



Longboat Key News

April 7, 2023 *Serving Longboat Key, St. Armands, Downtown Sarasota & Anna Maria Island* FREE

InsideLook

St. Armands meeting turns feisty

“We should meet and work these issues out and not have all our battles in public.” — Chris Goglia
“I am not going to let my name be slandered. He is a liar; he’s lying in front of you.” — Tom Leonard
“So now I’m defined by my husband’s career?” — Rachel Burns

STEVE REID
Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

St. Armands Circle is home to tony restaurants, evening music and

peaceful strolling to not only burn calories but hopefully spend money at the numerous merchants ringing the shopping mecca. But another side of the Circle, the deep contro-

versies that have plagued the organizations governing both its operation and future, came to blows yet again at a City Commission last week.

The meeting was held for two reasons: the first for the commission to consider three applicants for two open seats in the business

See The Circle, page 12

*Perfecting wine’s presentation
...page 13*

*Longboater reviews his EV
...page 6*

*\$5.55 million
St. Armands sale
...page 7*



*Garage door open too long
...page 10*

Easter Kiss Bliss



Mocha expresses some Easter Joy for Doodle.

Rhinelander leads with \$40 million in sales

Realtor Jeff Rhinelander has had a dizzying first quarter. The Coldwell Banker agent leads sales among all fellow Coldwell agents with nearly \$40 million in closed sales so far in 2023.

His Broker, Ellen O’Day, runs the Longboat Key and St. Armands Coldwell Banker offices and oversees many of the top agents in both the region and nation when it comes to sale volume.



RHINELANDER

“Jeff has really grown in last 4 years. He owns Bird Key (business-wise) and is doing extremely well. His background in constructions and his knowledge of Bird key is extensive,” said O’Day.

Jeff credits some of this year’s success to date to one Bird Key transaction in which he was able to effectively sell a property that simply was not getting a reasonable

See Rhinelander, page 2

Seaside guests help rescue owner’s operation

For the last several weeks, there has been a five-foot high sand cliff carved by a storm tide along many stretches on Longboat Key’s Gulf beaches.

BLAKE FLEETWOOD
Guest Writer
news@lbknews.com

The SandRaker tractor was in trouble. Gus Vecca’s new business was about to go sideways. For the last several weeks, there has been a five-foot high sand cliff carved by a storm tide along many stretches on Longboat Key’s Gulf beaches. Last Monday, The SandRacker had driven a bit too close and the edge collapsed under one of its front wheels. The tractor dangled over the sand ledge and was about to topple over on its side. Gus Vecca didn’t know what to do. He couldn’t go backwards, the huge tractor wheels were just spinning in the sand, and he couldn’t go forward or he would overturn, possibly getting crushed under the big machine.

If Gus couldn’t extricate his heavy machine, his new venture would be in jeopardy, and the pristine white sand beaches that Longboat Key is known for would be littered with the detritus of the prime Easter break season and mounds of sea week. A disaster. Neither the Town nor the County normally rake in front of private beaches.

Fortunately, several guests at the Diplomat Beach Resort left into action



to respond to the emergency. Chris Boyer, one of the heroes, was reading a book up the beach and saw Gus shoveling and trying to create a ramp and noticed that Gus was getting tired in the hot sun. So Chris picked up a shovel and started pitching in. Chris is a retired
See Recovery, page 2

NewsWorthy

Rhineland, from page 1

offer. He repackaged the property and listing with building plans that opened the possibilities of the location. The owner revived multiple offers.

“It takes more than simply listing a property on the MLS. In this case, I was able to put some of my development background into the project and it made the difference,” said Rhineland.

Jeff lives on Bird Key with his wife, Jackie, tennis director of the Bird Key Yacht Club, and their son, Ashton.

Recovery, from page 1

police officer from Louisville, Kentucky and now runs a nationwide internet startup providing gigs for other former cops.

Chris had been a guest at the Diplomat for more than 30 years. With the help of other resort guests, Gus and Chris started to construct a ramp out of the sand so the tractor could drive down off the ledge evenly, but it was a touch and go proposition.

In the meantime, Gus was nervous and called a friend, former owner Tom Proffitt, 64, who had been raking the sand in front of the Diplomat for ten years. Proffitt started the business in 2010. At that time he was staying at the old Hilton, (now torn down and resurrected as The Zota). Tom didn’t smoke and was disgusted by all the cigarette butts on the beach. He asked the manager what the hotel did about it and was told that they sometimes sent out cabana boys to pick the butts and other detritus.

Tom said, “I can help you with that.” In the Navy, Tom had been stationed at Virginia Beach and knew about the sandrakers down there. So Tom went out and bought a tractor and, with the help of his wife Cynthia, a business was born. The Hilton hotel was his first client.

They grew their business to eventually include about 50 plus beachfront homes, hotels and condominium resorts from Englewood to St. Pete’s beach.

When asked if he sees any difference in beaches due to climate change in the last 14 years, Tom says: “The tides have changed a lot. That big six foot ledge would never have grown up when I started. The tides are bigger, the storms are fiercer. There are more weeds in the water.”

“Turtle season used to start on May 1st, now with the warmer waters, in some places it starts on April 15th.”

Gus was flummoxed by the situation. After all, as a new owner, he was still in training, and when Tom showed up he was clearly relieved.

Tom, with an experienced eye, looked at the makeshift ramp that Gus and the guests had carved out, jumped in the green tractor, and fired her up.

Tom tried to back up, but it wouldn’t go. The big wheels were just spinning. By now a crowd had gathered and most were sure that the rig would soon be on its side.

But Tom never had any doubts and said to himself, “I can do this.” Then, he proceeded to drive slowly down off the ledge.

Tom, 64, now lives in Englewood and now plans to take it easy on his boat.

A Longboat Key Landmark

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MOVE IN FALL 2023
LIDO SHORES • 1212 CENTER PLACE **\$5,699,000**
Currently under construction. Spectacular location, steps to private beach and St. Armands Circle. This desirable, custom residence offers an open, bright, and airy floor plan with 5BR/5BA. Impressive 23-ft. ceiling in great room. Fantastic outdoor area w/custom pool, spa, kitchen and lanai.



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



PENDING SALE
LONGBOAT KEY • 455 LONGBOAT CLUB RD #603 **\$2,345,000**
The Pierre - Gulf to bay, city views from this 3BR/2BA, 2,470 SF residence behind the gates of the Longboat Key Club. Balcony access from every room. 24-Hour concierge. Guest suites, fitness area, club room, tennis, pool, and more.



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SIESTA KEY • HIGEL AVE. **\$16,995,000**
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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.

