



# Longboat Key News

September 5, 2025

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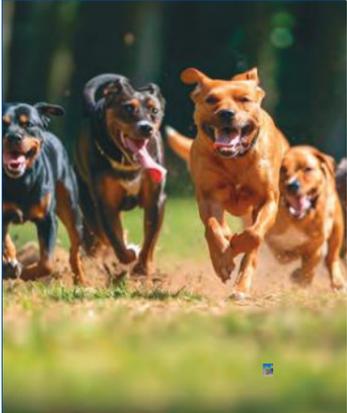
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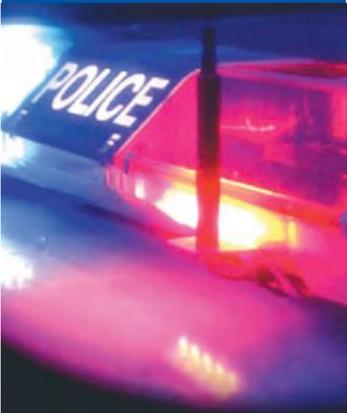
**Resident resents name change ...page 5**



**Is trust the prescription? ...page 4**



**Middle of pack in world of wine ...page 15**



**Resident calls as drone drops bait ...page 10**

## Transparency urged for all St. Armands Circle redevelopment initiatives

*St. Armands Circle Residents Association President Chris Goglia says he wants clear communication between the City of Sarasota when it comes to any initiatives or changes at St. Armands Circle. This follows a private meeting City staff was set to have Sept. 8 with a handful of property owners on the Circle, but was quickly cancelled as other owners and residents were alarmed to not be included in the future planning of the shopping, strolling and dining center.*

**STEVE REID**  
Editor & Publisher  
sreid@lbknews.com

Last week, a freedom of information act request revealed that the earliest email about the Sept. 8 meeting came on July 22 from commercial property owner Mark Kauffman, who owns the properties across from Speaks Clam Bar where Chase Bank, Garden Argosy, Ancient Olive, and Madison Ave Cafe & Deli used to operate. This is where some developers reportedly want to build a boutique hotel.

In the July 22 email to City Planning Director Steven Cover, Kauffman says that he wants to invite his "activist" landowners and says that Goglia should be invited to the meeting (he wasn't) and that he would be "outnumbered" and "overwhelmed".

Kauffman said in the memo he understands why (residents) would "abhor" a major hotel, but that a "few" **See Circle, page 2**

## Sarasota transfers \$400,000 to offset parking revenue shortfall

*City Manager tells the board he will soon bring a proposal for generating sufficient parking revenue on St. Armands to cover the bond payments.*

The Sarasota City Commission voted last week to approve a \$400,000 loan from the city's General Fund to cover the debt service on the bonds the city issued to pay for the St. Armands parking garage.

Interim City Manager Dave Bullock told the board that he will soon bring a proposal for generating sufficient parking revenue on St. Armands to cover the bond payments.

Kelly Strickland, director of financial administration for the city, wrote, "The St. Armands Paid Parking Fund could not collect parking fees from October 1, 2024 through January 2, 2025."

This was due to the aftermath of last year's storms.

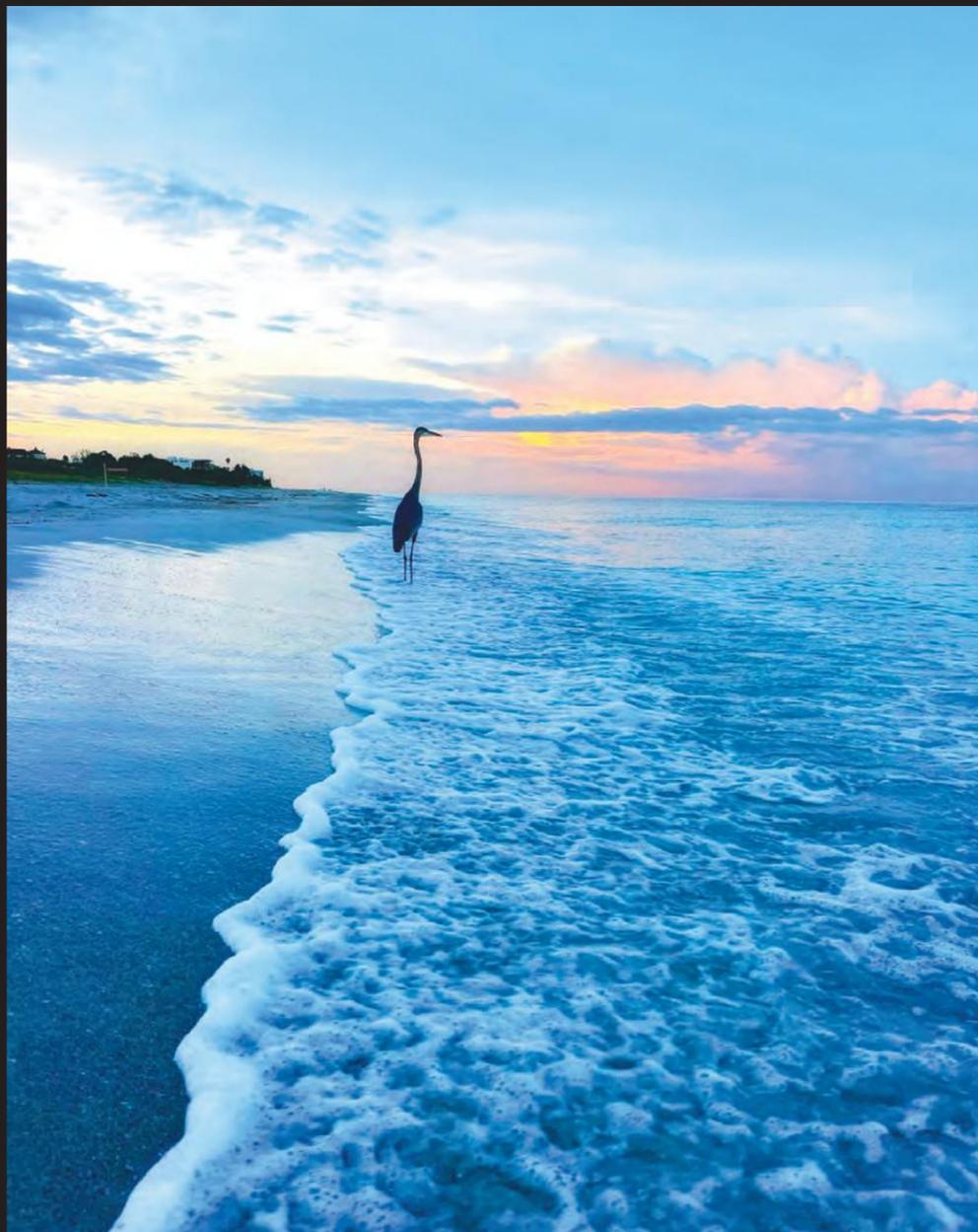
The Commission voted 3-2 in 2017 to approve the issuance of \$17.5 million in bonds to cover the expense of the parking garage on North Adams Lane, plus the burying of overhead electrical transmission lines from the Coon Key Bridge to North Washington Drive; signage in the general vicinity of the paid parking area; and the installation of median hard curb end caps.

