N. Washington Boulevard at 12th Street (NB)

New College and USF merger halted

The proposal to place New College of Florida in charge of the neighboring University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee campus has been shelved for the current state legislative session.

As first reported by Florida Politics, the merger proposal appeared dead on May 2 following the Florida state legislative session's wrap-up. Sources in Tallahassee indicated to Florida Politics that neither the USFSM takeover nor the proposed stewardship of the renowned John & Mable Ringling Museum initiative will be considered further this session.

The proposed changes — which included transferring oversight of USF Sarasota-Manatee (USFSM) from the Tampa-based USF to New College and moving Ringling Museum from Florida State University to New College — faced substantial local resistance. Community members, faculty, and alumni expressed concerns about the lack of transparency and potential

See Red Light, page 2

See Campus, page 2

Tree Rules, from page 1

Town Planning Zoning and Building Director Alan Parsons. Under the previous ordinance, a property owner had the option to pay \$300 per removed tree into a town tree replacement fund instead of replacement.

The change, desired by staff, was to amend the rules to exempt the requirement for replacement, or for paying anything at all into the tree fund for trees either completely killed by a natural disaster or severely impacted on multi-family condominium properties.

Commissioner Gary Coffin objected to allowing condominiums and multiple unit properties “completely off the hook,” and suggested a requirement of one-to-one tree replacement, and giving a time frame of up to three years for said replacement.

Coffin further suggested to hold off on amending the ordinance and give it to the planning and zoning board to further research the issue and go with the one for one replacement.

Longboat Key resident Terry Driver spoke to the issue on behalf of the LBK Citizen’s Green Team. She said her group agreed with the one-to-one replacement and the three-year window for such replacements, and maybe simplifying the permitting process. She also suggested the planning and zoning look at the current rules, which allows replacing a mature tree with smaller, immature trees as a workaround.

Driver said that if you travel from Sarasota to Longboat Key, there is a 10° difference in temperature due, in part, to the island’s greenery and canopy.

Commissioner BJ Bishop pointed out how it is impossible to drive on Longboat Key and not be shocked by the amount of trees gone, especially in some neighborhoods or condominium complexes such as Windward Bay, which lost an entire canopy that stretched hundreds of feet along the roadside.

Coffin reiterated that he has an issue with the condo associations having the power to be completely exempt from having to replace trees that are damaged through natural disasters.

Mayor Ken Schneier called the storms of last year “particularly insidious because we were softened up by the rain, and then blown away by the wind”

Schneier credited the current commission for taking steps beyond any previous commission in embracing the green movement. Schneier added that he was concerned that if they were to pass the ordinance as written it would apply to all future natural disasters.

Town Attorney Maggie Mooney pointed out that the Town has the ability under its home-rule power to either increase the requirements of the tree code, or decrease, without fear of a

Burt Harris Act challenge. She said that because the ordinance falls in the general rules of the Town and not in the land development code it would not be construed as a taking of property rights, and therefore the Town could always up its requirements, or modify them down the road

The mayor said, knowing that he could tinker with the ordinance down the road that he felt comfortable passing the ordinance as-is.

Commissioner Bishop said that she has respect for the people who live in the condominiums and for the boards and that they don’t want to live in ugly communities. She spoke of not needing to micromanage the condominiums, and felt that relaxing the rules would be appropriate

It passed with everyone voting for it, except for Commissioner Gary Coffin

Then the mayor asked for a consensus to esnd the passed ordinance to the the planning and zoning board for insight.

Red Lights, from page 1

Red Lights Coming soon:

N. Washington Boulevard at Fruitville Road (WB) – waiting on FPL

N. Washington Boulevard at 12th Street (SB) – install week of 4/28

N. Tamiami Trail at Myrtle Street (SB) – waiting on FPL meter fix

Campus, from page 1

negative impacts on existing programs and institutions.

On April 3, a 20-member group, which includes past deans, professors and advisory board members, criticized NCF’s effort to dismantle the region’s public university system. USFSM leaders warned that the proposal for a merger would disrupt the lives of thousands of students while erasing decades of work that helped establish USF Sarasota-Manatee as a distinct campus within the state university system.

McFarland, a Sarasota Republican, however, acknowledged the community’s opposition to the merger with Florida Politics in early May.



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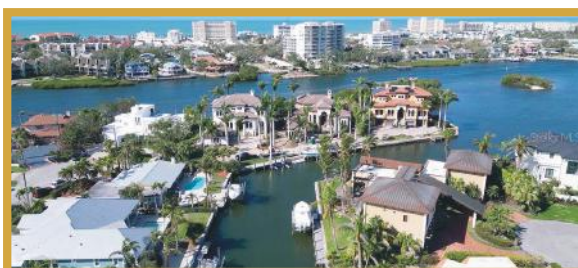
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EditorLetters



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

Longboat Key 2025 Virtual Hurricane Program Recording

To: Longboat Key Commission, Longboat Key residents

We apologize for any inconvenience you may have experienced accessing the program. For your convenience, we've included a link to view and share the presentation, as well as a copy of the slides reviewed by Chief Dezzi attached.

Program Link: <https://youtu.be/QU3kdwFdQ0Y>

Additional Q&A:

Where can I get a re-entry decal?

Red resident decals are available at the following locations: Town Hall, Fire Department (North Station, 5490 GMD), Public Works Department, and Planning and Zoning Department. Green decals can be obtained at the North Fire Station (5490 GMD) or the Police Department (5460 GMD). Additional decal information: <https://www.longboatkey.org/our-town/hurricane-information/re-entry-process>

Can we get sandbags from the county?

Sandbags on Longboat Key are available at the Public Works Department. 10bags per household. Condominiums here on the island are able to get 30 total per complex. The town will announce when the sandbag station is open during weather events.

Feel free to email myself and or Chief Dezzi with any question you may have.