Tale of Two Shorelines

To the editor:

Please allow me to offer my \$.02 to a \$1,200,000.00 issue. To wit: A decade ago, while a resident of Boca Grande, I was seated on an airliner next to a very bright woman who described herself a “beachfront engineer.”

She proudly claimed that her firm could extend beach renourishment by two or three times.

Her secret was in the sand. Most renourishment sands were then of a “pebble” variety, which rolled away easily. She recommended a “snowflake” variety which bonded famously.

I trust that Coastal Dredging Company's \$1.2m bid of "Green Island spit" or "Canal 1A" is snowflake and not merely the pebble variety?

John Ehlert, Sarasota

Gulfside Beach Access Sign

To: Longboat Key Commission

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

Howard N. Tipton

Town Manager

Town of Longboat Key

Gulfside Beach Access Sign

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

As a new commissioner, I am unfamiliar with the community outreach that precipitated the impetus for the location and messaging conveyed by this sign. As you are likely aware, the regular beach walkers who were unhappy to lose the access previously afforded them to traverse the Ohana sea wall property are even more unhappy to see the Town of Longboat Key join the movement to further impede beach access in the placement of this sign. As beach erosion negatively impacts the recreational use of this public amenity, I believe the Town of Longboat Key should consider adopting proactive beach access policies which first seek to identify the feasibility of any access workarounds prior to installing restrictive signage. Was consideration given to installing roping and/or pathway markings to encourage foot traffic around the private property prior to installing this sign?

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

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

Debbie Murphy

Commissioner

Longboat Key

Gulfside Beach Access Sign

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debbie Murphy

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

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

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

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

Staff has previously, at prior Commission direction, researched other possible private access points or other workarounds, negotiated preliminary settlements and to my knowledge nothing was changed as there were no affordable options. I've attached two documents that provide some general background on how this was reviewed. I understand that at least one of the area property owners shared that whatever the Town did for Ohana that they would want provided too.

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

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

Overall, there is no good affordable solution to this erosion issue from the briefings I've received and the material I've read and prior Commission discussions. The sand is at its worst right now but will get slightly better during the summer as some of the material is naturally returned. We are scheduled to put a small amount of sand in that area in the next couple of

See Letters, page 8

GULF VIEWS

JUST LISTED

2109 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #1203
LONGBOAT KEY, FL
2BR/2BA | 1,463 SF | FURNISHED
\$1,300,000

LUXURY PENTHOUSE

JUST LISTED

2101 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #2504
LONGBOAT KEY, FL
2BR/2BA | 1,358 SF | UPDATED
\$1,599,900

CASEY KEY WATERFRONT

105 CASEY KEY RD., #34
NOKOMIS, FL
3BR/2BA | 1,170 SF | ASSIGNED BOAT SLIP
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3606 FAIR OAKS PLACE
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Front view

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GuestOpinion

Observations on Electric Vehicles by a Longboat EV owner

I have owned a new Mustang Mach E for 7 months and find that it fits into my full-time Longboat Key lifestyle perfectly.

GREG FIORE
Guest Writer
guest@lbknews.com

I have owned a new Mustang Mach E for 7 months and find that it fits into my full-time Longboat Key lifestyle perfectly. When the car is fully charged it has a range of 280 miles, which is more than any round trip that I normally drive during the year. The car has only been charged in my carport and is fully charged in 5 hours. I park the car in the carport, get out, plug the charging cable in, and am inside the house in less than a minute. I usually charge the car once a week.

The Mach E comes with a portable charging cable that can be carried in the car or hung close to your car's charging connector on the wall. It looks like an extension cord with a car plug on one end and a 110v or 220v plug on the other end. The 220v plug connects to a standard 220v receptacle exactly like an electric clothes dryer plug. Nothing special.

Measuring electric usage is easy. The car stores all trip mileage, KWH usage and charging dates and times, so calculating miles per kilowatt hour and total electric costs are easy. FPL charges \$.13 / KWH and the car goes about 5 miles / KWH which calculates to \$2.60 per 100 miles. FPL rates are lowest after 9 pm and before 7 am, and all day on weekends, so the car gets plugged in when I go to bed and it automatically stops charging when fully charged.

Charging the car fully at a high current charging station will cost \$7.50, take 30 minutes and give a range of 280 miles. Charging stations can be found on the car's display or a cell phone, and are shown by location, mileage away, how many stations, and how many are available. There are many on LBK and Anna Marie Island.

The car is driven about 500 miles per month, which is typical for the retired people I know living on LBK. The car has increased my all-electric house bill by less than 15%.

Based on this, I believe that the threat to Florida's generation capacity from electric cars is small compared to the number of new, all-electric homes that are being built across the state.

The performance of the car is scary! My Mach E is a single-motor, small battery pack model, but it has kept up with a new Corvette from 30 mph to 80mph. Passing acceleration from 30 mph to 60 mph is more than most people will need.

Battery failure is covered by a warranty for 100k miles or 10 years. EV cars use Lithium-ion batteries, like many small power tools. Lithium is primarily mined in Australia and Bolivia, with a small amount from the U.S. Almost all of the EV Batteries are manufactured overseas and come from a Chinese company. The US currently produces only 1% of global lithium production — about 1,000 tonnes of lithium content. This currently comes from a single-brine operation: Albemarle's Silver Peak site in Nevada. The US theoretically has enough lithium in the ground to meet the growing demand. (Quoted as of May 18, 2022).

Multiple companies throughout North America are already in the business of reusing or recycling batteries, and many of these have partnered with car companies to aid in the recycling of their electric vehicle batteries. Much of our current petroleum, like the batteries, comes from overseas.

How does this compare to the 20 gallons of motor oil used and changed throughout the life of a Gas car?

Overall, Electric Vehicles are energy efficient. In Florida, Nuclear, Natural Gas, Solar, and



Oil are piped or shipped to Electric Plants where Electricity is made and very efficiently sent to your house by wire with small losses. Gas vehicles require gasoline which must be highly refined, and pumped through pipes to Storage tanks across the country, these tanks fill trucks which deliver the gas to the service stations where it is pumped into underground tanks. Finally, the gas must be pumped into our cars.

Maintenance requirements on the Mach E are similar to a gas car. The A.C. Brakes, Power Steering, Coolant system, etc. are checked. However there is no oil or oil filter replacement required and you don't have to worry about anyone stealing your Catalytic Converter! New York City found that EV maintenance costs for their fleet cars were lower than equivalent usage gas cars.

Is it wise to buy an EV? No one can read the future of EVs, but General Motors, one of the largest automotive companies in the world, has been doing it successfully for a century. The company depends on accurate forecasting to prepare new tooling and marketing strategies to remain profitable.

