




Longboat Key News

October 6, 2023


Serving Longboat Key, St. Armands, Downtown Sarasota & Anna Maria Island

FREE

InsideLook




Lido condo sale tops this week ...page 8



The intelligence of exercise ...page 12



The commodity of wine ...page 13



Black box in Longboat canal ...page 10

Longboat leaders bless St. Regis parking plan

Developer adds more surface parking, abandons mechanical lifts and additional garage idea.

STEVE REID
Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

Longboat Key commissioners unanimously approved a revised parking plan at the St. Regis Resort currently being built on the island.

Last June, public hearings were held on a proposed parking garage wanted by the St. Regis developer. The parking garage plans were met with strident opposition from the community and commission during a June 5 hearing.

Last week, the board ended with a unanimous vote to approve the amended plans that nixed the garage and added more surface parking.

St. Regis developer Unicorp, led by Chuck Whittall, added surface

See St. Regis, page 2

Sarasota set to expand vacation rental rules

Last week, Sarasota City Commisioners decided to expand an ordinance regulating short-term rentals from the barrier islands to citywide.

Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch said the issues associated with VRBO and AirBnB rentals including parties, noise, trash and safety concerns are not limited to the islands.

According to the City, there are about 700 short-term vacation rentals within city limits off the barrier islands.

With the expansion will also come a new fee structure to cover the cost of the program.

Right now, the application fee to run a vacation rental home is \$250 and the renewal rate is \$150. The new fee structure is slated to be \$500 for the application and \$350 for renewals.

The costs will cover the cost of code enforcement officers who regulate the short-term rentals.

The matter will next go to the commission for a first reading and public hearing.

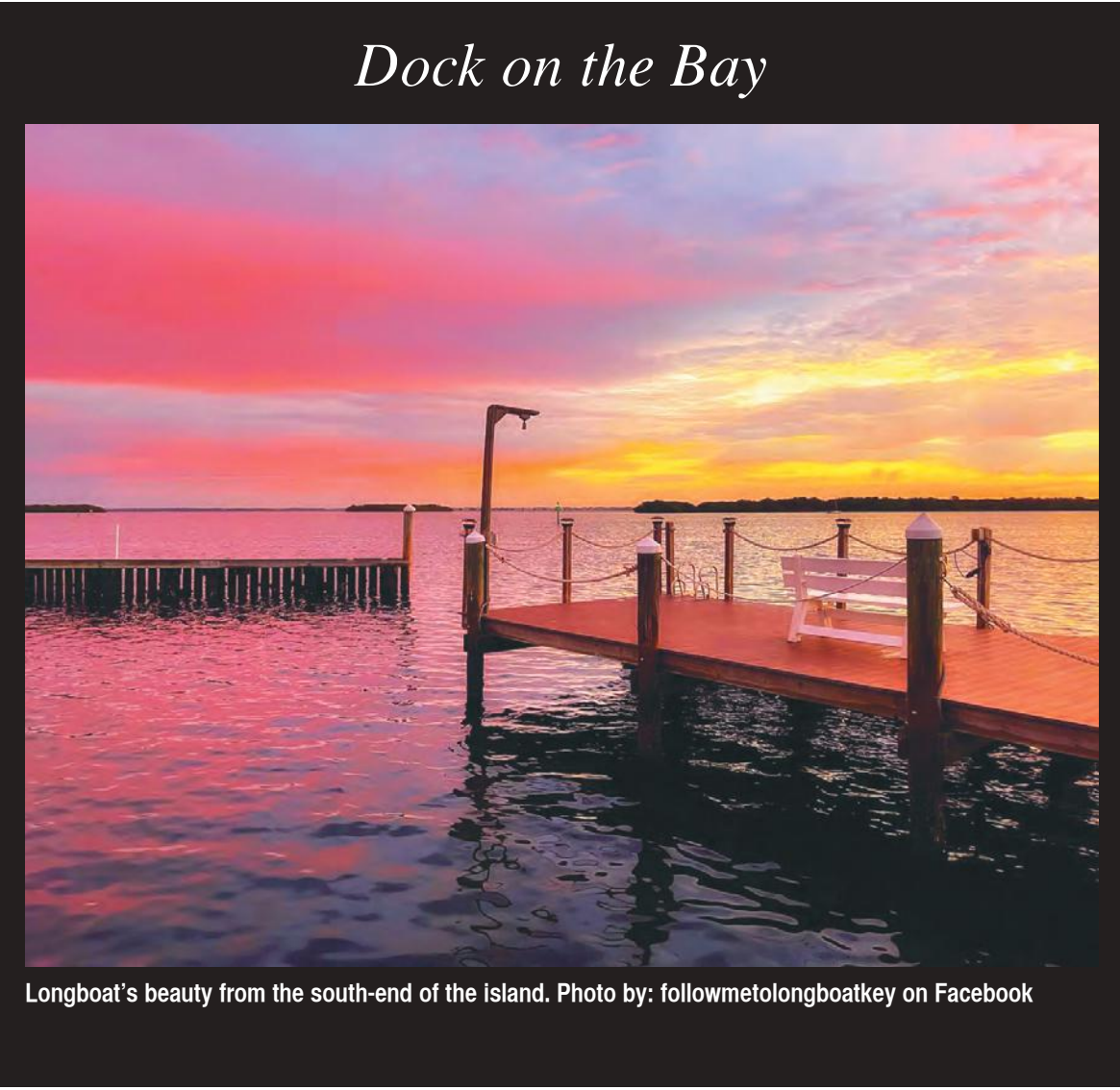
Quay parcel sells for \$37 million

A two-acre parcel of land at The Quay Sarasota on the Downtown bayfront has been sold for \$37 million to the developers of the luxury condominium development, One Park Sarasota.

However, the inclusion of air rights in the purchase is still pending a decision by a Sarasota County circuit judge.

The developer plans to build the 123-unit tower by joining the parcels and constructing it over a central road in the development. This plan has sparked a trial, initiated by Quay 1 and 9 LLC, to determine the ownership of the air

See Quay, page 2



Longboat's beauty from the south-end of the island. Photo by: followmetolongboatkey on Facebook

NewsWorthy

Zero tolerance for misplaced car haulers on LBK

Car Haulers are now being seen with return of our seasonal residents & visitors – but they are not allowed to load/unload along the Gulf of Mexico Drive corridor. (Not allowed in the center turn lane and not in the right of way). They are allowed to load/unload on Bay Isles Road across from Mediterranean Plaza as long as they don't block driveways, or parking in a no parking zone. If you are in a neighborhood with private roads, please ask your association management about loading and unloading vehicles along those roadways.