The expense of the garage was put at \$14,060,865.

City staff had expected the parking meter and parking lot revenue on St. Armands to add up to \$1,530,000 for the 2024-25 fiscal year, which will end on Sept. 30. Another \$464,000 was anticipated to be generated by users of the parking garage.

However, the latest projection for the parking meter and lot revenue is \$884,125, while the garage revenue is anticipated to be \$142,284. The \$400,000 loan was needed to help cover debt service on the bonds.

## September Beach Stroll



From the Beach on Longboat. See more on Facebook: followmetolongboatkey

# USF Sarasota-Manatee to build new \$6.5 million STEM facility

The University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee campus plans to build a new \$6.5 million STEM academic facility, a project that leaders say will expand access to high-quality lab instruction in chemistry, biology and physics for students across the university system.

The 7,000-square-foot building will include modern labs, prep space, utilities, restrooms, site work, equipment and furnishings. Construction is expected to begin in 12 to 18 months, with the facility scheduled to open in fall 2027.

The new facility follows the expiration of USF Sarasota-Manatee's lease for lab space at Mote Marine Laboratory, in May. During the 2025 fiscal year, the campus taught 39 sections of biology and chemistry to more than 460 students at Mote. For the 2026 fiscal year, USF Sarasota-Manatee will lease temporary space at the Roskamp Institute until the new labs are ready.

The proposal received support from USF President Rhea Law and Provost Prasant Mohapatra and won unanimous approval from the USF Board of Trustees Finance Committee in late August.

# Hundreds of sidewalk paintings in Sarasota erased by the city following mandate from State

The City erased hundreds of sidewalk paintings as part of the State's crackdown on roadway art.

The city says it had no choice but to erase the sidewalk art showcasing Sarasota's history and famous residents, including John Ringling.

At last week's city commission meeting, the interim city manager said it isn't just state money to pay for road projects that would be at-risk.

He said all \$67 million the state is set to send to the city could've been withheld if they didn't comply with FDOT before last Thursday's deadline.

## Circle, from page 1

boutique rooms should be okay. The "activist" landowners include #1, #2, #3, #7, #9, and #13--by assessed value. Specifically the invite list included: Shore owner Tom Leonard, Daquiri Deck owner Gavin or John Meshad, Columbia Owner Casey Gonzmart, Matt Rozinsky, A Benderson representative and The Met owner Geoffrey Michael.

On August 5, City Planning Director Steve Cover asked his admin assistant to set up the meeting that was slated for Sept.8, until it was abruptly cancelled and the City Manager's office morphed the approach into an all-inclusive kick-off party to explore all things St. Armands Circle, especially resiliency after storms.

Goglia wrote to City Hall last week: "We (SARA) would very much like to be included in this long series of discussions about the future of St. Armands Circle, which happens to be located smack-dab in the middle of our residential neighborhood. Contrary to what some developers have put out there in the past, residents would very much like to see St. Armands Circle revitalized and successful. However, I don't feel that the discussion of an issue of this magnitude--the future of St. Armands Circle--should be done in haste (or in a closed-door meeting). Residents who are away will start returning in October, with most having returned after the holidays. When people are away, they are less engaged. To maximize resident participation, in-person community workshops should be scheduled in the January-through-April timeframe."

On Friday, Sept 5, Goglia followed up with the City stating that he had just sent out an email to the commercial property owners on St. Armands Circle to establish a channel of communication, and to specifically ask for their feedback on undergrounding utilities on St. Armands and Lido Keys and on revitalizing St. Armands Circle.

Goglia is also communicating with the Lido Key Residents Association (LKRA), the Lido Shores Property Owners Association (LSPOA), and the St. Armands Circle (Merchants) Association (SACA).

"We're trying to build a coalition of all stakeholders, and I want you to know that I've invited our commercial property owners to be a part of this," said Goglia.

The City has yet to give dates for its St. Armands series of public meetings to address the issues facing the shopping district and surrounding communities.



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# EditorLetters



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

## Gulf of Mexico Drive is a perfectly good name

To: Longboat Key Commission

The name change for GMD, which is obviously due to the arrogance of leadership, that is being rammed down our throats is a colossal waste of taxpayers' money. This is not OK. It is adverse to the people, adverse to business, and is adverse to the issues of most significance to people who live and work on Longboat Key. Shame, shame, shame, on all of you who are pushing this. We urge you to show some courage and oppose the name change.

Dean Kross  
Longboat Key

## Support for Gulf of America Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

Please change our main road on Longboat to Gulf of America Road to reflect our beautiful Gulf. It's appropriate and due.

Thanks for your consideration.  
Sunny and Rich McGrath  
Longboat Key

## Opposed to changing Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission

I am upset to hear that Longboat Key is considering changing "Gulf of Mexico Drive" to "Gulf of America Drive" to appease the far-right politicians that have hijacked our country and state (temporarily) and who prefer to waste their time "solving" problems of their own making.