In 2023 and 2024 they will be offering an EV version for almost every model they make, including their trucks.

And by the way, for those few days here in Florida, when we need our car heater, the EVs don't need to wait for the engine to warm up to blow hot air!



Town of Longboat Key

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS

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

Citizens Tax Oversight Committee

Consolidated Retirement System

Board of Trustees

Planning and Zoning Board

Zoning Board of Adjustment

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

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

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

Town of Longboat Key – Office of the Town Clerk

501 Bay Isles Road

Longboat Key FL 34228

Stephanie Janney, Administrative Assistant

Published: 04-07-2023, 04-14-2023

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6750 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#174	1,377	\$750,000	2	2	0	4	\$750,000
7135 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#22	1,170	\$950,000	2	2	0	55	\$900,000
948 SPANISH DR S	1,399	\$1,000,000	2	2	0	0	\$1,000,000
3414 FAIR OAKS LN	3,724	\$1,899,000	4	4	0	39	\$1,865,000
2410 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#142	3,363	\$2,195,000	3	3	1	32	\$2,100,000
3503 FAIR OAKS CT	3,461	\$2,495,000	4	4	1	14	\$2,400,000
2110 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#205SEA	1,009	\$550,000	1	2	0		\$535,000
101 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#91	1,363	\$1,495,000	2	2	0		\$1,460,000
1 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#83	1,389	\$1,600,000	2	2	0		\$1,575,000
211 TREMONT LN	4,326	\$5,840,000	4	5	1		\$5,550,000



211 TREMONT LN



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BIRD KEY
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SIESTA KEY
651 AVENIDA DEL NORTE
ACTIVE LISTING \$2,595,000



LAKEWOOD RANCH
5527 PALMER CIRCLE, #206
ACITVE LISTING \$515,000



BIRD KEY
449 E ROYAL FLAMINGO DRIVE
SOLD \$5,600,000



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



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



FOX TRACE
2547 FIREFLAG LANE
PENDING \$520,000



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

EditorLetters

Letters, from page 4

years, however it will not make much of a long term difference as the erosion in that area is high. The next full nourishment I believe is in 2028/2029.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

FDOT/MPO discussion update

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Issac Brownman
Thanks for follow-up. A few more questions.
1. Country Club Shores Turn Lane. Did FDOT confirm that they want us to manage the construction? If so will that be an issue? When will we work the right of way issue with Longboat Key Resort? After the Governor approves the budget when would we target start of construction?
2. Please get more details on the design of the Bradenton Beach Complete streets and more importantly Gulf Drive/ Cortez Road Roundabout. As you remember the BITS island traffic study highlighted the importance of the traffic light and right turn lane at this intersection but we did not get any support for making it a high priority item. Also any work on SR780 north of the Longboat Pass bridge needs to include a better way to merge traffic off the beaches. Improvements

in both these areas could help reduce our back-up on the northland of LBK. Tip, once we review these detail please coordinate with us the best way to proceed with the FDOT and Manatee County Commission.
3. You mentioned FDOT is reviewing the feasibility cost and evaluating it. Is this part of the Complete Streets capital plan or a maintenance replacement?
Mike Haycock
Vice Mayor
Longboat Key

Live aboards

To: Sarasota Bay Estuary Executive Director Dave Tomasko
It has been suggested again that the fluctuations at the LBK boat ramp might result from improper disposal by the live-aboards. Do you concur, and do you have any suggestions on how to address that problem?
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Longboat Key

Live aboards

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
That could be true. But it could be that those values are

also due to decomposing seaweed and/or seagrass blades (decomposing vegetation can test positive as “fecal indicator bacteria”).
Two ways to test that: 1) simultaneously collect samples within the mooring field and on the shoreline – values should be higher as you get closer to a source, and 2) do more sophisticated microbial source tracking efforts – test for specific DNA markers that conclude that the bacteria are in fact from humans. Perhaps both together?
You’re not alone in not knowing where bacteria come from, and as someone who has lived on boats, I know that some folks do empty their holding tanks overboard at night (not me, of course!). But I also know that you can get “Fecal” bacteria from decomposing St. Augustine grass blown down into a storm drain!
We can work with the town to develop a study to specifically test that out, if you’d like that. We don’t have the budget to do that right now, but we can certainly help figure out how that could be done, and can help with sampling and choosing labs that can do these tests.
Dave Tomasko
Executive Director
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

Live aboards

To: Sarasota Bay Estuary Executive Director Dave Tomasko
Thanks for your prompt and comprehensive response. We would never turn down an opportunity to work with your group.
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Longboat Key

Live aboards

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
Let us know how we can best help out. From my prior experience, you might want to run three to five samples, twice, with molecular source tracking techniques thrown in there. Cost might run a couple of thousand dollars to do it with the best scientific approaches – but we can help with data collection and identifying the labs to use (one in Miami is excellent – I’ve used them many times in the private sector).
Your results could really help you figure out what needs to be done to reduce those values – if anything. Big difference between management approaches if you find humans as a source out by the mooring field, but not by the boat ramp, vs. an impact in both areas, vs. non-detect of human sources in both areas. But can’t act appropriately if you don’t know what to act on.
Dave Tomasko
Executive Director
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

Live aboards

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
I gave a talk to the LBK Rotary Club last night, and decided to look at the area of the boat ramp myself before the meeting. While there, I took the attached pictures.
The first photo shows the proximity of a stormwater drain to the ramp. That drain collects road runoff, pollen, etc. and discharges it out directly into the bay, as shown in the second photo. The boat ramp itself has a layer of decomposing “Lyngbya” type algae, as seen in the third photo. That algae layer is not confined to the boat ramp itself, but extends along the shoreline quite a bit, as shown in the fourth photo, which shows the algae layer on the beach by Mar Vista.
Right now, I think that it is more likely that the elevated (but not really high) bacteria levels at that site by the boat ramp are more likely to be caused by decomposing seaweed (like the Lyngbya) than from the mooring field. Could be wrong, but we know that decomposing seaweed, seagrass and grass clippings can give rise to elevated levels of “fecal” indicator bacteria, and what I saw makes me think that is a more
See Letters, page 9

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EditorLetters

Letters, from page 8

likely source.

What I think we could do here is to perhaps try and reduce the influence of that stormdrain – how it loads nutrients into the bay. It could be a local source of stormwater pollutant loads that could be reduced. Also, it could be worthwhile doing something about the fact that stormwater runoff from the street can directly enter the bay via the boat ramp.

If we could re-route some of the runoff coming down the boat ramp into a system that could do a better job removing nutrients, and put in a baffle box or similar at the one stormdrain, I think we could reduce the local stormwater loads to that area, and I think it would also help to reduce bacteria levels.