Residential registry program fires up

The Town's Residential Rental Registry requirements officially begin on October 1st. This Registry is for any Residentially Zoned Property that rents for less than 6 months. Owners or vacation management companies will now, along with applying for a Business Tax Receipt (BTR), need to register their rental with the Town and meet the various requirements including having a life/safety inspection and including proof of Certification in all future advertising. For further information please contact Code Enforcement by phone at 941-316-1966 or by email at codeenforcement@longboatkey.org .

Hurricane Idalia recovery continues

Some residents continue recovery from Idalia. If you have storm-related debris for WM pick-up please contact Julie at Public Works Department jmanderson@longboatkey.org or 941-316-1988. If you were impacted and need FEMA Disaster Aid www.DisasterAssistance.gov , 1-800-RED-CROSS. If you are looking for information on Florida Dept of Emergency Management=t (FDEM) Residential Mitigation Program visit residentialmitigation@em.myflorida.com. Also, to help the Town collect damage data that may trigger public assistance funding, please report any damage (water intrusion, structural damage) to permitdesk@longboatkey.org or call (941) 316-1966.

New Residential Development Slated for Sarasota

What used to be the Rolling Green Golf Club will soon be home to almost 500 new villas and single-family homes as part of a new residential development called Gracewater at Sarasota. The project will be a gated community of villas and single-family homes that range from 1,619 square feet to 2,903 square feet, and include single and two-floor, two to four-bedroom residences. Villas will start in the \$500,000s and single-family homes will start in the low to mid-\$600,000s.

Selby starts season with Orchid Show

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens 50th anniversary season will kick off with its annual orchid show, celebrating both the history of the downtown campus gifted by Marie Selby and the beauty and scientific relevance of the flowers themselves. The show opens to the public on Saturday, Oct. 7, to run through Nov. 26. For more information on “The Orchid Show 2023: A 50th Anniversary Celebration,” visit selby.org.

‘American Pickers’ TV Show Planning FL Trip To Hunt For Treasures

The “American Pickers” TV show is returning to Florida in January in search of hidden treasures and rare and historical items. “We are heading to the Sunshine State and breaking away from the winter,” according to a post on the show’s Facebook page. The History Channel show’s stars — Mike Wolfe, Danielle Colby and Robbie Wolfe — will also travel to Georgia on this treasure-hunting trip. On each episode of the show, they travel throughout the United States visiting private collectors and assessing the value of their items. “This isn’t your grandmother’s antiques,” according to the show’s website. “The American Pickers are on a mission to recycle America, even if it means diving into countless piles of grimy junk or getting chased off a gun-wielding homeowner’s land.” Anyone who has a collection they’d like to feature on “American Pickers” is asked to send their name, city and state, phone number, and a brief description of their collection to the show by calling or texting 646-493-2184 or emailing americanpickers@cinetflix.com.

FDOT Crosswalk work underway

FDOT has started construction of their crosswalk safety upgrade project. The project begins at the South end of Longboat Key and works its way North through Holmes Beach. The crosswalks included within the Town are Country Club Shores mid-block pedestrian crossing; Bayfront Park mid-block pedestrian crossing; near Banyan Bay Club; near Companion Way; and South of Broadway Street.

Quay, from page 1

rights above the contested road. The outcome of the case is yet to be decided by the judge. Despite the litigation, progress has been made at City Hall for One Park Sarasota. The cancellation of a public hearing in April was due to a police investigation into a potential job offer made to a sitting board member by an investor in One Park. However, the investigation found no evidence of any wrongdoing. A new public hearing has been scheduled for October 11 at the Sarasota Planning Board to discuss the One Park plans. One Park Sarasota launched sales efforts in late 2021 and initially sold over 60% of the units. However, it has since encountered significant opposition and costly legal battles. The developers remain committed to the project, emphasizing their dedication to constructing and delivering a quality development to The Quay community. One Park Sarasota, designed by Hoyt Architects, promises lavish amenities and breathtaking views of The Bay Park, Sarasota Bay, and the city skyline. The units range in size from 2,460 to 4,200 square feet, with prices starting at \$1.95 million. The project will also feature approximately 13,000 square feet of retail space on the ground floor of the building.

St. Regis, from page 1

parking to the approved and planned parking lot. The plans expanded a 33-space lot to a 93-space lot, and added 12 spaces to the entrance driveway. But the controversial 62 mechanical lift spaces that were previously approved were removed from the plans. In total, the new plans represent a n increase of one parking space from the original 2021 plans. The St. Regis hotel side will offer a dozen driveway spaces, 93 spaces in the parking lot and 195 spaces inside the hotel building. Condo spaces will remain the same at 169. With Unicorp’s future concerns considered, that’s a total of 469 spots, up from 407 before any changes were considered. Whittall said the resort pools have been finished, landscaping is expected to begin in about 60 days, and the buildings should be substantially complete by end of 2023. The St. Regis Resort will reportedly be open by next summer.

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GULF FRONT NEW CONSTRUCTION



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

LONGBOAT KEY AUGUST 2023 MARKET UPDATE

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	AUG 2023	Y/Y %
Closed Sales	13	85.7%
Cash Sales	10	42.9%
New Pending Sales	11	22.2%
New Listings	9	28.6%
Active Inventory	34	3.0%
Months Supply of Inventory	4.3	43.3%
Median Sale Price	\$2,875,000	3.6%
Average Sale Price	\$3,398,462	27%
Dollar Volume	\$44.2 Million	135.9%
Median % of Original List Price	87.2%	-5.5%
Median Time to Contract	81 Days	131.4%

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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.

Veteran’s Day Update

To: Longboat Key Commission

As part of our celebration planning for November 11th, and in recognition for our Veterans, we are working with our philanthropic community in an effort to raise funds for a veteran focused non-profit. That agency has not been identified yet, but we’re working with the Sarasota Veteran Services Office to see what they might recommend.

The idea is that while we’re recognizing our Veterans for their service and sacrifice, that on this special celebratory occasion, the LBK community will go the extra step and provide a one-time monetary donation to help provide the services and support they need and deserve. The Longboat Key Foundation will be the financial clearing house and a check will be presented to the non-profit at the ribbon cutting event.