Tina Adams
Fire Administration & Communications Manager/PIO
Town of Longboat Key

LBK Letter

To: Sarah Karon, Jim Haft

Thank you for leading such a productive meeting with LBK yesterday. If your schedule allows, we would like to invite you to join the upcoming LBK North Meeting via Zoom (Thursday May 22, 11 a.m.). This will provide an opportunity to introduce you to the LBK North Reps group (28 local leaders) and dedicate some time for you to speak on the issues discussed at yesterday's joint meeting, followed by a brief Q&A session.

We believe the LBK North Reps will be encouraged by the BOCC's progress and ongoing support for the community center. Additionally, they will likely be interested in hearing your thoughts on improving transportation, reducing traffic congestion, and ensuring a more equitable traffic flow off the Key—particularly in helping LBK workers depart at a similar pace as beachgoers in the future.

You represented the concerns of LBK North with clarity and conviction, and we sincerely thank you for your commitment to the Manatee County residents of Longboat Key.

Maureen Merrigan
Jim Haft
Paul Hylbert
Jeff Driver
LBK North Board

Manatee grant awards

To: Longboat Key Assistant Town Manager Isaac Brownman

We will have to look into this. We need to consider Sleepy Lagoon, The Village, and Utility needs, and collectively see what qualifies.

Charles Mopps
Public Works Director
Town of Longboat Key Public Works

Manatee grant awards

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Charlie Mopps

Following up. Please let us know how the \$1.392 million just awarded by Manatee will be used for Sleepy Lagoon's projects. I think a *very* reasonable case can be made for the priority of SL as one of LBK's lowest lying and most adversely affected areas.

John Connolly
Longboat Key

Manatee grant awards

To: John Connolly, June Groary and Blythe Jeffers

I am including Kalee on this, as she is the Grants Coordinator. We are meeting with Manatee to discuss the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and what options or potentials lie within.

We are also working with Manatee County Local Mitigation Workgroup to get letters of endorsement for the remaining phases, that are under design, but need Construction Funds. So far they have provided support and the next steps are to compile the grant applications to request funds once, the Hurricane Helene and Milton HMGP grant window opens. Jennifer Fehrs, the Town Engineer is leading the remaining design projects and can provide additional details on design scheduling. Infrastructure Solution Services has been selected for Bayview, De Narvaez and Juan Anasco and we are in the process on onboarding them for the remaining three streets.

For the Gulfside Beach "systematic fix", I am assuming that you are referring to the Structural Stabilization project. This project is not grant funded outside of what is eligible from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Beach Funding process. Those funds should be available regardless of the CDBG or HMGP, depending on what passes as a budget in the State.

Kalee, has the best handle on the timing of all of the Grant schedules and we will keep everyone posted with any updates, we get.

Charles Mopps
Public Works Director
Town of Longboat Key Public Works

Manatee grant awards

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Charlie Mopps

It is our understanding that LBK will hear about resiliency grants, etc. from Manatee County very soon— tomorrow? We would love to get an update after that in terms of where things now stand for Sleepy Lagoon's projects.

It's our understanding that the design work for both remaining phases (previously three remaining phases that have been regrouped— Bayview/De Narvaez/Juan Anasco and Marbury/Penfield/General Harris) are funded and underway. It is also our understanding that the start of Norton Street (re)construction has been delayed until the design grant package can be closed out.

I'm presuming that the Manatee grants won't affect the proposed Gulfside beach "systemic fix" project, but any updates there would be appreciated as well.

Any revisions on timing for all of the above would be much appreciated. I will be down there May 12-19 if there's any reason to meet in person.

John Connolly, June Groary and Blythe Jeffers

See Letters, page 6

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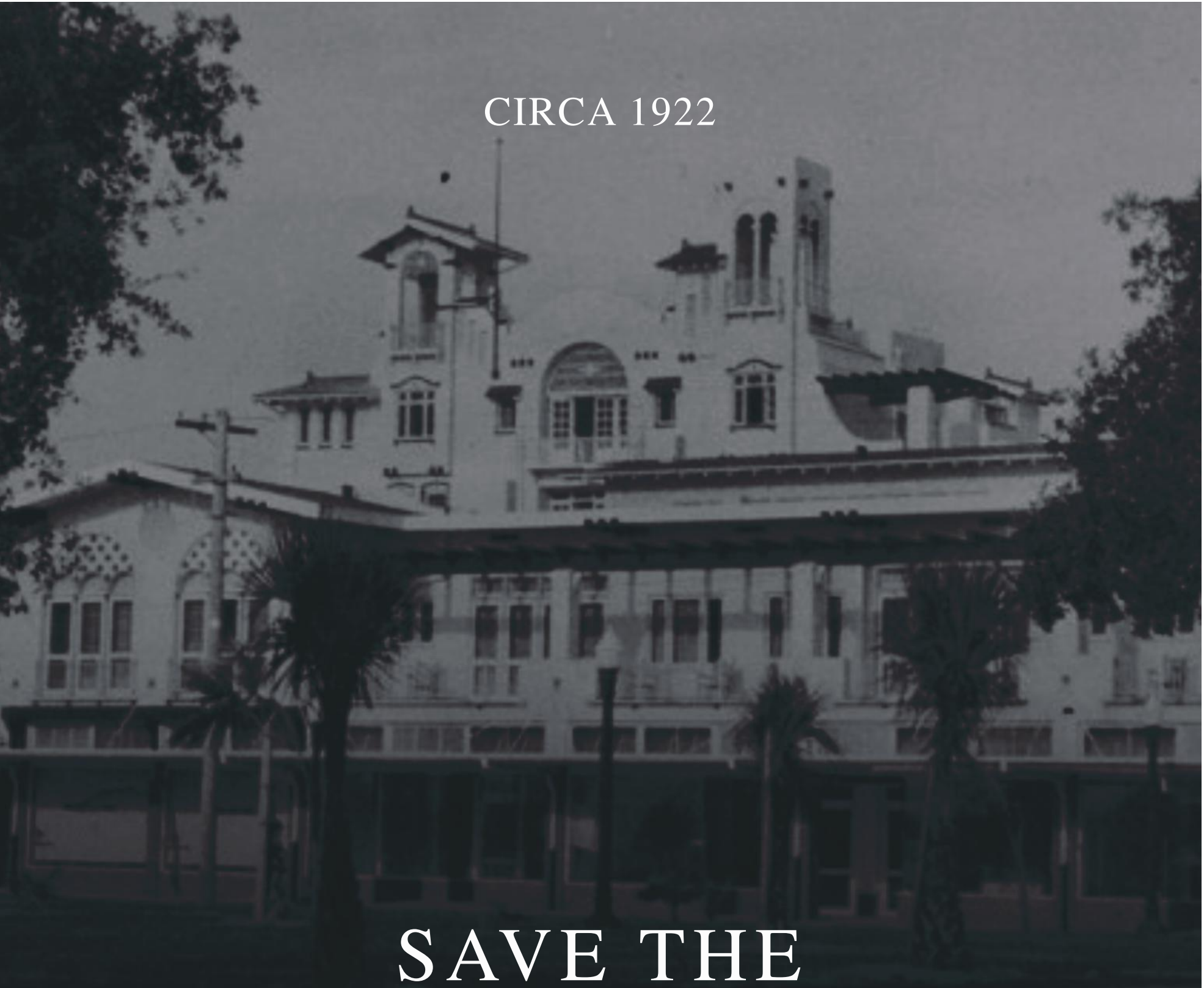
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Letters, from page 4