You'd need a skilled a creative stormwater engineer to help figure out what to do, but these are the sort of “local hot spots” that we can and should act on, in my opinion.

Dave Tomasko
Executive Director
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

Where is the music?

To: Longboat Key Support Services Director Carolyn Brown
I told Tip I was accosted as soon as I walked into church Sunday morning by several people who were not happy that the band that they had purchased tickets for did not perform Saturday. I understand none of you knew either. Did Gayle or anyone at the Chamber know? Who at the Chamber is putting these events together? Is anyone from Town staff on the Chamber Board?
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Longboat Key

Where is the music?

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
Here is what I know about the change of the band on Saturday night:
It is true that nobody on the Event Committee knew that there was a change in the band. Christine who works at the Chamber did not know either. A committee member (who is a volunteer) introduced the band and it was at that time that the main singer said they were the Barker Project not the Shantel Norman Band. Several of these entertainers are actually members of the Shantel Norman Band. I was told an email was sent by Shantel to Gail informing her of the change, but nobody knew.
Gail has been out on leave. The volunteer Events Committee have been working the concerts and keeping them going.

There is not a Town Staff member on the Chamber Board. I am a member of the Events Committee. Please let me know if you have any further questions.
Carolyn Brown
Support Services Director
Town of Longboat Key

Chamber has some things to deal with...

To: Longboat Key Support Services Director Carolyn Brown
Thanks Carolyn. Think the Chamber has some things to deal with.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Longboat Key

St. Regis Contribution

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Little historical context- I asked Chuck what they planned on doing without tennis courts at the former Colony tennis resort and the pressure that would put on tennis center and he committed the \$200k.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Longboat Key

St. Regis Contribution

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
Follow up to your question on a previous financial commitment from St. Regis. They have apparently committed to a \$200k contribution to the Town that is due prior to Certificate of Occupancy (estimated June of 2024) and would go to improvements to public recreation facilities). We will plan for a project with those funds in FY2024/25.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

FDOT/MPO discussion update

To: Longboat Key Vice Mayor Mike Haycock
As a follow up to the meeting with you, Mr. Howard Tipton, and myself on Friday March 31st, I spoke to Mrs. Melissa Slater, P.E., Program Management Administrator with FDOT
See Letters, page 11



NEW LISTINGS

 <p>1350 Main St., #803 LIST PRICE \$950,000</p>	 <p>3449 Byron Lane LIST PRICE \$1,099,000</p>	 <p>7007 9th Ave NW LIST PRICE \$735,000</p>
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CURRENT PENDINGS

 <p>315 Jackson Drive LIST PRICE \$2,000,000</p>	 <p>5737 Ithaca Way LIST PRICE \$489,900</p>	 <p>415 L'Ambiance #C503 LIST PRICE \$3,450,000</p>	 <p>2586 Prospect Street LIST PRICE \$1,700,000</p>	 <p>2576 Prospect Street LIST PRICE \$1,475,000</p>
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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.

March 31 Damage to property

3:00 p.m.
Officer Tillman responded to the 4200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a property damage call. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the complainant who stated that he was having a kayak delivered when they reportedly backed into the building upon leaving the parking area. Damage to the tile roof approximately 10 feet high that covered the carport in the front was noticed as damaged. The complainant wanted the incident documented for future reference. The witness was not available for comment at the time of the report. Civil issue. Case clear.

Noise

7:27 p.m.
Officer Smith responded to Emerald Harbour Drive for a noise complaint. The complainant stated that there was a generator running from a boat and it was described as construction noise. Upon arrival, Officer Smith checked the area behind the residence which was under construction. No one was in the area. Officer Smith located a generator on the dock, but it was not running. Case clear.

April 1 Citizen dispute

12:06 p.m.
Officer Martinez was dispatched to the 6700 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in regard to a citizen dispute. Upon arrival, Officer Martinez made contact with the complainant and he stated that he observed a woman wearing a pink long sleeve and white bikini bottom remove a lounge chair from the beach next to the address and dragged the chair up to Whitney Beach. The complainant stated that the chair belonged to the homeowner's association and were not to be used by non-residences of the property. Officer Martinez asked the complainant if there was a property manager on site so he could verify the chair belonged to the property, to which the complainant notified the officer there is no office within the property. The complainant advised that the chair was blue and white without identifiable markings on it. Officer Martinez searched the immediate area on Whitney Beach and could not locate the woman described with the chair. Case clear.

Boating citation

12:25 p.m.
Officer Connors while on marine patrol in the area of Jewfish Key, observed a boat operating with no number nor registration sticker on the port side of the vessel. Officer Connors conducted a vessel stop and advised the operator of the violation. The operator advised that his vessel had just been given a safety check from the Coast Guard Axillary prior to departing to the 10th Street boat ramp. Officer Connors also conducted a safety check in which the operator was unable to produce the required type IV throwable device and was missing three personal floatation devices, life jackets, for all the parties on board. Officer Connors issued a citation for required safety equipment. Case clear.

Dog in car

4:19 p.m.
Officer Tillman responded to Evergreen Way for a dog in a vehicle not running. Upon arriv-



al, Officer Tillman spoke with the owner of the dog who stated that he was inside for a brief moment and left the windows down for the dog. The dog appeared to be in good health. Case clear.

April 2 Citizen assist

8:09 a.m.
Officer Tillman responded to Sutton Place for a reported water leak. Officers arrived on scene and met with the maintenance of the condominium association. They advised they were fixing the problem and had the water turned off to the building. Case clear.

April 3 Suspicious person

4:35 a.m.
Officer Montfort while on patrol observed a suspicious man in disheveled clothes in the area of the 4300 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Sgt. Smith and Officer Montfort made contact with the man who said he was a transient traveler attempting to make it to the City of Sarasota. The man then stated he has been walking since last year from Vermont to his final destination of Boca Raton. The man stated he did not need any assistance but only a ride to Sarasota. The man stated that he could use some new clothing and Officer Montfort contacted the Salvation Army of Sarasota for assistance. Members of the Salvation Army agreed to provide assistance to the man and he was provided a courtesy transport without incident. Case clear.

Citizen assist

9:28 a.m.
Officer Nazareno responded to Longview Drive for a citizen assist call regarding construction vehicles blocking the path of a Waste Management truck. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno made contact with the site manager for the construction company and immediately had all vehicles moved upon request. Concrete was being poured from the mixer truck which delayed the movement of the vehicles. The Waste Management truck was able to maneuver and collect trash without further incident. The site manager was also advised to tell all employees to make sure that there is always room for emergency vehicles and through traffic. Case clear.