We are so blessed to live in this great country and we know that the freedoms we enjoy weren’t free. They were paid for by the service and sacrifice of the men and women of our armed forces (including a fair number of our own Town employees) and this is in our own small way the opportunity to say we have not forgotten you. It will be fun to see what we together can do for this cause. If you have any questions or would like to participate, please feel free to give me a call.

Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Veteran’s Day Update

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

This is a great effort that many in the community will want to support. I just visited the Longboat Key Foundation website and see that it hasn’t been updated since the covid era. I also couldn’t find a way to donate online, which I’m sure many would find convenient to donate to the Veteran’s Day fundraiser. Do you have a contact for the foundation that I could reach out to?

Debra Williams
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Veteran’s Day Update

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra Williams

Sorry for the delay in responding and appreciate your checking a logical link to a giving campaign. Jim Brown is who we’re working with and have a meeting with him at 11:00 a.m. today at Town Hall to discuss opportunities to improve the online opportunities. You’re more than welcome to come in or call in if you’d like or we can update you after. If you’d like to call in Susan can help set that up.

Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Veteran’s Day Update

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Unfortunately, I have a prior commitment and cannot be part of the meeting this morning. I had a good conversation with Jim Brown yesterday and expressed my concerns regarding the LBK Foundation website - no mention of the Veterans Day fundraising effort (or the receiving charity) and no way to donate online. Looking ahead to the town library fundraising effort that the Foundation will be leading, just want to make certain that everything is up to date.

Debra Williams
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Veteran’s Day Update

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra Williams

From our conversation this morning, Jim has someone working to update the foundation website with the goal of enabling on-line donations for several community/Town projects. We’re working with him to make it as easy as possible.

Howard N. Tipton

Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Fall 2023 - Town of Longboat Key Employee Newsletter

To: Longboat Key Commission

Attached is our Fall 2023 - Town of Longboat Key Employee Newsletter. In our 2nd edition, you will find:

Naming of the Employee Newsletter (Don’t forget to vote from ONE of the names submitted)!

Happy New (fiscal) Year!!

Our B.E.A.C.H. Values and the Sterling Management Framework

It’s Still Hurricane Season

Employee Appreciation Luncheon Recap

Bits of News

Employee Engagement Survey

Roaming Holiday Pot-Luck

A message from Tip

Welcome New Employees

Upcoming Birthdays

Upcoming Work Anniversaries

Carolyn Brown
Support Services Director
Town of Longboat Key

Fall 2023 - Town of Longboat Key Employee Newsletter

To: Longboat Key Support Services Director Carolyn Brown

This is really a fine piece of work. Thanks for all the effort that went into it. Displaying my well-recognized lack of imagination, I would continue to call it the Town of Longboat Key Employee Newsletter. Will save you from lots of questions.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Fall 2023 - Town of Longboat Key Employee Newsletter

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Thank you for the nice comments and feedback.

Carolyn Brown
Support Services Director
Town of Longboat Key

Canal Navigability Ordinance Delay

To: Longboat Key Commission

Our Town Attorney has been reviewing the canal navigability ordinance in light of the legislature passing SB 250 in the last session that went into effect July 1, 2023. One of the provisions of this law is that municipalities within 100 miles of Hurricane Ian’s landfall (of which we are one) may not adopt any more burdensome or restrictive amendments to their comprehensive plan or land development regulations.

Attached is her summary of the legislative impacts and a recommendation that the Town not move forward with canal navigation changes to the Town’s land development code until this law sunsets or is otherwise modified. PZB staff had been preparing to bring the proposed ordinance to Planning & Zoning in October and to the full Commission in December for consideration. Based on the legal analysis provided, it appears that this schedule is no longer practical.

Maggie is available to answer any questions on this and can also speak to this, if desired, under her reports at the next regular Commission meeting on October 2, 2023.

Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 6

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5910 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

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830 TARAWITT DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

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

EditorLetters

Letters, from page 4

Canal Navigability Ordinance Delay

To: Longboat Key Town Attorney Maggie Mooney
Would it make any sense for the town to go ahead and consider the canal navigability ordinance, making it effective October 1, 2024, the date that SB250 expires?
Debra Williams
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Canal Navigability Ordinance Delay

To: Longboat Key Commission
Unfortunately, the language within SB 250 restricts even the “proposal” of a more restrictive or burdensome land development or comprehensive plan amendment from advancing. If we move forward with adopting such a proposal (with an effective date of October 2024), we still risk an invalidity argument because “void ab initio” means that it is invalid/void from the start and does not have any legal effect. The safest course is to revisit the adoption process when the pre-emption expires (Oct. 1, 2024). Please let me know if you would like to discuss further.
Maggie D. Mooney
Town Attorney
Town of Longboat Key

Canal Navigability Ordinance Delay

To: Longboat Key Town Attorney Maggie Mooney
Have we communicated with the Country Club residents who believed we were addressing their issues?
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Canal Navigability Ordinance Delay

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

I have not engaged in communications with the residents. By way of copy, I am forwarding your inquiry to Tip and Allen to see if they have communicated with them.
Maggie D. Mooney
Town Attorney
Town of Longboat Key

Canal Navigability Ordinance Delay

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
I have explained to the Callahans, the major proponents of the ordinance.
Ken Schneier
Mayor, Town of Longboat Key

Whitney Plaza / North End Space Team

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Just saw that you are meeting with Manatee County / KVO
Below are the notes from our last task team meeting re Whitney Plaza (with my highlights)
Of course the larger LBK North will also be interested in: plans to address expanded parking at Coquina and how the flow of traffic off the beaches can be regulated to allow for our workers and residents to get off the Key on north end in a more equitable fashion
how the new hotel in BB will impact traffic /congestion and emergency evacuations
updates on the Broadway roundabout, Greer island and marine patrol support
public transportation that easily links the entire Key under the sarasota and manatee system (and to Airport)
Look forward to any updates and thank you for all you both do for the Key - and for the County’s support of the community space at Whitney Plaza.
Maureen Merrigan
LBK North
Town of Longboat Key

Whitney Plaza / North End Space Team

To: Longboat Key Commission
Another productive call today. Here are the notes and next steps for those that couldn’t make the zoom. Action items in bold