Here's my request: Please make it very clear to the Longboat Key voters which commissioners vote to change the name and who feel it wise to spend my tax dollars changing signs and creating confusion and polarization unnecessarily in our community. By making this clear, we sensible voters will know who to target for removal in the next election. Thank you for considering my opinion, which I will spread as wide as I can as this issue approaches.

William Daly  
Longboat Key

## Gulf Of America Drive

To: Shannon and Bob Gault

Thanks much for your thoughts on this issue. This will be a lively discussion at our meeting in October!

Steve Branham  
Commissioner, Town of Longboat Key

## Name Change for Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Thanks for the response, Ken. I hope your post-summer season has gotten off to a fantastic start!

Henry Smith  
Longboat Key

## Name Change for Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Henry Smith

We have had a lot of correspondence on this subject. We have scheduled the matter for

consideration at our workshop on October 20, but I'm sure it will be discussed at our 1 p.m. Commission meeting next Monday, September 8.

Ken Schneier  
Mayor, Town of Longboat Key

## Name Change for Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Please log our opposition to changing the name of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Our magnificent Town should not even consider imposing the resulting burden on taxpayers and burden on homeowners with Gulf of Mexico Drive addresses. Thank you for your service to our paradise.

Henry and Donna Rae Smith  
Longboat Key

## I thought it was a joke- but I hear it isn't- changing Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission

I never heard of anything so needlessly divisive and just plain dumb. This is going to be not only expensive but also a problem for those of us who have a Gulf of Mexico Drive address. We are going to have to change all of our addresses on all our accounts, starting with our checkbooks. And what happens when the next politician comes in and decides to change it back. I have always been against changing street names - whether it's for democrats or republicans- and maybe this is the time to stop that practice. I can't be at the meeting, but do want my voice heard via this email.

Thank you  
Diane Goldberg  
Longboat Key

## Name Change of Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Henry Smith

Thanks Henry! Your position on this issue is noted! I expect a deep and lively discussion on the matter at our Oct 20 meeting.

Steve Branham  
Commissioner, Town of Longboat Key

## Steube / Streamlining FEMA Procurement Procedures Act

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

Hope you're doing well! Wondering if you and your team at Florida League of Cities could

**See Letters, page 6**

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# Staying Alive

## Are prescription drugs truly safe?

*What happens in preliminary laboratory and animal testing does not tell you a whole lot about how humans use and metabolize drugs.*

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

Are prescription drugs truly safe?  
 Depends on how well and how long you look.  
 When I was discovered on endoscopy to have gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD,) my gastroenterologist told me I should immediately go on proton pump inhibitors, known as PPIs. They were extremely efficacious. "And they're safe. I've been on one for 16 years. You can take them for a lifetime without trouble."



MATTHEW EDLUND

PPIs were breakthrough drugs. By preventing the production of stomach acid, they worked more effectively at suppressing Barrett's esophagus, peptic ulcer disease and other common GI ailments than the H2 blockers they replaced. They become so commonly used that patients forget to mention them on drug lists. Patients would tardily remember they were taking a "purple pill" that "did something to my stomach." Eventually some PPIs went over-the-counter.

Yet recently a Hong Kong Study in the British Medical Journal demonstrated something different. In patients who had helicobacter pylori, the bacterial infection that causes peptic ulcers, and then had that infection treated, the rate of stomach cancer was twice as high as among those taking PPIs than the older, cheaper, older H2 blockers. Other studies have identified PPIs as increasing the risk of Alzheimer's, particularly important, as many of those on the drugs use them a long time, with many at the advanced age where Alzheimer's strikes. Other recent studies implicate PPIs in chronic kidney disease and heart attacks. They have for some time carried FDA and other warnings regarding clostridium difficile infections, which kill tens of thousands; hip and spine fractures; pneumonia. Yet they are considered "safe."

To understand our perception of safety, it's important to know the natural history of drugs.

### Drugs in Evolution

Pretty much everybody wants more effective agents for the common and uncommon ills of humanity. Drug companies are near the top of that list. Come up with a "blockbuster" and they make billions in profit, often tens of billions, and leave their chief executives very rich. One example: viagra is so profitable billions of dollars of fake viagra is sold every year.

The problem is finding stuff that works and is "safe."

The human information system is remarkably complicated. So is manipulating it.

Drug companies do a fair bit of basic research. They troll through data bases and use AI to find promising compounds. Yet about 90% of drugs that go to clinical drug trials fail. Sometimes the issue is effectiveness. A very high portion of the time the problem is safety.

What happens in preliminary laboratory and animal testing does not tell you a whole lot about how humans use and metabolize drugs.

These common failures affect the drug approval process. Most of the time drugs get tracked in clinical trials for weeks to months. However, the drugs that really make money for drug companies are used for extended periods, years to decades. That is one of the reasons why

antibiotics are greatly underresearched. Once the patient is "cured," they may never need the antibiotic again. One or two weeks' use is "not enough" for drug companies to overcome their high cost of drug development.

That's why drug companies are now being paid directly by governments to research new antibiotics. Public health departments throughout the world recognize that new epidemics of antibiotic resistant infections may kill and tens of millions. Some could represent an existential threat to much of humanity.

But the present drug development model "doesn't make enough profits" for new antibiotics to get fully researched.

Time also matters. What happens when people are placed on new drugs and followed up? You start to find "side effects" no one imagined. Like kidney disease and gastric cancer and Alzheimer's with PPIs. Stuff you will never notice given present reporting of medications in the U.S.

For more of the most frightening side effects of drugs take decades to become noticed. Not incidentally, that generally occurs after drug companies have lost their patent protections and peak drug profitability. The "redress" for these often expectable long term side effects often occurs through personal injury court cases. That is not a great place to set public health policy.

Why are PPIs causing so many troubles? It may be that their ability to cut off acid is "too" effective. They appear to markedly diminish acid production is lysosomes, cell organelles necessary to survival through destroying denatured proteins. Not enough acid, ineffective lysosomes.