Longboat Key

Sitting on Harbor Sound Drive for 8 days

To: Richard Ackerman

Richard, I know that Guy reached out to the Contractor and Code Enforcement got involved as well. Hopefully, this will result in it being relocated or removed.

I am including Code Enforcement to provide any updates they can provide.

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Charles Mopps
Public Works Director
Town of Longboat Key Public Works

Sitting on Harbor Sound Drive for 8 days

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Charlie Mopps

I have been a faithful full-time resident of Longboat Key since 2014. This year I attended the Citizens Academy, and was most impressed learning how our city is governed and operates. I am very happy living in Longboat Key.

Question: Would any of you expect that an oversize underground utility truck could be parked in front of your house for 10 days, partially blocking traffic, and presenting a continuing eyesore to neighborhood residents? As the Mayor kindly informed you, that has been the case in front of my house at 1660 Harbor Sound Drive.

What would you do?

I called the underground utility services company twice in recent days. The recorded message told me to state my issue and leave a number and I would be called shortly. I have been waiting for days for a return call.

When I told our excellent Mayor of my plight, he said he would see what he could do. I certainly appreciate both his contacting the Director plus whatever you are able to do to resolve this problem. To me, it should not be intractable to solve.

I was told that the truck was part of a project being conducted by FPL on behalf of St Regis. Two Mondays ago (ten days) many men spent the day digging underground to replace what I was told is a cable connection. When they left that evening with their truck parked 20 feet from my property, I assumed the job would be finished the next day. Nobody has returned since that day, and nobody has provided me with any information regarding the truck.

Can work such as the type I have described be done on Longboat Key without a government department knowing about it and granting permission?

Should I anticipate the truck remaining in its parked position indefinitely?

Have any of you gentlemen been able to speak to a knowledgeable official with the underground utilities company, FPL, or the Saint Regis hotel?

It's now 12:44 PM on Wednesday, May 7 and the truck and six street cones surrounding the truck remain in position...as unsightly and annoying as ever.

This is by no means an emergency, but I would appreciate a definitive response of any kind today if possible.

Richard Ackerman
Longboat Key

Sitting on Harbor Sound Dr,,, for 8 days.

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Charlie Mopps

Gentlemen: This truck has been sitting at the same location in the Harbour Section with no activity for over a week. A driver said it related to an issue at the St. Regis with no further information. Do you know its purpose and if it can be moved off this neighborhood street?

Thanks.

Ken Schneier
Mayor

See Letters, page 8

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Letters, from page 6

Town of Longboat Key

Harbourside Drive permit

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Steve Branham
Here's the follow up to this pool cage permit request.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Harbourside Drive permit

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
I just got off the phone with Mrs. English and explained that after my plan review I found that they did not design her cage structure to meet barrier island standards.
This permit came in a week ago, FYI. The contractor will have to submit corrected plans with the correct design otherwise would structurally fail. I am reaching out to the contractor as well. Let me know if you need any other information. Have a great day.
Patti Fige
Building Official
Town of Longboat Key

Harbourside Drive permit

To: Longboat Key Building Official Patti Fige
Would you please review and advise the permit holder (and let us know the outcome)?
Thank you Patti.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Harbourside Drive permit

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
 Could you please ask appropriate staff to contact Patty English to update her regarding her permit request?
 Steve Branham
 Commissioner
 Town of Longboat Key

Harbourside Drive permit

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Steve Branham
Hello We have been waiting on approval for our permit since early March.
We are the owners and trying to get information regarding our permit application with
Lightening Aluminum.
Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Patty English
Longboat Key

Suncoast Waterkeeper Weekly Review

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

Good afternoon. Thank you for inquiring about the elevated enterococci levels in Palma Sola. Pia noted on the data sheet that horses were about 100 feet away in the water when she collected the sample on an incoming tide last week.

Through several rounds of microbial source tracking, we have found that horses contribute to enterococci levels. We recently repeated LuminUltra's qPCR microbial source tracking methods for the third time. Dave suggested this lab and that we include a Bacteroidetes assay. Sampling was conducted during a low outgoing tide, where enterococci concentrations were recorded at 144 per 100 mL. Most targets did not contain DNA in the sample. The targets that were present were at levels below the threshold for quantification. However, the same was not true last April and July.