1. Looking to have our next call the week of Oct 9. Please let me know if there are certain times or days we should avoid to accommodate your schedule and will set up for a time that works for most of us.
2. We need an update from Howard Tipton on the progress of the lease and interlocal agreement between the County and School Board. The owner of the Plaza, Hal Porter, indicated he has not heard back from the County on the lease.
3. Paul will follow-up to see if a tour of the space is practical in the month ahead (given its current use as a storage facility).
4. We decided on a few priority programming topics that we could investigate and focus on over the next 1-2 months. Team leads should think about use, including potential partners, ideal times of year or time of day, fees involved, if any, and needs for buildout (e.g. large movie screen & projector). Feel free to involve others on these sub-team discussions.
Art Center Classes (ceramics, pottery, painting, jewelry, print making, digital design) and monthly gallery or local artist night
Community & local neighbor group meeting & storage space
Environmental classes, education and displays
Children’s programming and potential partnerships with schools
We will also investigate if relocating/ expanding some of the Bayfront Park exercise classes temporarily to the north end make sense
5. We are still early in the discussion of ideas but we see this potentially as more of an event driven / programmed space (vs open to all at any time to stop by) that ideally would allow people to request and reserve space on-line, have staff (and/or reserved key code) to allow for access & close up. It will need to be build to LBK Community standards (not on the cheap- and something the County & LBK should be proud of) and will need appropriate AV capabilities, WIFI, catering kitchen options (large refrigerator, etc).
6. We discussed what we don’t want / want to avoid at the space, including:
Anything that currently competes directly with Paradise Center or LBK Education Center (both are open to the potential option of using the space as a satellite).
Anything overly commercial - posting business cards, Cortez beach market vendors
Water Taxi landing spot (due to sensitive nature and location of waterway behind the site)
Expanding beach parking / congestion
A fee structure that involves membership (generally everyone seemed to prefer “no fee” for general community meeting use, minimal instructor fees to cover costs of conducting programs).
Any outside or overflow activities that generate noise that would impact surrounding residences
7. We also discussed having a community Board to pre-approve use / programming.
8. Paul Hylbert (LBK North), Debbie Murphy (or another LBK Commissioner) and Jill Ryan will be the primary liaisons for our group to meet with County and School Board staff. I can serve as backup.
Let me know if I missed anything or if anyone wants their name added to an action.
Maureen Merrigan
LBK North
Town of Longboat Key

Welcome, Ron Scott
To: Longboat Key Commission
In an effort to better inform you of new staff that may join the team from time to time, either I or Susan will send along these announcements which share who they are and where they will be working. From time to time, some our new team members may be highlighted by the paper. Ms. Elma Felix is our new Planning Manager and I understand she will be featured in the paper shortly. Allen will be introducing her to you at our next regular meeting.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

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See Letters, page 7

KeyRealEstate

Bird Key, Lido Key, Longboat Key latest sales

Address	Sq. Ft.	List Price	Bed/Bath/Half Bath	Days On Market	Sale Price
500 S WASHINGTON DR Unit#12A	1,034	\$695,000	2 2 0	11	\$660,000
2110 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#201SEA	1,248	\$699,000	2 2 0	6	\$699,000
1300 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#907	3,057	\$3,800,000	3 2 1	95	\$3,525,000
4960 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#206	1,523	\$837,500	2 2 0	0	\$827,000
4525 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#404	1,340	\$999,000	2 2 0	25	\$950,000
2123 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#903	2,224	\$1,000,000	3 3 0	34	\$975,000
516 BAYPORT WAY Unit#516	2,164	\$1,275,000	3 2 0	28	\$1,160,000
628 BUTTONWOOD DR	2,000	\$1,450,000	2 2 1	44	\$1,400,000
2425 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#3B	1,470	\$1,649,000	2 2 0	0	\$1,500,000
7020 FIREHOUSE RD	2,788	\$2,495,000	4 3 1	25	\$2,250,000



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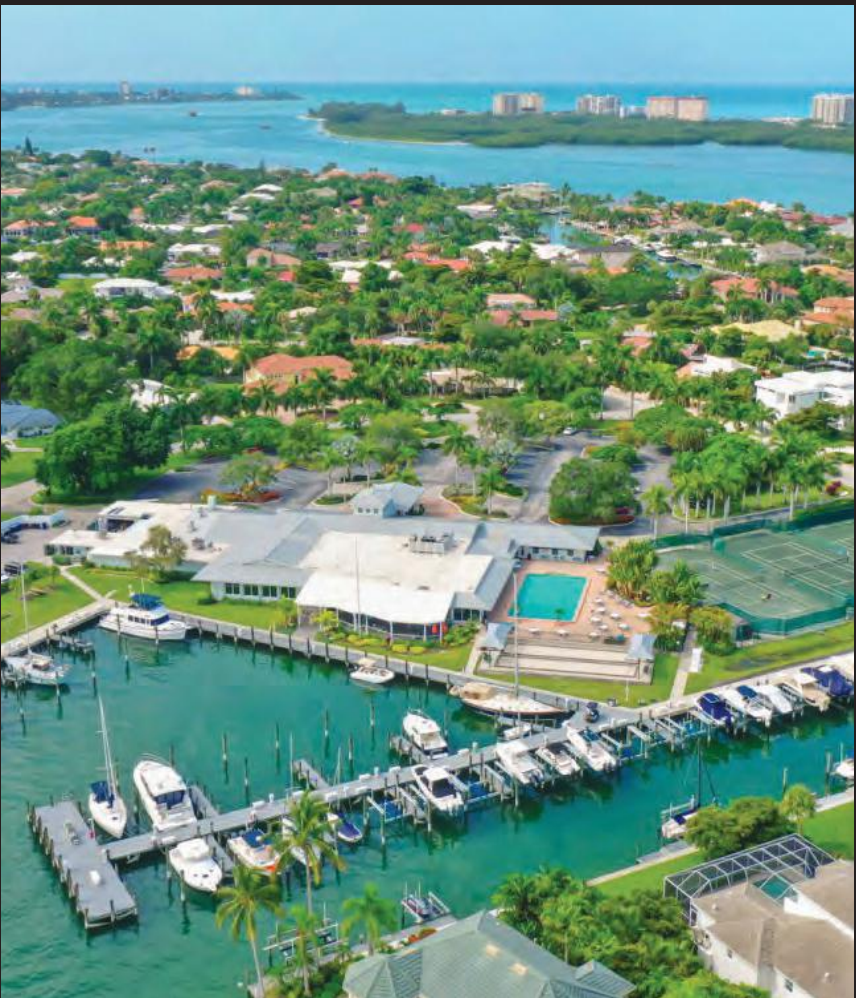
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OnPatrol

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

Sept. 29

Citizen assist

7:37 a.m.
Officer Ramsaier responded to Bayport Way for a call of public service in regards to a water leak in front of the location. Upon arrival, Officer Ramsaier was met by Longboat Key Police. Longboat Key Fire Department arrived and the case was cleared.