April 4 Suspicious incident

7:42 a.m.
Officer Nazareno responded to North Shore Road for a suspicious incident call regarding a garage door that had been left opened for multiple days. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno made contact with the caller who advised that the house is a rental and no one was scheduled to be in there currently. Patrol units cleared the interior and found the rooms undisturbed. No signs of attempted forced entry or anything suspicious was observed. Case clear.

Noise

7:57 a.m.
Officer Smith while on patrol in the area of Bayside Drive, responded to construction noise. As he passed Bayside Drive he heard a sander being operated. He made contact with the person and he stated he was the business owner and was the one responsible for the noise. Officer Smith made a check and did not locate the individual in the database. Officer Smith issued a written warning to the man and explained the procedure on future violations. Case clear.

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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 9

District 1 and Mr. Dave Hutchinson, Executive Director with the MPO. Here is some additional information:

MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan: Town Complete Streets 2026 – 2030
Funding for Town’s “Complete Streets” project: Yes, the general term “Complete Streets” allows those funds to be used for any element of our Complete Streets Corridor Plan. As we move forward and get closer, the project can be refined, if we so desire. It is not limited to one specific element, such as the trail. \$18+ million in cost feasible plan, including PD&E, design, right-of-way and construction funding (p. 5-24 and 5-42 of Transform Tomorrow 2045 Cost Feasible Plan Report).

“Transform Tomorrow” funding
This falls under the Transportation Management Area (TMA) umbrella is primarily for intelligent transportation management systems for traffic signals. More for interconnected signal corridors and some access management on state roadways. It is federally sourced and requires local match (p. 5-26 of Transform Tomorrow 2045 Cost Feasible Plan Report).

Bradenton Beach Complete Streets and Gulf Drive/Cortez Road Roundabout
With Longboat Key’s interest in both the Bradenton Beach Complete Streets project and the Gulf Drive (SR 789) at Cortez Road (SR 684) intersection roundabout project, recommend coordinating with Bradenton Beach and expressing oral and written support to both FDOT and MPO (p. 5-39 of Transform Tomorrow 2045 Cost Feasible Plan Report).

Town Multi-Use Trail Replacement 8-ft. to 12-ft.
Under review with FDOT for feasibility, cost, drainage and right-of-way needs. FDOT working on evaluating it.

Country Club shores Left-Turn Lane Project
Joint-Project Agreement (“JPA”) under development with FDOT to be in place by July 1st 2023. Engineering design plans are substantially complete. FDOT will confirm if their funding amount will include Construction Engineering Inspection or if that will be town responsibility (this can be around 12% of construction cost). FDOT intends with the JPA that the Town will manage the construction contract.

Current construction amount in FDOT Work Program = \$1.4 million
Town to coordinate with Longboat Club Resort regarding drainage easement and cart path movement (p. 5-34 of Transform Tomorrow 2045 Cost Feasible Plan Report).
Isaac Brownman
Director Public Works
Town of Longboat Key

Dredging of the Intracoastal Waterway

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Please see the story in today’s Herald Tribune about plans to dredge the ICW between Anna Maria and LBK. First I’d heard of it. Could be an issue and/ or an opportunity.
Ken Schneider
Mayor
Longboat Key

Dredging of the Intracoastal Waterway

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider
Yes, certainly an opportunity to possibly capture some material for the beaches. We’ll keep an eye on it.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Dredging of the Intracoastal Waterway

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
And maybe to piggyback on some equipment use, disposals and sea grass replenishment.
Ken Schneider
Mayor
Longboat Key

P&Z Board Applicants Meet & Greet

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
I just wanted to thank you all for taking the time to meet with me and all the P&Z Planning Board candidates. While I believe that I can make a positive contribution to the Board and its objectives, it is heartening to see a good number of strong candidates who stepped up for consideration. No doubt, regardless of your decision the P&Z Board will be well served.
Chris Sachs
Longboat Key

P&Z Board Applicants Meet & Greet

To: Chris Sachs
You will be a great addition to our boards - we had someone with a ton of planning and
See Letters, page 14



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The Circle, from page 1

improvement District. The second reason was to discuss the renewal of the BID organization for another 10 years, a process which is voted on by the property owners of the Circle.

The BID was set up more than 15 years ago and its purpose is to represent the property owner's interests. In recent years, the BID has pushed for increasing the height and density of the Circle, a hotel as well as tourism zoning, as well as selling the Fillmore Parking lot to develop a gourmet market and a hotel on the site. Those issues were all met with controversy as was the Winter Carnival that BID President Tom Leonard promulgated.

The controversy only increased last week with BID President Leonard directly insulting the President of the St. Armands Resident Association President Chris Goglia. Goglia got up at the meeting to voice support for Rachel Burns as a candidate for the BID Board. She and her husband own Lynch's Landing as well as the building it operates within.

"The Board of Directors of St. Armands Resident's Association support Rachel Burns and I cannot imagine a more qualified candidate for the BID," said Goglia.

But Goglia pointed out to the commission a problem that has developed. He said that the residents are only one of the three stakeholders on the island, which are the residents, commercial owners and merchants. Goglia added that for decades, all three groups worked together on issues.

"Over the last several months, the BID has not attended any of the monthly or bi-monthly meetings of residents and merchants and property owners. I wish we did meet I think we should meet and work these issues out and not have all our battles in public," said Goglia.

Leonard, who was sitting directly next to Goglia in front of the City Commission meeting, immediately interjected, "Chris you are lying and it is a shame."

Goglia rose and as he walked off and left the Commission Chambers he remarked, "I am sorry. I am not going to let my name be slandered. He is a liar and he's lying in front of you."

The emotionalism did not end despite the ramblings of the City Attorney.

After the outburst, City Attorney Robert Fournier attempted to smooth the conversation by going into a long historical background about the BID. He explained the BID had three members during its first 15 years. Then, in 2020, the Commission increased the board from three to five members. The Commission also imposed rules on who gets to sit on the board. The rule is that it should be focused on property owners, not merchants, and therefore all five members must be property owners. Three of the five members can also be a merchant as well as a property owner. If you own a building and you rent to tenants you are simply a property owner. If you own a building and a business as well, you are an owner/merchant.

"The basis for the rule is that owners' and merchants' interests may not be the same," said Fournier.

This is where the Rachel Burns controversy came into play. It is clear that her husband is an owner and merchant, but she has been made ineligible by City staff as simply an owner. Staff consider her a merchant as well because even though the business is owned and the S Corporation is in her husband's name, staff says the fact that she is married means she too has an interest in the merchant aspects in the ownership and not just the overall property.

Fournier says Burns could be made qualified but the commission would have to change the BID rules to say that members simply must be owners of property whether merchants or not.