So finding increases in stomach cancer, heart disease, kidney disease and Alzheimer's with PPIs may not be so strange after all. The body's information system is very complicated. Results may slowly ripple out.

### What To Do

It's obvious that drug effects occur over much longer ranges of time than the drugs themselves are taken. So it would make sense to have long term registries of drugs and their results that could be scrutinized decades into the future.

These registries exist, but are not welly funded. Drug companies are not particularly fond of them. More importantly, such registries should be international, paid for by government public health departments. Users of PPIs in Germany and Britain are not so different from those in the US. Pooling data across countries should identify problems more quickly, so preventive action can be taken.

But there is a stranger dimension to drug surveillance in the US. We are the only large country that allows drug company advertising.

It's a very big business. And all media, including social media, don't like losing business.

So when drugs are found to have "unwanted" long term side effects, the results may not be showcased in the media quite as brightly as would occur for other products. Combine multibillion dollar drug advertising with rules that prevent Medicare from negotiating drug prices and it is no surprise drug companies make the lion's share of their profits in the U.S.

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# KeyOpinion



## Renaming Gulf of Mexico Drive a bad idea

*This renaming effort does not restore American Greatness –it brings shame and embarrassment to our values, community and country.*

**Longboat Key resident Barbara C. Woods wrote the following to the Town.**

As a full-time and 11-year resident of the Town of Longboat Key, I am writing to express my unequivocal opposition to any proposal to rename Gulf of Mexico Drive to Gulf of America Drive. While Florida HB 575 and HB 549 require changes to state references, these laws do not compel the Town of Longboat Key to change the name of our historic roadway. That decision rests solely with you — and I urge you to reject it. I really cannot overstate the sheer lunacy of forcing thousands of very elderly residents to change their addresses. Renaming the street would be a purely symbolic act that wastes public and private resources and fails to serve any real community need. This lunacy is matched only by the state’s current successful effort to deprive our community of street signs. I feel as if I am a resident of an authoritarian state and am living through China’s Cultural Revolution and Stalin’s Great Purge. This renaming effort does not restore American Greatness –it brings shame and embarrassment to our values, community and country. I am astounded that you would even consider pandering to this impractical, ridiculous, partisan, divisive effort. Do you want that to be your legacy to our community?

**1. Protecting Residents from Unnecessary Burden and Chaos**

Changing the name of Gulf of Mexico Drive would create needless hardship for thousands of residents, many of whom are elderly. This change would force them to update their addresses with Medicare, Social Security, the IRS, property insurers, the DMV, and countless other institutions. The administrative burden is enormous — not only for residents, but also for local medical and dental offices that would have to update patient records en masse. The likelihood of errors is high, and the consequences could be severe: denied medical claims, missed tax notices, delayed Social Security payments, and other critical disruptions.

**2. Risk to Emergency Services and Public Safety**

This street name has been in place since 1957. Emergency services are familiar with it. Changing the name risks confusion and delays in urgent situations — a danger that is entirely avoidable.

**3. Preserving Our History and Local Authority**

The state should not interfere with the Town’s ability to preserve its own history. Gulf of Mexico Drive is part of our identity and heritage. The name of our street should not be tied to the political rebranding of the adjacent body of water.

**4. Avoiding Politically Motivated Instability**

Political movements are temporary and shift with election cycles. If a future administration restores the name “Gulf of Mexico” to the body of water, would the Town change the street name yet again? Residents deserve a permanent address that is not subject to the whims of partisan politics.

**5. No Tangible Benefit — Only Division and Cost**

This statute is the product of extreme partisan views and serves no urgent public need. It is divisive, costly, and burdensome — all for the sake of a symbolic gesture that solves no real problem. The Town should not yield to such pressure.

**6. Additional Practical and Economic Concerns**

- Business disruption – Local businesses would face costly updates to signage, stationery, websites, advertising, and legal documents.
- Municipal expenses – The Town/County/State would bear the cost of replacing street signs, updating maps, GPS databases, and official records — potentially tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars.

- Impact on property values – Controversy or uncertainty around a street name can temporarily depress property values.

- Navigation errors – GPS systems, delivery services, and visitors may struggle to find addresses during the transition.

**7. Governance and Public Trust**

- Perception of political overreach – Renaming can be seen as an imposition of ideology, especially when driven by partisan agendas.

- Symbolic vs. substantive change – Renaming is a symbolic gesture that does nothing to address real community needs.

- Lack of public input – A change of this magnitude should only occur after broad community consultation or a referendum.

**8. Psychological and Social Impact**

- Cognitive load – Residents, especially older ones, must relearn and internalize a new name, which can be confusing and stressful.

- Community division – Renaming debates can polarize neighbors and create lasting resentment.

**9. A Practical Alternative**

If the state requires removal of “Gulf of Mexico” from official signage, the Town could consider using “GMD” on temporary signs— a widely recognized and accepted shorthand — without changing the official street name.

In conclusion:

For all these reasons, I urge you to stand with the residents of Longboat Key and preserve the name Gulf of Mexico Drive. Do not allow a misguided and temporary political movement to erase our history, disrupt our lives, and compromise our safety.



**Town of Longboat Key**  
**ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS**

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

**Consolidated Retirement System  
Board of Trustees**

All applications must be submitted to the Office of the Town Clerk by **12:00 p.m. on September 24, 2025**. All applicants must be registered voters of the Town of Longboat Key. Appointed individuals will be required to file a financial disclosure form annually.

Please call the Town Clerk’s office at 941-316-1999 for an application or if you have any questions. Applications are also available online at [www.longboatkey.org](http://www.longboatkey.org). Completed applications may be submitted to:

Town of Longboat Key – Office of the Town Clerk  
501 Bay Isles Road  
Longboat Key, FL 34228

Stephanie Garcia, Deputy Town Clerk II  
Published: 08-29-2025, 09-12-2025



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**Letters, from page 4**

take a look at legislation that Congressman Steube is considering introducing.