April 2024 & July 2024: No human DNA was detected. However, Horse DNA was detected and quantified in both the liquid and sediment samples.

April 10, 2025: No horse, dog, or human DNA was detected. However, avian DNA and general Bacteroidetes (GenBac3) were present in the liquid sample at levels too low to quantify. GenBac3 was present and quantified in the sediment sample only.

Although the lab couldn't provide a precise measurement of bacteroidetes in the liquid sample, they did detect their presence. This means these potential indicator bacteria were present in the liquid, even if the amount was too low to quantify accurately. Bacteroidetes were found in high enough quantities to be quantified in the sediment sample.

The avian marker was also found in the liquid sample, but at a level below the lab's Limit of Quantification (LOQ). So while they could confirm it was there, the concentration was too low for them to give a reliable numerical value.

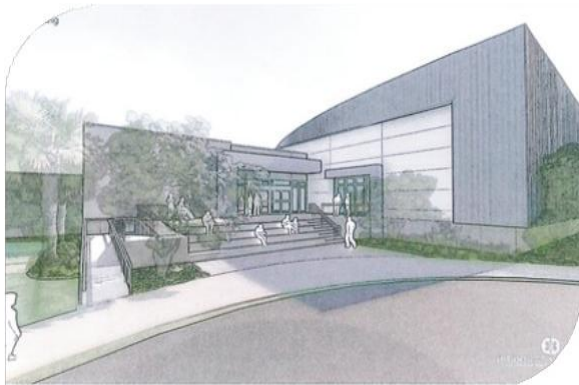
We also examined the April 10 sample for dog, human, and horse DNA, but all were undetected.

These findings suggest that while horses are a frequent source of bacteria, they are not always present where we dip our hands into the bay to collect the sample. That is because the variability of enterococci levels in water has been reported over relatively short spatial scales. We also know that qPCR results do not correlate with the cultured results. So while horse markers were not present in the 50 mL MST sample, they might have been present in our 100 mL enterococci sample. We recognize that there are other potential contributing sources, including birds. However, due to the overall low concentrations of MST markers on April 10, it's impossible to determine each species' relative contribution to overall contamination for that day at that specific location. Furthermore, a scientifically robust method for quantifying this relative contribution might not be viable with the data provided by LuminUltra.

We learned much from this investigation and have enough data to request additional funding for a more robust sampling effort. However, we know enough to say that horses contribute to high levels of contamination and may be why our monitoring location does not meet state standards for Class III waters (see our 2024 report). Over the years, we have observed that

See Letters, page 12

LONGBOAT KEY TOWN CENTER GREEN



In partnership with Sarasota County, Longboat Key is building its first-ever Community Hall. This indoor-outdoor space will host meetings, classes, and events while also serving as a resiliency hub to provide our island with support and services in times of emergency.

A Dream Realized

We're thrilled to announce that, with the support of our generous community, we have pledged \$2.65 million toward our goal of raising \$3.5 million for the new Community Hall—more than 75% of the way there! Together, Longboat's friends, neighbors, businesses and institutions will fund a gathering place to benefit everyone, with seating for up to 200 people and a broad, welcoming terrace connecting to the park. The Hall takes its place under the same roof as our new public library, which is funded entirely by Sarasota County. This beautifully designed building is set to open its doors in 2027, from which point the County will invest \$1 million per year to fund its entire scope of operations



Become a Supporter

Be part of the wave of generosity that creates this crowning addition to our Town Center Green. This is a first for Longboat Key: a community-wide call to action that will culminate in a much-needed Town amenity built by all of us, for all of us. Contact Town Manager Howard Tipton (h tipton@longboatkey.org or 941-316-1999) to learn more. Longboat Key's motto, "Premier Community, Exceptional Service," is about to take on a whole new meaning. Please choose the level of support that works for you and join this groundbreaking campaign to Complete the Green!



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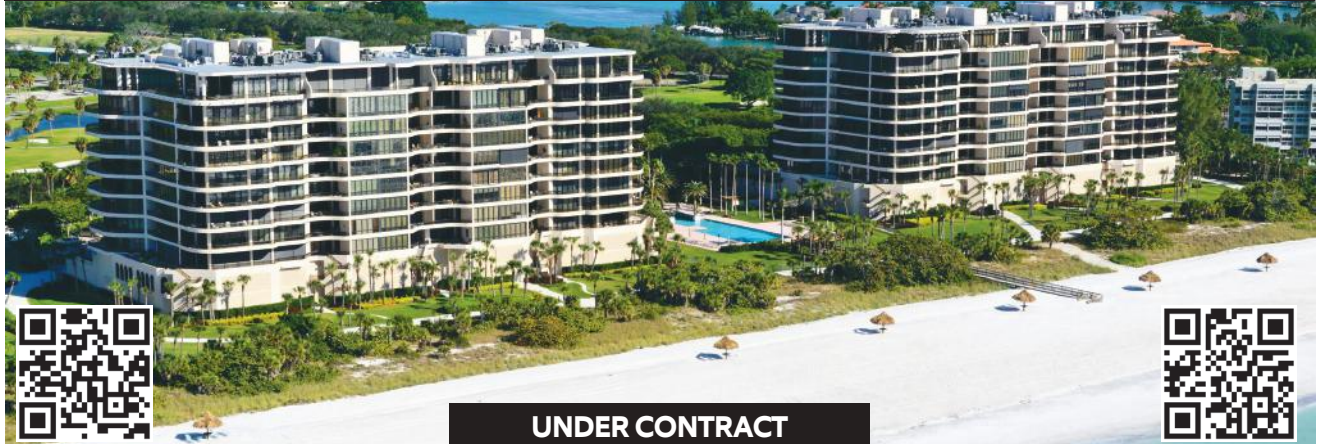
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OnPatrol



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

May 2 Property

11:30 a.m.