For Burns, the issue is a frustrating nightmare. Burns worked for more than a decade managing the Wells Fargo Bank that was located in the parking lot behind Lynch's Landing and has most recently been the Director of the Merchant's Association. She now wants to be on the BID Board because she does not like its direction of late. She is also upset that the City interprets the rules that if her husband is a merchant, it is presumed she would be biased and vote for his interests.

"So now I'm defined by my husband's career? Isn't this a violation of the City's own anti-discrimination laws? There is no precedent for this," said Burns.

One issue that upset Mayor Kyle Battie and turned him off to Burns as a BID member was the fact that she most recently as a property owner voted to not renew the BID Board. Burns said she did not vote for the renewal because it represents a "hefty" tax assessment of 2 mills, did not like the board's direction and added that "the BID spends a lot of tax dollars but is not generating any income."

Mayor Battie viewed Burns as incongruous.

"I do not understand how you want to be on a board that you do not approve of. It kind of boggles my mind," said Battie.

Battie elaborated on his feelings toward Burns.

"When the BID Board came before us with the Christmas tree, and you were against it, it was kind of like canceling Christmas, and now you want to be on the Board? I take issue with that. That was huge in my book, in terms of eligibility or not being eligible," said Battie.

A supporter of Burns at the meeting was Casey Gonzmart. Gonzmart is Chairman of the Board of the restaurant group that owns the Columbia, several restaurants in Tampa, and the former Pattigeorges Restaurant on Longboat Key. The group also owns the propepts housing the Columbia and an additional 10 merchants who lease from them.

Gonzmart firmly supported Burns.

"We are proud to be in this historic district. I am excited about the BID and Rachel Burns is extremely qualified and as a banker for a decade on the Circle and a business owner on the Circle, she would be excellent on the BID," said Gonzmart.

Gonzmart asked that the Commission at least fill one or two vacancies on the board so that the board would be empowered to make decisions.

But the commission decided differently. Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch wished to at least install one applicant other than Burns who had no controversy to one of the open seats. But Commissioner Liz Alpert disagreed.

"I'm in favor of continuing this issue, I don't think Ms. Burns is eligible and I'm not in favor of the other applicant. I think it's better to get the BID approved before we approve any new members," said Alpert.

Alpert said although Burns says she is not part of her husband's business, she certainly is receiving income in it from her spouse and has an interest.

Commissioner Erik Arroyo said that Burns' removing her name from ownership documents on the property does not create a separation of assets.

Commissioner Debbie Trice said the issue of Ms. Burns is important and the Commission needs to decide how it might make people like Burns eligible. Fournier said that he already explained that the Commission can abolish the idea of restricting merchant owners.

Battie continued his issue with Burns saying that she refused to take the canceling the tree lighting ceremony from the Merchants Association website.

"I have an issue with that. We asked if you could take that down off the website and you chose not to. That is an economic driver and brings revenue, and you did not," said Battie.

Next, four out of five commissioners, with Ahearn-Koch dissenting, agreed to postpone filling the vacancies or adding any new seats to the BID committee until it sees if the renewal process is successful.

The renewal process takes 125 days and requires first that more than 20 percent of the property owners on St. Armands Circle, wish to renew the BID. That has already happened with 33 percent voting for the renewal process to begin. The next step is the formal vote of all the owners that will be held via the official referendum. But the votes are not counted democratically, one for each owner, but are prorated according to the assessed value of the property owned. The Commission does not vote on whether the BID continues or not, but simply will ratify the results or not if the BID is unsuccessful.

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WineTimes

Wine Glasses: Perfecting the presentation

A wine expert follows a familiar wine tasting ritual. Experts know how to use a wine glass as an instrument for analyzing a sample from a wine bottle and evaluating its quality.

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

Wine glasses play a big part in the presentation of wine. Holding a crystal glass by a thin stem allows us to check the color and clarity of a wine, swirl the wine in the glass to aerate it and bring out its nose and flavor, assess the wine’s maturity by observing its hue on the border between wine and glass. and note its viscosity by its legs, the streaks the wine leaves on the side of the glass as it staggers downward from close to the rim of the glass.

A wine expert follows a familiar wine tasting ritual. Experts know how to use a wine glass as an instrument for analyzing a sample from a wine bottle and evaluating its quality.

The shape of the bowl of a wine glass varies depending on the variety of wine for which a glass maker has designed the shape of the bowl. Champagne and other sparkling wine glasses either focus the bubbles within a narrow flute or put the bubbles in your face in a wide mouthed coupe.

The typical household will need only a few flutes or coupes, perhaps a few of each. We enjoy a coupe with a hollow stem. Bubbles rise up the stem.

When serving a toast of sparkling wine to a large group, consider renting the glasses and avoiding the cleaning and storage tasks that come with buying enough flutes or coupes.

For outdoor events, use higher end plastic glasses to avoid injuries caused by broken glasses.

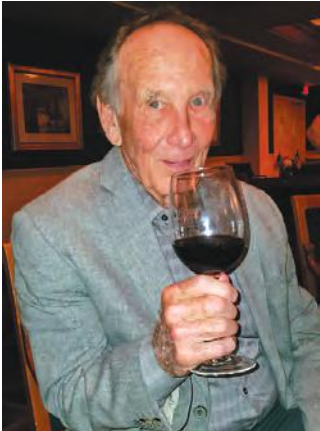
With few exceptions, so-called “universal wine glasses” will work well enough when serving a still wine as a substitute for a cocktail, or with lunch or dinner. Prices of wine glasses range upward to a hundred dollars or more per stem. We prefer to spend more of our wine budget on the wine itself rather than expensive accessories. A set of six universal wine glasses makes a good starting point. The New York Magazine’s The Strategist suggests the Schott Zwiesel Tritan Cabernet Glass at around \$68 for a set of six. These glasses will not only serve most purposes but will also resist breakage better than more expensive and delicate glasses

Except for more formal occasions, one glass per person will serve adequately for both a white wine poured first and a red wine afterwards. We prefer not to rinse glasses in water. Pouring a red in a glass earlier used by a person to drink a white wine generally has no effect on the taste of a robust red wine. You could do worse by rinsing out the glass in chlorinated water.

The sparkling wine and universal wine glasses that we recommend have relatively low prices and will stand up to repeated use. Wash them in a dishwasher or by hand but steer clear of scented soaps. They could interfere with the aroma and flavors of wines. Polishing wine glasses with an old linen napkin or towel if available, or a plain cloth napkin if not, seems a good practice as a rule, with special attention to the rim of the glass and any waxy lipstick or other residues that linger there after washing.