Congressman Steube has been working on legislation to reform FEMA procurement methods, and specifically the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) process. The intent of this bill is to streamline such procurement methods as it relates to using qualifications (QBS) as a primary factor, or pricing. As I'm sure you're aware, some states (including Florida) have qualifications as the primary factor, while FEMA relies on pricing. This can lead to many municipalities encountering difficulty using federal funds (as disbursed through their state's respective emergency management department) where state's procurement policies are at odds with federal regulations.

Ultimately, this bill would fix this issue by allowing local governments to use CMARs utilizing QBS procurement methods. This bill would also increase the simplified procedure rate from \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000, aimed at reducing potential backlogs in FEMA audit reviews.

We'd very much welcome your team's support and input on this bill before we introduce. Please let me know if you may have any questions or concerns. Thanks!

Sami Araboghli  
National Security Advisor  
Office of Congressman Greg Steube (FL-17)

**Legislation**

To: Sami Araboghli

Sami - a few more thoughts on proposed bill: this bill would be favorable for LBK. Often, we must complete a Benefit Cost Analysis to support projects where FEMA questioned the selection of premium service or qualification over lowest cost contracts. Increasing the simplified procurement rate will also lessen the chances for being selected for an audit which is good for all involved. Again, many thanks to all of you!

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

**Support for Gulf of America Drive**

To: Longboat Key Commission

Please support the GMD new designation in coordination with the naming of the Gulf Of America.

Bob and Shannon Gault  
Longboat Key

**Street signs**

To: Longboat Key Commission

Regarding the issue of the name of what is now Gulf of Mexico Drive here is a suggestion. It is based on how the city of New York managed a street name change.

Originally called Sixth Avenue, many years ago the name was changed to Avenue of the Americas. Sometime thereafter the street signs incorporated both names and they do so cur-

rently. I would think that an advertising firm or sign designer could come up with a similar solution for GOM drive. I have been a winter visitor to LBK for many years to a timeshare unit. I hope that this suggestion might be helpful.

MJ Bell  
Longboat Key

**GMD Name Change**

To: Longboat Key Commission

I am a resident in Fairway Bay on LBK and write to add my name to those approving the name change of the Gulf of Mexico drive to Gulf of America (GAD) drive. Thank you!

Lynn Wellings  
Longboat Key

**Policy Board Briefing - Agenda Information**

To: Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Executive Assistant Cheryl Dexter

Cheryl, thank you for all the work you've put into coordinating this hiring process. I know it's been a heavy lift on top of your regular responsibilities.

Gary Coffin  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

**Gulf of America Drive please**

To: Longboat Key Commission

Please change the local name for SR 789 To Gulf of America Drive.

Not to honor Trump or Desantis, but to make sure all maps are uniform and easy to read.

From a Sarasota Native who has lived on Longboat key longer than anyone I know (56 years) except my parents and Tommy Mayers, the brother of Michael Saunders.

Jeffrey D. Carman  
Longboat Key

**Name change-GMD**

To: Longboat Key Commission

This is ridiculous! I certainly hope town commissioners do not succumb to the governor and state legislature. Is this really "the freedom state"? With Trump and the legislature there is no respect for history, norms and in most cases the will of the people.

Bob Morrison  
Longboat Key

**No name change needed for Gulf of Mexico Drive**

To: Longboat Key Commission

I'm disgusted at even the thought of changing the name of the street I have lived on for almost 2 decades. It's just a street name like Main or Fruitville or University- that's all. Why would you even consider putting a huge burden on thousands of people that would require

See Letters, page 7

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# Editor Letters



## Letters, from page 6

changing our licences, our taxes, our stationery, our businesses, etc? You're politicizing our community on an executive order- a very undemocratic decision that no one voted on, especially those affected by the name change of our Gulf.

We don't want to be State Route 789- we aren't rural America and it takes away our community prestige.

Please consider that the name change is extremely unpopular with the majority:

A February 2025 poll by Marquette University found that among 1,018 respondents nationwide, 71% opposed the Gulf of America renaming and 29% supported the name change. [34][35] In a February 2025 poll of 871 registered voters in Florida who were active by the University of North Florida found that 58% of overall respondents opposed renaming the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America, 31% supported it, 10% said they were not sure and 1% refused to answer the question. [36][37]

Again, you would be harming many by any name change, erasing history, going against the polls, and causing unnecessary stress and division in our community- that has a long admirable history,

Carol Staitman  
Longboat Key

## Gulf of Mexico Drive name change

To: Laura Pastsuzek

Thank you for reaching out! The formal agenda and materials have not been published yet and typically are not published until the Wednesday before the meeting date. There is a chance, however, the subject may come up more informally at one of the Town Commission September meetings (8th or 22nd), but that remains to be seen. I will forward your comments to the Town Clerk so that she may add them to the record. Thank you!

Isaac Brownman  
Assistant Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

## Gulf of Mexico Drive name change

To: Longboat Key Assistant Town Manager Isaac Brownman

My husband and I would love to see the town change the name of Gulf of Mexico Dr to Gulf of America. We live on Gulf of Mexico Dr currently and we would love to see this historic change happen! Where can we find information on the meeting time on October 20? Thank you!

Laura Pastsuzek  
Longboat Key

## September 8 meeting agenda

To: Longboat Key Commission

Good afternoon, all! I hope you enjoyed a wonderful and refreshing summer recess.

The agenda packets for the upcoming Town Commission meetings scheduled for Monday, September 8, 2025, are now available on your iPads.

For your convenience, the materials may also be accessed on other devices using the links below:

1. September 8, 2025 – TCRM
2. September 8, 2025 – TCSM Budget Hearing

Please let me know if you experience any difficulties accessing the materials. We are looking forward to seeing you at Town Hall again. Thank you!

Stephanie Garcia  
Town Clerk II  
Town of Longboat Key

## Gulf of Mexico Drive name change

To: Longboat Key Commission

You have been receiving numerous correspondence concerning the recent action by the State Legislature regarding the required updating of maps, signage, and other references to Gulf of Mexico by State agencies. Please be advised that all such correspondence will be incorporated into the official public record and should be considered during the discussion scheduled on October 20th.