Officer Nazareno responded to the 1000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive to the security gate for a property damage report. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno was met by a security officer who said that a white Honda Accord drove through the exit lane at the north gate and damaged the gate arm. The estimated cost of the damage was \$1,000 and Officer Akers showed the video of the incident where the vehicle drove through the exit lane and the front passenger side window grazed the gate arm which fell off after it raised. Officer Akers advised that they are in process of checking the employee records and will attempt to make contact with the owner of the vehicle. Officer Akers was given a case number. Case clear.



a Sarasota County Court date and time which he responded he understood. The driver contacted a friend with a valid driver's license who enroute from Sarasota to pick up the driver's vehicle and provide him a way home. The listed driver was instructed not to drive until he obtains a valid driver's license. Case clear.

May 5
Vehicle

1:25 p.m.

Officer Pescuma responded to Harbour Sound Drive in reference to a suspicious vehicle reported on the side of the road by a resident. Upon arrival, Officer Pescuma observed a white

Chevrolet truck operated by a utility services company. Officer Pescuma did an FCIC/NCIC check which confirmed that the vehicle was not stolen nor abandoned. The vehicle information was given to the Public Works Department as requested. Case clear.

Noise

8:35 p.m.

Officer Miklos and Officer Tillman were dispatched to Broadway in reference to loud music reported by a caller. Upon arrival in the area, Officer Miklos observed three buses idling on Broadway and loud music coming from the restaurant. Officer Miklos spoke with a man who said he was one of the DJs. The man advised a large wedding was going on that was ending at 11p.m. and officers stood by while the guests left the area. Case clear.

May 3
Citizen assist

4:08 p.m.

Officer Nazareno was dispatched to the 4500 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a citizen assist regarding two women that appear to be intoxicated at the beach area. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno observed the two women walking and they appeared as though they had consumed alcoholic beverages and were walking with a man who did not appear to be under the influence of any alcoholic beverages. Both women stated that they had consumed alcoholic drinks prior to going to the beach. No alcoholic beverages were found in their possession. The man drove the vehicle when they left the parking lot. Case clear.

May 4
Juvenile

6:00 p.m.

Officer Tillman while on patrol on Gulf of Mexico Drive and observed seven juveniles on the west side on the west side of the bridge that appeared to have been jumping from the bridge into the water. The juveniles were all observed as being wet and in swimsuits. Officer Tillman advised the juveniles as to the dangers and consequences of jumping from the bridge. Officer Tillman then proceeded to turn around at Coquina and observed only three remaining juveniles on the bridge. The other four juveniles were last seen swimming toward a boat in the water and no other action could be taken from land. Case clear.

Vehicle

8:40 p.m.

Sgt. Puccio while on patrol in the 100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive when he observed a vehicle traveling southbound with a driver's side front headlight out. At that point, Sgt. Puccio initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle and met with the driver. Sgt. Puccio explained to him the reason for the stop and asked him for his driver's license which he stated that he did not have a Florida Driver's License and did not speak English and was from Honduras. The driver did provide a voice translator via his cell phone and was able to explain what the reason for the stop was. He was able to provide his full name and cell phone number. The vehicle he was driving was obtained via Sarasota Sheriff's Dispatch. The vehicle registration came back registered to a friend of his, who he related he was staying with. Officer Miklos arrived on scene and conducted an ID check which came back negative. Sgt. Puccio issued the driver a UTC for Driving without a driver license and a written warning for the headlight being out. He was provided

Found property

4:02 p.m.

Officer Zunz responded to the front desk of the Police Department for a vacationer who wanted to turn in a necklace she found on the south end of Longboat Key. The necklace was stamped .925 which indicated that it's sterling silver with gold plating. Attached to the necklace is a locket that bears the name of the man presumably pictured inside. The necklace was put into a storage locker for safe keeping. Case clear.

Vehicle

5:28 p.m.

Officer Ericsson and Officer Van Dyke were dispatched to Cedar Street on a report of a suspicious vehicle. Upon arrival, officers contacted the caller who stated there was a van parked on his vacant lot. Officer Ericsson checked the van through FCIC/NCIC which revealed no wants/warrants and was not reported stolen. The caller stated he was concerned because the house next to his lot is vacant and he was worried someone might have broken into the residence. Officer Van Dyke and Officer Ericsson checked the next door residence which appeared to be unoccupied. The interior could be seen through the windows and officers observed exposed studs and no drywall. All doors and windows were secure and the residence appeared to be vacant. Case clear.

Noise

10:19 p.m.

Officer Troyer was dispatched to Falmouth Drive for a report of a noise disturbance. The complainant said he wanted to report construction noise coming from one of the apartments, whereas there were two men working on construction at the residence. Upon arrival, Officer Troyer met with the complainant who reported he heard and saw construction coming from one of the apartments. The complainant knew the noise ordinance and knew at the hours, construction was prohibited. The complainant attempted to confront the subjects working at the residence but they got into a brief argument and then the complainant left. The complainant said there were issues with the homeowner not following the HOA bylaws about rentals, along with possibly not having the work permitted. The complainant requested Officer Troyer speak with the subjects about the incident. Officer Troyer knocked on the front door approximately five times before he received an answer. While there, Officer Troyer didn't observe or hear any construction noise coming from the residence. Officer Troyer made contact with the construction worker who was informed by Officer Troyer about why he was there. The construction worker said the men were at the residence doing work. The man's truck broke down and would only go into reverse so he and his coworkers unloaded their equipment into the residence to prevent theft and were given permission to stay the night. The man put Officer Troyer on the phone with the homeowner's brother, who concurred the above listed information and who gave them verbal permission to be at the residence. The man told Officer Troyer he would be gone in the morning, once he gets help getting the truck repaired. The man said the argument started when the complainant came yelling at him about moving the equipment into the residence. The man said he wouldn't have another man yell in his face. The construction worker didn't want any issues and only wanted to sleep. Officer Troyer cautioned the worker about the construction noise if they were indeed working. The worker understood and was familiar with the noise ordinance. Officer Troyer made contact with the complainant again and gave him the results of the investigation. Case clear.