Citizen dispute

11:14 p.m.
Officer Swinford was dispatched to Joy Street in reference to two men in the driveway of the residence. Upon arrival, Officer Swinford made contact with the two men in the driveway. The dispute was over one individual being intoxicated and sitting in his vehicle with the other man not wanting him to drive. The keys of the vehicle were eventually handed over so the man would be tempted to drive. The men were separated, case clear.

Sept. 30

Citizen assist

10:06 a.m.
Officer Butler and his supervisor responded to a citizen assist on Buttonwood Drive for a citizen assist. The complainant stated that there is a box floating in the canal near her home. The officer went to the rear of the home and observed a black box in the canal near Longview Drive. Officer Butler was unable to get to get the debris due to it being in the water. There was no Marine Unit available to retrieve them at that time, later the box was retrieved by Public Works. Case clear.

Citizen assist

9:06 p.m.
Sgt. Montfort was dispatched to the 4400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a residential lockout. While en route, Sgt. Montfort attempted to contact the caller to advise law enforcement does not respond to lockouts. The phone number provided returned to CVS on Bay Isles Parkway. Sgt. Montfort then proceeded to the complex where he was greeted by the man who was locked out of his residence. He said he was in the common room and stepped out of the building for a brief period, when he attempted to enter the building, he realized he did not have his key fob nor cellphone to contact a neighbor. Sgt. Montfort assisted the man in contacting an HOA representative who opened the door to the complex. Case clear.

Oct. 1

Citizen assist

4:05 p.m.
Officer Ramsaier responded to Sands Point Road for a call of theft. The complainant stated she had left her phone in the lobby bathroom and when she returned, it was gone. Prior to his arrival, Officer Ramsaier was notified by dispatch the complainant called back and said she had found her phone. Case clear.

Citizen assist

5:27 p.m.
Officer Mathis was dispatched to the 1400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a civil dispute. A man was at the location to clean the pool at an unapproved time and staff requested him to leave the property. Upon his arrival, Officer Mathis met with the man and explained to him that the maintenance department requested that he leave the property and return at the approved time to service the pool. The man then packed his belongings and left the property without further incident. Case clear.



Oct. 3

Noise

7:55 a.m.
Officer Mathis while on patrol at Longboat Drive North, observed construction taking place before 8 a.m. The worker on scene was hammering and throwing items into the site dumpster from the second story of the residence causing construction noise. Officer Mathis parked his vehicle in front of the residence and spoke with the worker regarding the noise disturbance. The worker was unaware of the ordinance and had not been warned prior to the encounter. Officer Mathis informed the worker of the ordinance and the time restrictions he must follow. The worker was given a verbal warning for the incident. Case clear.

Citizen assist

8:28 a.m.
Officer Nazareno was dispatched to Channel Lane for a water leak in a water meter. Public Works confirmed they would check the area for any signs of a leak. Case clear.

Suspicious person

4:42 p.m.
Officer Smith responded to Putter Lane for a suspicious person. The caller said there was a man walking around the property taking pictures. Upon arrival, Officer Smith made contact with the man who was hired to do landscaping. Officer Smith made a check of the man through NCIC/FCIC and the return indicated negative wants and warrants. Officer Smith made contact with the homeowner and explained who the subject was and she said he had permission to be there. Case clear.

Oct. 4

Suspicious vehicle

12:29 a.m.
Officer Miklos while on patrol observed a gold Chevrolet SUV parked in the rear of a closed business. The vehicle had damage throughout the vehicle and the driver's door was unlocked and the window was down. The steering column was intact and no signs of forced entry were observed. Officer Miklos was unable to make contact with the owner. The vehicle was checked through NCIC and did not return stolen. Case clear.

Suspicious person

11:58 p.m.
Officer Butler while on patrol in the 6800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive saw a man sitting on a bench for no apparent reason. Officer Butler initiated a consensual encounter with the man who stated he is currently on vacation and staying at St. Judes Place and was walking to the gym at Whitney Plaza. He said his access to the gym started at midnight and he could not gain access until then so he was waiting on the bench until then. The man was not detained. Case clear.

Oct. 5

Traffic

9:40 a.m.
Sgt. Montfort while on patrol observed a car in the middle of the roadway. The car was unable to start and appeared to be overheating. Sgt. Montfort assisted the motorist with pushing the vehicle off the roadway. The motorist said she would make arrangements to remove the vehicle. Case clear.

Noise

5:34 p.m.
Officer Swinford was dispatched to Binnacle Point Drive in reference to a noise complaint. Upon arrival, Officer Swinford made contact with a few individuals loading up tools into the bed of a work truck. No equipment or loud power tools were being used. Individuals advised they were done for the day and loading up their equipment. Case clear.

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 7

8/21/23.

- Installation of driveway trench drains at the two Milano Homesites (lots 108 and 110).
- Work on perimeter swales at the two Milano Homesites (lots 108 and 110).
- Replacement of damaged driveway trench drain covers at 6840 Longboat Dr S (lot 101).
- Grading maintenance at lot 112 along with ongoing silt fence repairs and repairs to the rock site entry.
- Removal of landscaping debris from drainage features and inlets at lot 105.
- Removal of sediment from the drainage collection grates feeding the outfall (fronting lot 111 /110)
- Communication between myself and the Milano Homes project manager regarding proper installation of end caps and concrete bedding for the driveway trench drains at the two Milano Homesites (lots 108 and 110).

I believe Milano Homes will be seeking certification of their drainage systems from GAP Engineering and from Town Public works in short order, along with completing their final grading and landscaping – which will both reduce truck activity around the swales bordering Longboat Drive South, and will make the swale grading more permanent. The homeowner at lot 108, where the drain was damaged, is also planning to enhance his front swale following the completion of the two Milano Homes.

We have finally experienced more consistent and heavy rainfall, and through the inspection yesterday the drainage system is still performing as designed. We will continue to maintain the drainage features, and all but 1 lot bordering public roads will be completed in the next 6-months (lot 112 will be the last of those currently under construction, with 111 being the last remaining perimeter site).