Furthermore, Fire Department Administrative Manager and Public Information Officer Tina Adams has submitted the attached documentation, which includes public comments posted on the Town's official social media pages from the time of the initial posting through approximately 2 p.m. today (please disregard the time stamps on the reports as the vendor is located in a different time zone). We will provide future comments in the same format until the date of the meeting.

These comments will also be included in the public record associated with this agenda item. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Trish Shinkle  
Town Clerk  
Town of Longboat Key

## Do not change Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission

We live at 4234 Gulf of Mexico Drive and are hopeful that the city of Longboat Key will not change the name of this road. The cost and wasted time this would cause the residents and businesses on Gulf of Mexico Drive, in addition to the City of Longboat Key, makes zero sense. Absolutely no one was asking for this prior to the current president whipping up this distraction. I have friends across the world joking about how stupid and shallow this tantrum is, please do not add fuel to this by considering it at all. The residents of Longboat Key deserve better than this shameful political pettiness.

Lance Elson  
Longboat Key

## Gulf of Mexico road signs are being removed by FDOT

To: Longboat Key Commission

Thanks for letting me know about this workshop. Not sure what it can accomplish since voters rights are being stripped daily. I will put it on my calendar.

P.S. Congratulations on your League of Cities excellence award, I am a big admirer of your work on behalf of all of us.

Patricia DeChiara  
Longboat Key

## Gulf of Mexico road signs are being removed by FDOT

To: Patricia DeChiara

The signs came down before we knew FDOT was doing this. Town is having a workshop on October 20. Please come.

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

## Gulf of Mexico road signs are being removed by FDOT

To: Longboat Key Commission

We strongly object to this incredible waste of taxpayer dollars! Is there anything we can do to stop this travesty? Are the men in power so insecure and their egos so fragile that they have to stoop to something like this? Do we absolutely have no say in this matter??

Patricia DeChiara  
Longboat Key

## Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission

We wish as residents to register our total disagreement with any rename of Gulf of Mexico to Gulf of America drive. Simply disgusting. What the hell has this world (or more specifically) this country come to. Get a grip.

Peter T E Turner  
Longboat Key

## Intergovernmental Relations, Mobility, and Emergency Management Policy Committee Appointment

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Do you have any suggestions for this FLC Committee [Intergovernmental Relations, Mobility and Emergency Management]? Perhaps LBK encountered some of the post-Hurricane issues or roadblocks that should be improved. I'll give this some thought as well and we can talk about other ways to strengthen FLC policies in advance of the legislative session. (FLC asks that policy recommendations be submitted by Sept. 9th).

Penny Gold  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

## 2025-26 Intergovernmental Relations, Mobility, and Emergency Management Policy Committee Appointment

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Tris Shinkle

Florida League of Cities (FLC) President Holly D. Smith has appointed you to serve on the 2025–2026 Intergovernmental Relations, Mobility, and Emergency Management Committee. A confirmation letter will be mailed to your city office. I will be your FLC staff contact person for this committee.

Attached you'll find:

1. Committee roster – Please review your contact information and send any corrections.
2. Press release template – You may customize this to announce your appointment (replace the FLC logo with your city's logo if desired).

Please email me at [ROhara@flcities.com](mailto:ROhara@flcities.com) by 5:00 p.m. on September 9 if you wish to propose a legislative priority for consideration by the committee at the September 26th meeting. Statements should be 75 words or less and in the following format: "The Florida League of Cities supports .....". Proposed statements must address a legislative issue of statewide concern that directly pertains to municipal services and functions.

If you don't have an issue ready for the September meeting, you'll have a second and final chance to submit one for the policy committee's October 17, 2025, meeting. All proposals for October must be submitted by October 2. No new issues will be considered at the third and final meeting in December.

The September 26 committee meeting packet will be emailed to you one week before the meeting.

To RSVP for the September 26 meeting, click [HERE](#).

Meeting schedule (all meetings are in-person only):

- Round 1 - Friday, September 26, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET at the Hilton Orlando, 6001 Destination Parkway, Orlando, FL 32819. Click [HERE](#) to book your hotel room under the League room block. The hotel room rate is \$199 a night. Room block cut-off: August 29
- Round 2 - Friday, October 17, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET at the Hilton Orlando, 6001 Destination Parkway, Orlando, FL 32819. Click [HERE](#) to book your hotel room under the League room block. The hotel room rate is \$199 a night. Room block cut-off: September 16
- Round 3 - Thursday, December 4, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ET during FLC Legislative Conference at the Renaissance Orlando at Sea World, 6677 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, FL 32821. The League will provide hotel room block information at a later date. The legislative priorities will be adopted during the Legislative Conference.

## Orientation Opportunity

Are you a new committee member or want a refresher? Join our Policy Committee 101

# EditorLetters



## Letters, from page 7

Webinar on Sept. 3, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. ET. Register [HERE](#). (A recording will be sent to all members.) Additionally, click [HERE](#) to view the 2025-2026 FLC Policy Committee Development Process and FAQs.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I look forward to seeing you in Orlando!

Rebecca O'Hara  
Deputy General Counsel  
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

## Bradenton Area EDC

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle

In case you missed it – I am pleased to share Sharon's latest guest column in the Business Observer featuring the aviation ecosystem in Manatee County, our marquee sector in the Bradenton area.

What is an "aviation ecosystem"? In the Bradenton Area, it starts with available sites for businesses at Sarasota Bradenton International Airport, a workforce training pipeline that goes from K-12 through technical college certification and university engineering education, and a tight collaboration of key entities with a mutual mission to support the growth of the aviation industry in Manatee County and our region.

The article is attached, and the link is below. Please reach out with any questions.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ellen Kelley  
Manager of Investor Engagement  
Bradenton Area Economic Development Corporation

## New SBEP Director

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin

Mr. Woodworth thank you for your real-time comments and observation About Ryan. The family has found time together this weekend and we are engaged in that full speed ahead next week. I'll be able to give you a chat and talk with you better.