A few still wines will benefit from wine glasses designed to bring out features of their wine varieties. Over a number of years, we have accumulated wine glasses that we prefer when drinking a varietal that has distinctive features:

- aged French Bordeaux, California Cabernet Sauvignon, Italian Barolo, or Australian Shiraz deserve one of the larger versions of a universal glass. We often see aficionados pour only a few ounces of one of these wines into a larger glass and swirl its contents vigorously, the better to tease out complex aromas and flavors embedded in the wine. Lifting the larger glasses to admire the rich hues and depth of these wines salutes the host’s wine selection;
- Pinot Noir from Burgundy in France or from Oregon or California can be delicate and gamey at the same time. Swirling these wines in a Pinot Noir glass bowl, wider in the middle and more closed at the top, softens gamy aromas, releases fruit and floral overtones in the wine, and delivers them to the nose. A Pinot Noir glass, similar to a brandy snifter, shows us more of the aura of the wine in the glass and traps the aromas to give them a larger role in the taste of this varietal;
- Sherry glasses taper from a wide top to a narrower bottom. The shape of these small and delicate glasses places a large proportion of its contents in the immediate vicinity of the nose



and mouth to facilitate sipping of the fortified wine.

The large Bordeaux blend/Cabernet glasses, the Pinot Noir glasses, and the Sherry glasses combine with universal wine glasses to complete an upgraded collection of wine glasses.

It pays to take your time building a collection of wine glasses to serve the needs of the household. Take a look at glasses for sale at Goodwill stores or similar outlets. Donations from estates or by people who move or downsize may help fill gaps in a collection of glassware. When we drop off donations, we often find interesting glasses to add to our collection. Special purpose wine glasses make great gifts. “He appreciates gifts of Cabernet or Pinot Noir wine glasses ...” is the type of hint that helps family or friends asking for holiday or birthday gift ideas make informed choices.

We credit a Riedel comparative tasting at a wine educators’ conference in Sacramento California for improving our understanding of the role of wine glasses in wine appreciation. While we cannot rule out bias due to the influence of the engaging wine glass experts who guide the Riedel tasting, we found that the tasting made a convincing case for drinking Pinot Noir and Bordeaux/Cabernet in the glasses specially designed for each of those varietals. We have in fact gravitated to the Riedel Vinum Series Pinot Noir and Cabernet glasses over the years as we have compared them to more generic wine glasses that we happen to have clean at any given moment.

People who enjoy wine will also enjoy experimenting with wine glasses. Most wine bars and restaurants offer at least two or three choices of glasses. A few experiments with glassware will likely move a person out of the Mason jar and beer mug selections and into inexpensive and durable universal wine glasses. No reason to rush into more specialized glasses. That progression will happen as you discover more about your preferences in wines and wine tastings.

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

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

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EditorLetters

Letters, from page 11

zoning experience who had applied before.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Longboat Key

Our workshop meeting today

To: Longboat Key Commission
Commissioner Bishop reminded me that there are covenants and agreements that exist between Sarasota County and Bayfront Park. I asked, but I don't think you had the opportunity to answer, "If the Township decided to repurpose the two older asphalt tennis courts into six new dedicated pickleball courts; would that be permitted within the existing and current scope of agreement with Sarasota County?"
Dave Levine
Longboat Key

Permits Granted to Contractors

To: Franklin Ward
I was forwarded a copy of your email below. Please feel free to call me or the Town's Building Official, Patti Fige (Cc'd), to discuss your concerns further. I would say that it would be a highly unusual, and frankly hard to understand, scenario where a contractor would apply to perform work on a property where they had not been engaged by an owner or representative of an owner. I'm not aware of there being any instances where this has occurred.

In terms of requiring a contractor to provide the Town with proof of a contract with an owner, we would be prohibited from enacting a local ordinance that is contrary to state law. This particular issue is specifically addressed in Florida Statutes (Sec. 553.79(1)(f)), which states, "A local government may not require a contract between a builder and an owner for the issuance of a building permit or as a requirement for the submission of a building permit."

With regard to the publication of permitting activity in the Observer, that's been a longstanding weekly public records request, which we fulfill. The data that we send includes the Permit #, Contractor Name, Job Address, Fee Total and Construction Value. Owners of single-family homes and duplex properties can serve as their own contractor. This may have been the case in past permitting for you or your property, although I couldn't find any indication of that in our permitting system. The most recent permitting activity was in 2021 with a contractor, other than the homeowner, indicated.

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

Permits Granted to Contractors

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons
Thank you for the email. That is an incredible statute that you cite. What a lobbyist for the contractors to get that statute through the legislature. I can see a situation where a dishonest contractor could request a building permit on a property that has been sitting empty. Who knows what he/she could do after that.
However, I am really talking about the situation where one of two or more owners hires a contractor, and the contractor does not require the signature of the other owner(s) on the contract. There is probably a statute guaranteeing that the contractor can collect from all owners. The contractor may do great work, but the other owner(s) may believe that the product is not appropriate for some older houses; but it would be appropriate for newer houses built to the Miami-Dade code.

Although not the case in my present situation, I can see the situation where one owner could have early dementia, and be more susceptible to persuasion by a contractor.
As I understand it, you are prohibited by State Statute from requiring a contract for a building permit, and that this is an issue for owners to take up with a State Senator or Representative.
Franklin R Ward
Longboat Key

Goals and Objectives Workshop

To: Longboat Key Commission
We are writing to alert you of our willingness and attention to participate in the upcoming goals and objectives workshop this upcoming Monday, April 3rd at 10 a.m.
Since January 9th of this year we have met many times with the Commissioners and have attempted to raise awareness to the growing demand and need for additional public recreational pickleball courts on the Island, in particular at Bayfront Park. We wish to thank the current commissioners for approving the Pilot program to be implemented as soon as the additional 12 spaces of parking have been obtained. This action should allow, if successful, the permanent striping of the remaining tennis court and signage specifying specific times of play for both courts (Tuesday / Thursday mornings for Tennis, and Monday / Tuesday / Wednesday mornings for Pickleball, with all other times on a first come first serve basis).
Other discussion points include:
We are glad to see the prompt installation of 6 more parking spots and have confidence that between discussions and negotiations with Frontier Communications and the Buccaneer restaurant group- that supplemental parking can be accomplished. The idea of raising the Recreation building to provide some dedicated parking for classes could be considered.