John Shkor
Longboat Key

The Preserve flooding

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman

We last traded emails March 17 when you assured me that the drainage route along Longboat Drive South would have a flow path to the inlets and that onsite yard drain inlets and retention problems have been corrected.

While I have no current photos of Longboat Drive South, I’m aware that several neighbors have contacted the town regarding flooding and construction problems. I’d like an update on what actions the Town is taking to rectify those problems and, speaking for myself, I’d like to see evidence of that action.

Please take a look at the attached photos taken yesterday afternoon along Hibiscus Way. As you can clearly see, the poorly designed drainage ditch in front of The Preserve’s Lot 103 serves as nothing more than a retention pond and the water is going nowhere. Not only is it an eyesore (as is the entire lot - we have contacted the Town several times about having the

developer clean up the vegetation, discarded rubbish and trash but absolutely nothing has been done about it), it is a huge breeding ground for mosquitos. Why are we being forced to live with this and why is the developer allowed to leave this eyesore?

Likewise, the trench drain that crosses the cul de sac does not drain water runoff and standing water is the norm. It’s obvious that The Preserve’s exterior drainage “system” is not only inadequate but is poorly designed as it does not work and is, again, simply serving as a retention pond, a purpose for which it was not designed.

The corner of Hibiscus Way and Longboat Drive South continues to flood at the slightest hint of rain and still, the Town has done absolutely nothing about it.

Not to beat a dead horse, but we and other neighbors have been talking with you about these problems for literally years now and absolutely nothing is being done about them. Nothing. Zero. Zilch. You give us lip service and say that you and John Shkor are aware of the problem and action is being taking, but no action is being taken and, in fact, when it comes to cleaning up Lot 103, the developer is simply giving the Town the finger regarding the warning that something be done. Why do you allow this to continue?

What will it take to get some actual action taken on these items that should not have been allowed to be created in the first place? It’s clear that The Town is not taking any proactive or retroactive actions and that the developer is simply being allowed to do whatever they want with no regard to The Town or the neighborhood. The developer’s promises that they’re working on solutions are nothing more than hot air. What is more ineffective, The Town’s warnings and ordinances or the Town’s employees?

Michael Riter
Longboat Key

The Preserve flooding

To: Michael Riter

Having visited the roads both after the rains and today, I am actually impressed that the water has drained down well. As you know, Longboat Key, the Village, and particularly Hibiscus and Longboat Drive South are incredibly flat. After rains, it will take time for the runoff to make its way out and also percolate. The lot across the street and the swale cut is temporary until that lot is developed. The trench drain should be addressed and will be forwarded to the developer to make sure it is cleaned and optimized. The developer has been and continues to provide our Planning, Zoning, and Building Office with monthly progress and maintenance updates.

As mentioned before, the roadway (Longboat Drive South) and intersection at Hibiscus is part of our Batch 2 resurfacing. Those funds do not come in until Oct. 1, 2023 at which time we will develop and finalize the scope and bid package for all the roads in that batch. The goal is to improve what we can at the intersection, but again knowing that it is very flat and one corrective action can cause another adverse action, so it is a balancing act.

See Letters, page 15

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Everything You Do Teaches You

Intelligence does not have to be self conscious to be effective. Intelligence is about how information is created and used, often to a purpose.

MATTHEW EDLUND
Guest Columnist
Edlundr@lbknews.com

Every moment of your life is a teaching moment for your body. Except most of that teaching is unconscious.

Which is why you hear more about artificial intelligence than biological intelligence.

But biological intelligence, how your body makes and uses information, is far more powerful and personal. Biological information flows in ways we never think about. It even changes the 40 trillion bacteria in your gut who call your body home.

The human body is a vast ecosystem whose parts, more numerous non-human, are always talking to each other.

That's just a small piece of what we can glean from a recent article by Gretchen Reynolds on exercise and the gut. We know gut bacteria change our immunity. They know they help change our mood. We know they change our weight and our shape.

We also know that exercise changes our heart and our muscles, our immunity and our mood, our liver and our lungs.

Once you get the hang of how biological intelligence works, it comes as no surprise that exercise changes gut bacteria. It happens in ways we may really come to like.



MATTHEW



Muscling Up the Gut

Why should exercise grow new brain cells? Why should it change gut bacteria? Because that's how information flows through biological systems.

In the research described by Reynolds, the effects occur in humans and animals.

In the first series of experiments, germ free gut mice were transplanted bacteria from two sets of older mice – one group exercising, the other sedentary.

The newly populated guts had rather different responses when subjected to toxic chemicals. Less inflammation appeared in the animals seeded by the exercisers.

In the human study, two small groups of sedentary humans, one lean, the other not, were pushed to exercise for six weeks under observed supervision.

After those six weeks of exercise, the groups had rather different bacterial populations. None changed in precisely the same way.

Microbes that produced short chain fatty acids, that appear to tamp inflammation and resist insulin resistance (one way to prevent an increased girth) increased in exercisers. It happened more in the group that started off lean.

The changes were temporary. After not exercising for six weeks, the gut bacterial populations were similar to what they had been twelve weeks before.

Which means different human environment = different gut.

So Exercise Changes My Bacterial Population. Why Should I Care?

1. The changes may be beneficial to your health.
 2. You may look and feel better.
 3. It's another demonstration that the body is always learning.
- This concept often trips people up. We think learning is something you do in school. It involves tests and grades. It's easily measurable.

Unfortunately, this neglects almost everything your body does.

Does your immune system talk to you when it's fighting off the flu virus? Does it get school grades? Is the AI program which tells you which movie you might like self aware? Is the influenza virus, which killed at least 50 million in 1918-1919, that routinely gets past our immune system primed by the best vaccines available, completely, totally, and utterly stupid because it doesn't speak to us?

Intelligence does not have to be self conscious to be effective. Intelligence is about how information is created and used, often to a purpose.

The Intelligence of Exercise

We don't think of exercise as "smart." Oftentimes brawn and brain are seen as competitive, even antithetical.

What a huge mistake.

Exercise is one of the most complicated actions a human body undertakes. Exercise engages all the different organ systems, from brain to immunity. It creates gigantic caches of information that have to be sifted, collated, analyzed and integrated into the information systems that make us smart and keep us alive.

And a lot of that information processing goes on in sleep. Where exercise provokes new brain cells growth. In memory areas.

Which means you get more intelligent while you sleep.

As you do every second of your life. Biological intelligence is always "on" as long as we're biologically functional. It works when we're self conscious and not, when we're awake and asleep, when we're talking and when we're silent. Your body is always learning, always upgrading its information to deal with the constantly changing environment.