Gary Coffin  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key  
District one

## Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Management Board

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin

I'm reaching out to you both as I just finished a Sarasota Bay Estuary Management Board meeting today. A member of the Citizens' Advisory Committee is always invited to attend these meetings and today I did so. The Policy Board will soon have a tough decision to make on who follows Dave Tomasko as SBEP Director.

There is no replacing Dave, of course. I know Ryan Gandy is one of the finalists for that position and, while I do not pretend to influence anyone's decision, his presentation today on SBEP's 5 Year Restoration Plan gave me a chance to think about where we're headed.

The term "continuity" popped into mind as he went over the program's goals and priorities. The plan is in place to improve and move forward. Ryan's knowledge in this area gave me comfort that things will accelerate, not slow down.

I do not know Ryan well, but we have done a few "Eyes on Seagrass" surveys, with me providing the boat and the SBEP staff doing most of the data collection. When maneuvering from spot to spot, Ryan offers quiet advice. He knows the survey areas and tides better than I do, giving input while letting me be the captain. He leads quietly, often with just a suggestion. It's just something I've noticed and always appreciated.

Sometimes, before CAC meetings, Ryan and I will talk about fishing. I think finding that common thread between PhD and "man on the street" is a good quality to have. I get easily distracted by graphs, endless data, and acronyms. If someone can break that down or make it relatable, it helps. Ryan has that ability. So there's my \$0.02. No one has twisted my arm or asked for my opinion. I got your emails from the SBEP website.

Woody Woodworth  
CAC Secretary

## Street light

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin

Thank you Commissioner Coffin, I will forward to Public Works to get it on the schedule to check it out. Welcome back!

Isaac Brownman  
Assistant Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

## Street light

To: Longboat Key Assistant Town Manager Isaac Brownman

Isaac, I noticed last night on my walk that the streetlight at Sloop and GMD is very weak.

Gary Coffin  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

## Gulf of Mexico Drive Name Change

To: Longboat Key Commission

Unfortunately we will not be in Longboat Key to attend the October 20 meeting. We would like to add our absolute disgust at the possibility of a name change for The Gulf of Mexico Drive, this change is purely political and should not be forced upon the residents, we strongly oppose this change and hope a solution can be found to address this travesty.

The repercussions of a name change will be very disruptive for all residents in many ways ie: new address labels, notification of address change to overseas family, banking, insurance companies, drivers license, many other areas. The disruption outcome would be mind boggling, it is unconscionable. Please be sure our feelings are conveyed.

Jenifer Sunter  
Longboat Key

## Gulf of Mexico Drive name change

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Just looking for some clarity on the road name issue as we return from Summer. I understood FDOT had determined SR 789 was the official name of GMD and any other designation was the Town's prerogative. Gulf of Mexico Drive has been our choice for many years. I also understood that recent federal and State pronouncements have changed the name of the body of water known as Gulf of Mexico to Gulf of America, but that no such directives address or impact street names or other descriptors on land.

If this is true, why has FDOT removed GMD signage from Longboat Key correctly designating the road as Gulf of Mexico Drive before the Town has addressed the issue? The name was accurate when those signs were first posted and remains accurate today. If we have not received an answer to this question from FDOT, please try to get one before our meeting next week.

Ken Schneier  
Mayor  
Town of Longboat Key

## Opposition to Renaming Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission

I am writing to reiterate my strong and unequivocal opposition to the proposed renaming of Gulf of Mexico Drive under HB 575b and HB 549. This change is not only unnecessary — it is harmful. It would impose a significant and needless burden on thousands of residents, many of whom are elderly, forcing them to change their addresses, update countless legal and financial records, and endure the confusion and stress that such a disruption inevitably brings.

Our main thoroughfare is the lifeline of Longboat Key. It should remain a symbol of unity and stability, not become a political statement. Renaming it to align with partisan ideology risks dividing our community and tethering our identity to the shifting tides of political agendas. That is not what Longboat Key stands for.

If, despite these concerns, the Commission proceeds with a name change, I urge you to

See Letters, page 11



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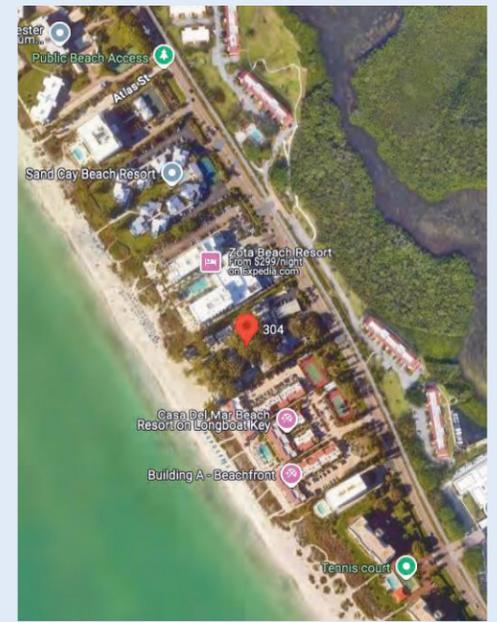
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# KeyRealEstate

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

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343 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR	3,422	\$4,750,000	5 5 1	9	\$4,750,000
259 S POLK DR	4,124	\$3,975,000	4 4 1	5	\$3,700,000
4651 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#304	4,012	\$6,995,000	3 5 0	109	\$6,350,000
3272 BAYOU RD	2,954	\$2,395,000	3 2 1	14	\$2,050,000
1465 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#502	2,565	\$1,690,000	4 4 0	16	\$1,600,000
1445 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#203	1,721	\$1,250,000	2 2 1	51	\$1,190,000
615 DREAM ISLAND PL Unit#303	1,509	\$975,000	2 2 0	99	\$900,000
605 SUTTON PL Unit#401-A	1,148	\$579,000	2 2 0	120	\$560,000
2141 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#1203	2,219	\$575,000	3 3 0	0	\$525,000
408 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#1224		\$70,000		3	\$64,000



4651 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit 304



**JEFF  
RHINELANDER**

941-685-3590

Jeff@jeffrhineland.com



**COURTNEY  
TARANTINO**

941-893-7203

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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.