Through communicating with the pickleball community, we can report that we have more ride-sharing, walking and biking to the park to help alleviate parking congestion.
Mark Richardson, the director of Longboat's Parks and Recreation suggested that eliminating the basketball court could provide two additional permanent dedicated pickleball courts adjacent to the existing three dedicated courts. While we think this idea has great merit (in conjunction with the two multi-striped, dual use tennis courts), we would hope that the basketball courts could be relocated in some fashion on the other side of the park, perhaps near the playground. However, it should be noted, we still believe the most logical and effective solution is to build a single hard surface tennis court adjacent to the tennis center and convert the existing Bayfront tennis courts to 6 permanent dedicated pickleball courts.
We look forward to sounding out these ideas, answering questions, and providing perspective for your upcoming Spring Planning Retreat.
Terri Noyes, Brent Marshall and Dave Levine
Longboat Key

A blow to Florida Tourism

To: U.S. Representative Vern Buchanan
I am writing to encourage you to vote against PCB RRS 23-02, legislation that will have a devastating impact on Florida Tourism. I believe it is scheduled to hit the House floor on Tuesday. As a Town Commissioner and member of Sarasota's Tourism Development Council, I can tell you that the TDC is a catalyst for much of the progress we see in the Sarasota area.
First and foremost, it is tourists' tax dollars that protect Florida's citizens from income taxes. Without tourism, our

robust economy will be severely weakened. Citizens here enjoy an income tax-free state because of our robust tourist industry. Of course, that is one important reason people are bringing their families and businesses to this state. This didn't happen organically; it is an industry built through years of marketing, branding and the project bonding efforts of the Florida tourism councils.
Sarasota and Longboat Key will be particularly hurt by this short-sighted legislation. It will put the brakes on bonding planned for the new Mote Aquarium; expansion of the Benderson Park — an international tourism magnet for rowing and water sports — and for additional pro baseball's spring training facilities.

The measure also requires Sarasota to send \$2 million of local tourism revenue to Tallahassee. This will starve local efforts to expand and diversify our economy... this, just as the new SRQ airport terminal expansion gets underway. PCB RRS 23-02 works at cross purposes with this enormous effort to improve our tourism and business climate.
You've spoken about how much Longboat Key means to you and Sarasota. The beautiful beaches that make Longboat Key so special are maintained with a great deal of support tourist development tax, which is shared with us, and with Sarasota's other local beaches. Without this beach nourishment help, the quality of our local beaches will suffer, as will tourism in this area.

Sarasota is known nationally and internationally, thanks in large part to the very professional, creative and consistent ad campaigns run by the Tourism Development Council. (most recently, Visit Sarasota and Work Where You Want to Live campaigns). PCB RRS 23-02 does nothing but rollback progress and stunt the economic benefits gained through the efforts of the TDC.
I appreciate all that you do for Longboat Key and the people of Florida. I hope you will take a stand against this legislation.
Penny Gold
Commissioner, Town of Longboat Key

Speed limit on Broadway

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Two options to resolve this issue.
I don't have a Tesla so I cannot confirm this firsthand. According to online resources for Tesla, this is a common occurrence. They recommend using the button on the steering wheel and using the option "Bug Report: Incorrect speed limit". This will report it and after a few weeks should be resolved. This may need to be verified if this is still available by the dealer.
Speed limits that are incorrect can be reported through googlemaps.com (easiest on a desktop computer).
Steps to report:
Open Google Maps on your desktop computer.
Open the left side menu.
Select Edit the map.
Select the road segment you want to edit.
Select Next.
In the "Other" field, indicate that the speed limit is wrong for that road.
Select Submit.
If you would prefer, I can take a drive out there and report it but this may happen in the future.
Jason Keen
Chief Information Officer
Town of Longboat Key

Speed limit on Broadway

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman
On a recent drive down Broadway, I noticed that my husband's cars (a Tesla) self driving/navigation system has the speed limit at 25 mph, rather than the correct 20 mph. The heads up display/navigation on my car, an Audi, correctly has the speed limit at 20 mph. I believe the difference here is in the mapping technology used - Tesla is based on Google, and Audi (Mercedes and BMW also) are based on Here Technologies. I don't know about other major car manufacturers.
As drivers become more reliant on heads up displays for speed limit, as well as self-driving technologies, it's important that these mapping services have the correct information about our roads. Is there a mechanism to get the correct speed limits posted with the major nav systems?
Debra Williams
Commissioner
Longboat Key

Longboat Key News

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www.lbknews.com

Steve Reid, Editor & Publisher

sreid@lbknews.com

Associate Publisher

Melissa Reid

Sales

Lillian Sands

Steve Reid

ads@lbknews.com

Graphic Production

Dottie Rutledge

Letters to the Editor

letters@lbknews.com

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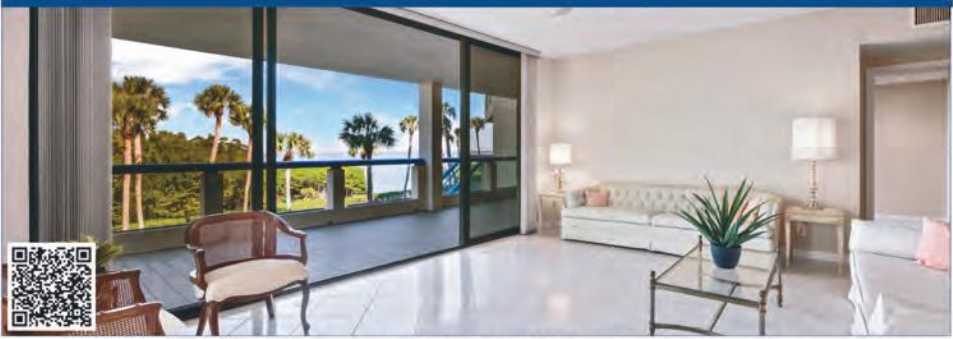
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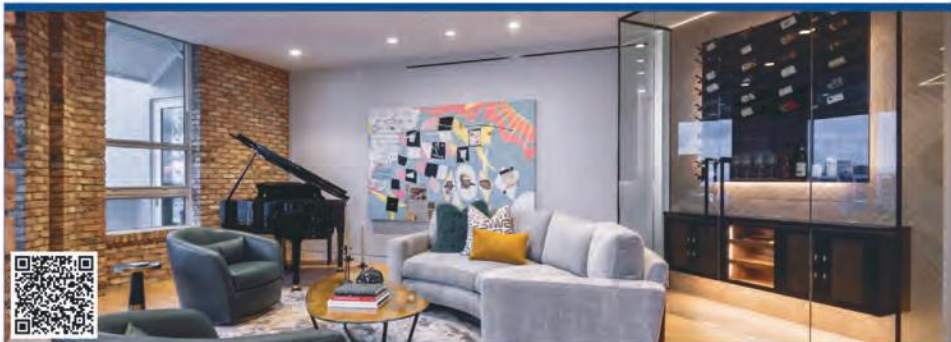
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