Which includes your own environment and ecosystem, the trillions of bacteria and viruses and rickettsia and mycoplasma and fungi and protozoans that inhabit you and live inside you.

Which change you as you change them. What you do is what you become. Every act is a teaching act for the body.

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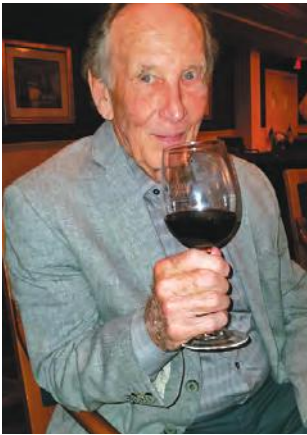
WineTimes

Understanding wine as a Commodity

The notion of wine instead of wine grapes as a commodity runs counter to the tradition of markets for standard agricultural product

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

During his return from France this past summer, Walter Labys, PhD, Master Knight in the French Order of the Vine, and expert in the economics of wine, alerted us to “dumping” of red wine by France. This extreme measure began as an attempt to remedy a 2022-2033 glut in French red wine supply and to help stabilize prices longer term. Reports in the British Broadcast Corporation (BBC) and the Guardian newspaper during the late summer filled in details of a European Union and French allocation of \$216 million to buy red wines and divert them from the market by distilling wine into pure alcohol for use in hand sanitizers, cleaning supplies, and other industrial uses. Labys recalls that the French attempted something similar during the 1970’s. According to Forbes sources, some 400 million bottles, or 7% of 2022 production, will be diverted to prevent a collapse of wine prices. These surpluses appear to be more prevalent in southwestern France in the Bordeaux and Languedoc regions. French agriculture bureaus are looking longer term to switch growers from wine grapes to growing olives or other crops suitable to the terrain. Mechanical grape pickers have increased supplies and changing consumer preferences have reduced demand. Forecasters see a 4% annual increase in wine production and continuing decreases in French consumers’ purchases of wine.



S. W. Hermansen has used his expertise in econometrics, data science and epidemiology to help develop research databases for the Pentagon, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Agriculture, and Health Resources and Services. He has visited premier vineyards and taste wines from major appellations in California, Oregon, New York State, and internationally from Tuscany and the Piedmont in Italy, the Ribera del Duero in Spain, the Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale in Australia, and the Otago Valley in New Zealand. Currently he splits time between residences in Chevy Chase, Maryland and St. Armand’s Circle in Florida.

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

The notion of wine instead of wine grapes as a commodity runs counter to the tradition of markets for standard agricultural products. Wine has characteristics that distinguish it from wheat, cotton, rice, corn, eggs, or other basic commodities. Commodities tend to have only a few grades, say cotton short, medium, long, or extra-long fiber property. Different barrels of wine may differ across many levels of distinct classifications. A Syrah wine, for example, may have a better or worse vintage, when weather during harvest finds grapes green, perfectly ripe, or overly ripe; soil and drainage that concentrates flavors in grapes or leaves them watery; a winemaker with a deft or ham handed touch; and, adequate aging in the barrel or bottle with no loss of quality. The ancients valued wine for its resistance to spoilage. Premier wines may age gracefully and improve with more years in the barrel or bottle. A vineyard may take wine grapes through all of the steps in winemaking, only to find that the market price has fallen below what the vineyard needs to pay its bills.

The fact that France diverts wine to alternative uses tells us that French vineyards that grow red grapes in Bordeaux and the Languedoc have a long-term problem. Forget the market for premier Bordeaux. The market for commonplace red wines bears little resemblance to the market for premier wines. The decline in wine consumption within France mirrors similar decline worldwide. This graph (courtesy of the American Association of Wine Economists (AAWE)) shows that white and especially rosé consumption in France has caught up with red wine consumption after many years of declines in red wine consumption.

The French appear to be losing a big part of the market for varietal wines. Even though the classic French red Bordeaux consists primarily of Cabernet Sauvignon (Left Bank), or Merlot or Cabernet Franc (Right Bank), wine drinkers worldwide usually specify a preference for a varietal. California Cabernet Sauvignon, Spanish Tempranillo, Australian Shiraz/Syrah, Italian Sangiovese, or Argentine Malbec have better name recognition than French red blends. The ranking of varietals in this graph shows that the popularity of some varietals has either increased or decreased only modestly from 2006 to 2016.

We admire the French Cuvée (blends). Asking for them in a wine shop or describing them on a menu seems more difficult than naming a varietal. French winemakers take note: Few wine buyers outside France, and perhaps many within France, know that a Napa Cab and a Bordeaux often have the same proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon. More critical to your quest to buy a great red wine, compare a Left Bank (Médoc, Graves, and gravelly areas within Côtes de Bourg and Blaye) Bordeaux to a California Cab. Let your tasting dictate your choice.

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 11

With the westerly winds of late, the tide levels of late, and the rains we have received, the system worked pretty well, roadsides drained down pretty well, and the developer has done what we have asked him.

Isaac Brownman
Director Public Works
Town of Longboat Key

The Preserve Subdivision: Mayor inquiry

To: Longboat Key Commission

This message is in response to the Mayor’s note on Tuesday that Mrs. Kimberly Ross asked him for an update regarding the Preserve Subdivision drainage. The attached was sent back in June to her husband, Mr. Michael Riter, and I believe it is still relevant. Regarding the roadway, it was in not great shape before construction, and it is naturally in worse condition now over time and as construction has ensued for about 5-years now. As noted in the attached, Public Works is looking at road resurfacing in that area. We may add some elevation to the road(s) by capping instead of milling (possibly) if it makes sense to do so and get some better positive flow direction in the short-term.

In addition, the area where the Preserve is has been identified in the early part of the Village drainage re-analysis as a lower, flatter area of the Village, though, not as low as Russell and Bayside Drive. As that study progresses, we will be getting area recommendations for future resilience projects, like road raising and drainage improvements as well. Kimley-Horn is working on that, similar to Buttonwood and Sleepy Lagoon.

I copied Allen because his department has also been getting regular updates from the developer on work he has done to maintain the system.