May 6
Citizen assist

9:16 a.m.

Officer Van Dyke responded to Channel Lane for a dispute. Upon arrival, Officer Van Dyke spoke with the complainant who advised that she met a woman on Facebook Marketplace who was selling her bed frame to the complainant for \$100 cash but their availability didn't line up to meet in person. The complainant recently moved to Sarasota but still owns a home on Channel Lane. Ultimately, the two arranged to have two people pick up the bed frame on May 2 at noon while the seller was away, with intentions to leave \$100 cash within the residence. According to the seller, the money wasn't left for her, therefore she requested that Officer Van Dyke call the seller, the money wasn't left for her and she requested Officer Van Dyke resolve the debt with the seller. Officer Van Dyke then called the seller who was cooperative throughout the phone call. The seller advised Officer Van Dyke that she doesn't drive, therefore no cash was left behind. According to the seller, the buyer immediately accused her of being a fraud, therefore didn't cooperate going forward. In summary, the seller advised that she could arrange travel to the Sarasota Police Department at Adams Lane at Noon to exchange \$100 cash. In summary, the seller advised that she could arrange travel to the Police Department at noon to exchange the \$100 cash and the buyer graciously accepted the offer. Case clear.

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7157 LONGBOAT DR N	2,137	\$890,000	3	3	0	117	\$840,000
3080 GRAND BAY BLVD Unit#521	1,380	\$840,000	2	2	0	29	\$800,000
750 RUSSELL ST	1,296	\$799,900	3	2	0	24	\$740,000
1965 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#G5-405	1,068	\$775,000	2	2	0	44	\$727,500
1085 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#301	1,172	\$725,000	2	2	0	112	\$650,000
858 EVERGREEN WAY	1,440	\$629,000	2	2	1	3	\$625,000
7119 LONGBOAT DR E	910	\$575,000	2	1	0	37	\$460,000
3710 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#G-6	643	\$165,000	1	1	0	85	\$148,000
83 TWIN SHORES BLVD	935	\$149,900	2	1	1	145	\$124,000



1050 LONGBOAT CLUB RD Unit#704



JEFF
RHINELANDER
941-685-3590

Jeff@jeffrhineland.com



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BIRD KEY

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 8

when the horses are not present at the shoreline, the concentration of enterococci is reliably low. When horses are present, 9 times out of 10, the enterococci concentrations will exceed 70/100mL. As a result, we recommend a sign warning people about swimming in that area. Please let me know your questions, comments, or suggestions.

Abbey Tyrna
Executive Director
Suncoast Waterkeeper

Suncoast Waterkeeper Sampling Results for April 29

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission
On April 29, the enterococci survey was carried out during an incoming high tide, between 2.4 ft to 2.68 ft. Thick wrack on the shore was recorded at Longboat Key Bayfront Park. Horses were present at Palma Sola Bay 100 feet away during sample collection.

The results for sites sampled in Manatee County are as follows:

- Longboat Key Bayfront Park (bay side): 41 #/100 mL
- Town of Longboat Key Boat Ramp: Undetected
- Herb Dolan Park: 10 #/100 mL
- Palma Sola Causeway North: 2755 #/100 mL
- Braden River: 20 #/100 mL
- Palmetto Bridge: 10 #/100 mL

Emerson Point: 41 #/100 mL
Terra Ceia Bay: 160 #/100 mL

Any count exceeding 71 is considered unsafe for swimming, indicating a potential health concern. The standard for enterococci in Class II and Class III Marine waters is “MPN or MF counts shall not exceed a monthly geometric mean of 35 nor exceed the Ten Percent Threshold Value (TPTV) of 130 in 10% or more of the samples during any 30-day period. Monthly geometric means shall be based on a minimum of 10 samples taken over a 30-day period,” (62-302.500 F.A.C.). The two Longboat Key sites are located in Class II waters (<https://geodata.dep.state.fl.us/datasets/FDEP::surface-water-class-boundaries-areas/explore?location=27.336358%2C-82.433979%2C10.00>)

We are committed to bringing these critical issues to your attention and believe your active involvement is crucial. The official reports for this week’s sampling activities, courtesy of Benchmark Enviroanalytical, are attached to this email. We want to encourage you to direct all questions, suggestions for additional analysis, and feedback to Dr. Abbey Tyrna at Executivedirector@suncoastwaterkeeper.org and Pia Ronquillo-See at waterquality@suncoastwaterkeeper.org. Your input is invaluable in our collective efforts to address these water quality issues.

2024 Year-End Analysis
We analyzed our enterococci data from January to December 2024 using the Florida Department of Health’s

Water Quality Categories for Healthy Beaches and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Surface Water Quality Standards. Suncoast Waterkeeper applies the stricter Healthy Beaches criteria to determine whether areas are safe for swimming. Specifically, water quality results in the “Good” and “Moderate” categories are deemed “swimmable.” The percentage of swimmable weeks over the past year was calculated based on weekly enterococci results at our 11 monitored sites. We also examined and discussed trends, seasonal changes, and the impacts of unprecedented weather events on the number of swimmable weeks throughout 2024.

Additionally, we evaluated the enterococci results against the Ten Percent Threshold Value (TPTV) of 130 MPN per 100 milliliters of water, as specified in Chapter 62-302 of the Florida Administrative Code for Class II and Class III water categories. The TPTV is clearly defined in the Florida State Statutes (62-303.320 and 62-303.420) and is determined using confidence intervals of a binomial distribution.