Isaac Brownman
Director Public Works
Town of Longboat Key

Residential Rental Registry Program Update

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Sharing an update on the Commission’s recently adopted Residential Rental Registry Program (Ord. 2022-13, adopted March 6th). As a reminder, the Program became effective on October 1st. This Registry is for any Residentially Zoned Property that rents for less than 6 months. Owners or vacation management companies will now, along with applying for a Business Tax Receipt (BTR), need to register their rental with the Town and meet the various requirements including having a life/safety inspection and including proof of Certification in all future advertising. Just like BTR’s, it’s easy to register online or in-person at Town Hall. Once registered, the Rental Certificate will be valid for two (2) years.

Some key highlights of the Registry:

- Enhanced Rental Safety Inspection.
- Emergency contacts; important information; and other

Town Code material required to be posted within the rental.

Contact information of the owner or a responsible party to respond to violations.

All advertisements (VRBO, Airbnb, etc.) must include the Rental Certificate Number.

Emergency communications provided to the renter.

Below are some the outreach and activities associated with implementing the Program.

To date we have received 685 RRR Applications and completed 200 inspections.

At this time, we have been able to keep up with the incoming RRR applications and are scheduling inspections accordingly. We are preparing for a proactive approach of contacting owners to schedule the inspections as well.

Held two well-attended workshops (Mar. 22nd and April 27th via Zoom) for the public to learn more about the Program.

Social Media and Town Website Notices.

Sent eBlast to all current holders of Rental Business Tax Receipts (BTRs) of the Workshop Notice & Program Overview document.

Sent Program Overview document to the Community Stakeholders List.

Overview article in the Observer. Follow-up article pending.

Notice of Program included in Utility Bills.

Notice of Program sent as part of BTR renewal notices.

Developed a brochure to be included in Town Brochure racks.

Have met multiple individuals and vacation rental companies to go over the Program.

Responding to ongoing inquiries about the Program.

Big thanks to Code Enforcement Officers Bryan Wisnom & David Woods for helping make all of these happen!

Allen Parsons
Director Planning, Zoning & Building Department
Town of Longboat Key

Residential Rental Registry Program Update

To: Longboat Key Commission

Below is an update on the rental registry program. This really has been a team effort with Bryan and David as well as Trish and her team. In an effort to get Code Enforcement out more for inspections, we’re looking to get some temporary assistance to help with the paperwork side.

Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Veteran’s Day Update

To: Longboat Key Commission

As part of our celebration planning for November 11th, and in recognition for our Veterans, we are working with our philanthropic community in an effort to raise funds for a veteran focused non-profit. That agency has not been identified yet, but we’re working with the Sarasota Veteran Services Office to see what they might recommend.

The idea is that while we’re recognizing our Veterans for their service and sacrifice, that on this special celebratory occasion, the LBK community will go the extra step and provide a one-time monetary donation to help provide the services and support they need and deserve. The Longboat Key Foundation will be the financial clearing house and a check will be presented to the non-profit at the ribbon cutting event.

We are so blessed to live in this great country and we know that the freedoms we enjoy weren’t free. They were paid for by the service and sacrifice of the men and women of our armed forces (including a fair number of our own Town employees) and this is in our own small way the opportunity to say we have not forgotten you. It will be fun to see what we together can do for this cause. If you have any questions or would like to participate, please feel free to give me a call.

Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Veteran’s Day Update

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

This is a great effort that many in the community will want to support. I just visited the Longboat Key Foundation website and see that it hasn’t been updated since the covid era. I also couldn’t find a way to donate online, which I’m sure many would find convenient to donate to the Veteran’s Day fundraiser. Do you have a contact for the foundation that I could reach out to?

Debra Williams

Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Documentation regarding conflict of interest - Recusal

To: Sarasota City Commission

I am attaching the documents I shared during the City Commission meeting yesterday, agenda item XII.4.

As I touched on last night, I have been advocating, speaking and writing about local planning issues for 15 years. In that time, I have heard the same statement about meeting with interested parties (like members of the public) prior to a planning hearing. This message has been repeated by City officials, County officials, City Commissioners, County Commissioners, City Planning Board members, and County Planning Commissioners. The message to the public over the years is that when an issue would be coming in front of one of the City or County Planning Advisory Boards, or the City or County Commission, the quasi-judicial nature of the proceedings preclude meeting or communicating with members of the public or the private parties involved. The clear message has been that ex parte communication would compromise the legality and fairness of the process.

The communications attached, which are part of the documents filed with the Clerk of the Court in the One Park/Quay litigation, make it clear that City Commissioner Arroyo is communicating with one of the developers involved in that project. The communications also indicate that a planning board member is communicating with the City Manager on behalf of the same developer. These communications strongly suggest a familiarity between the developer and the officials, and advocacy on the part of the officials in support of the developer.

Based on 1) these documents, 2) the activities and contributions received by Commissioner Arroyo’s foundation, the Sarasota City Foundation, 3) the longstanding, repeated statements from City and County officials about ex parte communication regarding quasi judicial proceedings, there is an important contradiction between what the public is told and what the attached documents say. These documents (are there others?) suggest one or more City officials have been successfully enlisted as advocates by the developer. It appears necessary for Commissioner Arroyo and any other City Commissioners or Planning Commissioners (see attached) who are facilitating City processes and hearings for one of the developers to recuse themselves from any voting and/or hearings regarding the One Park project. I hope to hear from Mr. Fournier regarding this concern.

I am requesting any additional public records which contain communications between City officials (commissioners, planning board members) and the developers of the One Park project. I appreciate your assistance with this request Ms. Griggs.

I look forward to the Quay being fully developed in a manner that respects all parties involved - the developers, the residents, City officials and staff. Ethical guidelines and obligations exist to ensure optimal outcomes which serve the public interest. As you can see from today’s headline in the Herald Tribune, we are living in a time when the importance of ethical boundaries is being ignored. We need a course correction.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter. I look forward to your follow up.

Cathy Antunes
Sarasota

St. Armands Circle plants

To: Sarasota City Commission

The hurricane has unfortunately killed all of the plants on St Armands Circle. I’ve attached photos of them so you can see how abysmal it looks.

St Armands Circle is a gem to the city of Sarasota and season is around the corner, let’s honor the beauty that it deserves and replace these plants. As of now, the circle is mostly dead brown plants.

I understand that portions of the circle’s landscaping is the responsibility of the land owner however this was a natural disaster and getting all owners on the same page would be like herding cats and the plants wouldn’t be replaced in time for this season. Please do the right thing and replace these plants ASAP. Sarasota’s image is waiting for you to save the season!

Mikael Sandstrom
Sarasota

Longboat Key News

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