We hope this year-end analysis benefits you; you can view and share our story map here: 2024 Review: Fecal Indicator Bacteria on the Suncoast. As always, please reach out with any questions, comments, suggestions, or concerns.

Abbey Tyrna
Executive Director
Suncoast Waterkeeper

LBK / Live Local Act

To: Longboat Key Commission
First, Rob Lewis from Sarasota County has shared the committee substitute bill for Senate Bill 1730 which is the version of House Bill 943 that has now passed both chambers. We are continuing to analyze what it does for and/or to us, but Allen’s initial summary of it includes:

Adds to the current Live Local eligible properties (which includes parcels zoned for mixed-use, commercial or industrial use), properties owned by religious institutions (regardless of underlying zoning). These properties allow development if 10% of the units are affordable.

Prohibits proposed multifamily development (if at least 40% of units are rental units designated as affordable for at least 30 yrs.) from having to get a zoning or land use change, special exception, variance, TDR, comp plan amendment or charter amendment.

Density can’t be restricted below the highest density currently allowed (currently in the Town that’s 11.26 DUs/ac)

Height can’t be restricted below the highest currently allowed within 1 mile of the proposed development or 3-stories, whichever is higher (Note: There’s no change to this provision from what’s in the current Live Local Act).

Developments must be administratively approved (provided the development meets applicable standards), meaning no public hearing process.

Allows for a reduction of parking requirements by 15% (Note: The current Live Local Act allows for a 20% reduction.).

See Letters, page 13

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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 12

Allows for adjacent parcels of land to be included in proposed multifamily developments.
Caps attorney fees & costs to \$250K in civil actions.
Requires an annual reporting requirement beginning 11/1/26.
The second point is that we have received what I believe to be our first inquiry (through the Town Attorney's Office) from a developer representative regarding Live Local interest on Longboat. Sharing as an FYI.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager, Town of Longboat Key

Harbourside Drive permit

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Steve Branham
Thank you very much. We appreciate your help.
Sincerely,
Patty English, Longboat Key

Harbourside Drive permit

To: Patty English
Thank you for your email. I have asked the Town Manager to look into this issue. You should hear from the town staff soon. They can update you about the current status of your permit.
Steve Branham
Commissioner , Town of Longboat Key

Conversation pertain to policy change for the illumination of the Ringling Bridge

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin
My name is Mark Spiegel. We briefly spoke at the Tiger Bay meeting today. I want to follow-up with you regarding the FDOT's recent policy change concerning the illumination of the Ringling Bridge. Below you will find a copy of the petition that has been circulating throughout the city. Thus far we have over 330 signatures with comments. I would be happy to include you on the distribution list to receive the weekly report of the comments made regarding this concern. There are quite a number of residents of Longboat key who have participated by making comments on this petition. As you may or may not be aware, our request is not to restart the program that allows organizations and causes to commemorate using their particular color scheme. What we are asking for is that the FDOT allow the bridge's daily default illumination to go back to the professionally designed Aqua Blue color that everyone liked and appreciated. The color that was designed specifically to enhance the architecture and the environment of the bridge. The color that has been iconic to the character of the city for all its residents and guests that visit Sarasota and its islands. The Red, White and Blue should be reserved for the appropriate National holidays.
I have had a productive conversation with Mr. L K Nandam, District 1 Director FDOT. He expressed his understanding and willingness to consider this request by somehow fitting it into the State policy. He seemed to indicate that city officials might enhance the sway to get this request through. It would be extremely helpful, if you concur with this request, for Mr. Nandam to receive a call from you. I have had a few conversations with the Mayor Alpert, who has stated she agrees with the petition. She indicated to me that she also would be calling Mr. Nandam about this request.
As a representative of Longboat Key, your calling Mr. Nandam on the matter will certainly make a big impression and hopefully enhance the possibility of having this change instituted.
I am happy to discuss this further with you and welcome the opportunity to schedule a call or meeting with you.
"The John Ringling Causeway Bridge is more than just a structure to convey traffic from one side of Sarasota Bay to the other. It is an architectural landmark that defines the beauty and identity of Sarasota. The original Aqua Blue lighting is a specifically customized color that was intentionally developed by local lighting designers to compliment the bridge's aesthetics, enhance the surrounding coastal environment and maintain the serene and sophisticated ambience that makes Sarasota unique.
Recently, the default lighting has been changed to Red, White and Blue, a color scheme that, while patriotic, does not align with the bridge's architectural design features, intended aesthetics, or Sarasota's distinctive character. While we fully support the use of special colors

for national holidays, we believe the default lighting should remain true to its original artistic intent.
We also believe that by using the Red, White and Blue illumination as a daily feature, diminishes the specialness of our patriotic national holidays when the Red White and Blue stands out as a noticeable special event.
Our request:
We respectfully ask the Florida Department of Transportation and the City of Sarasota to:
1. Reinstate Aqua Blue as the default lighting color for the Ringling Bridge.
2. Continue to allow temporary color changes for special occasions such as national holidays.
By restoring the Aqua Blue lighting, Sarasota can preserve the beauty of its skyline, uphold the artistic vision behind the bridge's design and maintain the charm that residents and visitors have cherished for years.
We urge the FDOT and City officials to take action and honor the architectural integrity of one of Sarasota's most iconic landmarks.
What do you think?"
Mark Spiegel
Longboat Key

Florida Main Street Application

To: Sarasota City Commission
Since 1985, Florida Main Street has offered technical assistance to Main Street programs across the state. The program is a part of a network of 48 nationally recognized programs throughout the country. Florida Main Street is administered by Division of Historical Resources under the Florida Department of State. The program is affiliated with the National Main Street Center and utilizes the National Main Street Center's Four-Point Approach® which offers a framework for community-based revitalization initiatives.
A copy of the application can be requested by contacting either katherine.beck@dos.fl.gov or garrett.walsh@dos.fl.gov Completed applications must be received by September 2, 2025, no later than 5 p.m. EST.
Communities interested in the Florida Main Street program are encouraged to attend the Preservation on Main Street (POMS24) conference July 14-18, 2025, in Fernandina Beach, Florida. Registration and additional information will be available soon at : <https://www.preservationonmainstreet.com/>
Former Main Street communities can be reorganized without utilizing the application process. Contact me for details if you are interested in reestablishing a former program.
Katherine Beck | State Coordinator
Florida Main Street
Florida Department of State



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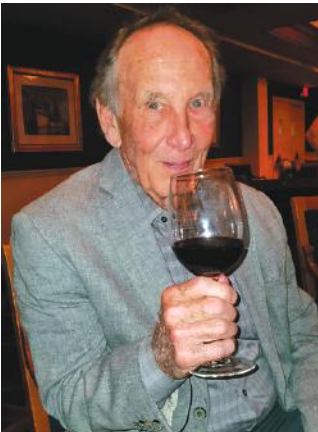


WineTimes

Sarasota Food and Wine Updates...

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

The tourist season in Sarasota has downshifted to a lower gear this month. Major League Baseball spring training has ended as the teams begin their regular season. Golfers and tennis and pickleball players are returning to their home courses and courts. Snowbirds have returned to the north for school graduations, weddings, reunions, and tours of Europe and Asia. Traffic delays have for the main part disappeared, and parking seems less of a hassle.



We find May one of the best months here in Sarasota, with great weather in the early mornings and evenings and water warm enough to soak in the Gulf midday. We enjoy spending time exploring the wealth of wine and dining opportunities in the areas close to to the Main Street in the center of downtown Sarasota. Margaritas and tacos attracted a crowd at Circo on 2nd Street to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Fork and Hen, in its new location on Main Street near Washington Blvd, has a full bar and an eclectic menu, including craft cocktails and a smashburger stacked with more than enough Triple D food for two. The Origin Pizza Café and Craft Beer in the Rosemary District offers until midnight the Best Beer in Florida 2024, Calusa Zote draft beer, and a Quinoa Tab'boule Salad with balsamic vinaigrette. Close by Origin in the Rosemary District, the Toasted Mango Café is opening a new location to replace the one the chain closed on Tamiami Trail.

A favorite wine bar in the same neighborhood, Vino Bistro on 5th Steet behind the Spice Station Thai Restaurant on Boulevard of the Arts, has a unique offering of a house wine and a possible solution to a common problem of many wine drinkers: finding a California Napa Cabernet Sauvignon that one can afford to serve with dinner every evening. Vino Bistro pours the 2022 Auspicion Cabernet Sauvignon as its house Cab. Grapes in this inexpensive Cab (\$11) come from the Napa Valley. It reminds us of a Caymus Cav (\$90) of the same vintage.

When someone asks for a glass of the second most popular house wine in the USA, Chardonnay, the 2023 Domaine Bardet & Fils Petite Chablis at \$14 for a generous pour would

be an excellent choice. Chablis, the northernmost area in the Burgundy region of France has made Chablis wines of the native white Chardonnay grape for centuries.

Only fifteen minutes across the Ringling Bridge by bike, St Armand's Circle and Lido Key have made a remarkable recovery from the devastation of the Hurricanes Helene and Milton. The restaurants and shops on Ringling are either back in operation, or in the case of Tommy Bahama's Restaurant and Store, on the way to an elevated and expanded presence on the Circle. The watchword on the Circle is "resilience": renovations and infrastructure that will allow vulnerable areas to recover quickly from future weather disasters. Shoppers, diners, and beachgoers have returned to the Circle in good numbers. Sadly, some of the favorite shops and stores have closed or moved away, yet many have re-emerged and are doing well. The outlook of residents and business owners in the Circle has improved from despair in November 2024 to guarded optimism in May.

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 Orego Valley in New Zealand. Currently he splits time between residences in Chevy Chase, Maryland and St. Armand's Circle in Florida.

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

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3010 GRAND BAY BLVD. #482
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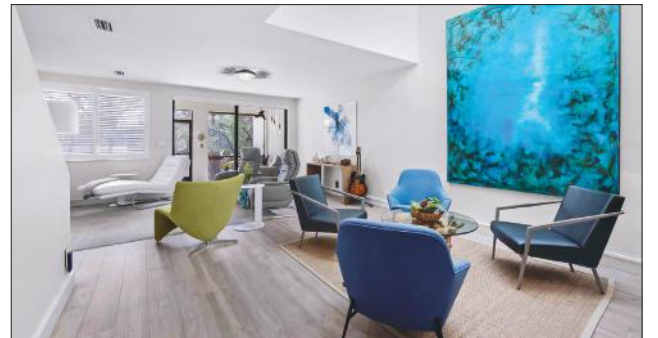


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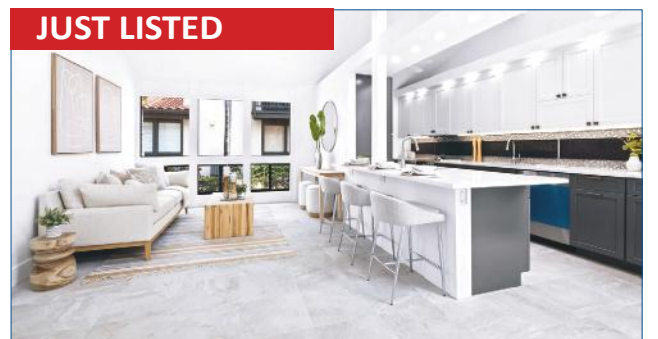
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