## Aug. 29 Trespassing

11:03 p.m.

Officer Mathis responded to the 3400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a group of suspicious people at a residence. The homeowner contacted 911 in reference to several unknown subjects seen on camera at his residence while he was away. Upon arrival, Officer Mathis saw several people quickly walk into the open garage of the residence while a man walked up to Officer Mathis' car. Officer Mathis made contact with the man and introduced himself and advised for the reason of him being there. The man said that this was his residence and that the officer was clearly at the wrong address. Officer Mathis reassured the man that he was in fact at the right address and that the owner had called 911 reporting several people at his residence that he observed on camera. Officer Mathis asked the man for his driver's license and the man complied and provided the officer with his Florida Driver's License. At that time, Officer Mathis noticed the man had a different address on his license and it was in Sarasota. Officer Mathis asked again if this was the man's residence due to the fact that his license displayed a different address. The man responded that no this was not his house but he was the property manager. Officer Mathis explained to the man that if he was in fact the property manager, he needed to contact the property owner via cell phone while the officer stood there. The man responded, "No because he won't answer." Officer Mathis again explained to the man the situation and that the actual homeowner contacted 911 and advised suspicious people were at his home and that he saw them on camera around the residence. The man asked who the property owner was in an attempt to deflect. Officer Mathis explained to the man that he was about to be detained until the situation was clarified. It was at this time, he called the owner and explained to him that he was at the residence. The owner confirmed that the man was in fact the property manager but he did not know he would be at the residence or that he would be bringing guests to his residence unannounced. During the incident, the man was extremely rude and tried multiple times to pass the residence off as his own and an attempt to deceive law enforcement while refusing to call the actual property owner. Officer Mathis then ran the information through ELVIS which returned no active wants or warrants. Officer Mathis then returned the man's license back to him. Officer Mathis then spoke to the homeowner who apologized for the encounter and was thankful police responded so quickly. Case clear.



van accessible parking. The man said he understood the officer's reasoning, but believed there should be better signage. He also asked how to contest the ticket. Case clear.

## Aug. 31 Property

7:49 a.m.

Officer Van Dyke responded to the 1200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a found wheelchair. Upon arrival, Officer Van Dyke observed a wheelchair on the shoreline with no unique identifiers other than the wheels specifically designed for the beach. It's reasonable to assume that a subject borrowed the wheelchair, then forgot or refused to return it. Officer Van

Dyke met with the maintenance employee and advised him that he may keep or dispose of the wheelchair as it doesn't appear to be reported missing, linked to a missing person or involved in a crime. Case clear.

## Sept. 1 Property

10:15 a.m.

Officer Ramsaier responded to the 5400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a found wallet. The person who found the wallet said she found the black metal wallet in the 5700 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive and it contained various credit cards, Florida Driver's license a student ID. The black wallet also had an air tag attached to the outside of it. A property receipt form was completed and put into safekeeping. Officer Ramsaier conducted a LINX search on the owner of the wallet, and found his phone number. Officer Ramsaier made contact with the owner by phone who had tracked the location of the air tag and was in the parking lot at the time of contact. Officer Ramsaier had the man examine the contents of the wallet and complete a property receipt form. Case clear.

## Sept. 3 Drone fishing questioned

6:29 p.m.

Officer Troyer was dispatched to the 5200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on the report of a suspicious aircraft. The complainant contacted the Sarasota County Dispatch Center and she reported a person was on the beach flying a drone for the purposes of fishing. The complainant did not wish to meet either. Officer Troyer contacted the complainant by phone and she said the person was shark fishing on the beach and was using a drone to pick up bait and fly the bait into the water for the purposes of fishing. The complainant had concerns about FAA regulations pertaining to the drone and wanted the person's fishing license checked as well by FWC. Officer Troyer informed the complainant that based on the information she provided, no crime appeared to have been committed and the persons were perfectly fine to conduct their fishing utilizing a drone. The complainant later mentioned she knew the persons were within their rights to fish with a drone, but she did not like how the incident appeared because she had to look out her view at the persons fishing and felt they were inhumane. The complainant also said this was an FWC issue and she contacted them for a response. Based on the information the complainant gave to Officer Troyer, he did not observe any crime being committed and therefore had no legal basis to contact the fishermen. Case clear.

## Sept. 4 Information

11:08 a.m.

Officer Van Dyke responded to Bay Isles Parkway in reference to a hit and run accident. Upon further investigation, the case was updated to a citizen assist due to the incident occurring outside Longboat Key jurisdiction. Upon arrival, Officer Van Dyke spoke with the caller and her brother for language translation assistance. The caller showed Officers a video of a white truck on John Ringling Boulevard and stated that it sideswiped the rear driver side portion of her vehicle as it attempted to turn left. The iPhone video stated that the recording time occurred at 10:25 a.m. and the dispatch time was 11:08 a.m. Officer Van Dyke advised the caller that the incident occurred within Sarasota Police Department jurisdiction, therefore they need to report the crash. Officer Van Dyke also provided the link for the caller's convenience. Case clear.

## Property

1:36 p.m.

Officer Pescuma was dispatched to the 5900 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a crash notification with injuries stemming from an iPhone crash notification with a wireless number. Upon arriving on scene, Officer Pescuma canvassed the area yielding negative results for a traffic crash, however upon searching the area, Officer Pescuma located a blue iPhone on the bike path in the southbound lane of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Pescuma continued to canvass the area, with hopes to locate the owner of the cell phone. A woman was observed walking northbound with her dog that was identical to the dog on the phone's screensaver. The woman appeared to be searching for something on the ground. Officer Pescuma made contact with the woman and she advised she left her phone on the roof of her car and it must have fallen off. Officer Pescuma confirmed her identity, and she unlocked the phone with her passcode. A property receipt was completed and the officer transferred property to the owner. Case clear.

## Aug. 30 Person

1:36 p.m.

Officer Pescuma was dispatched in reference to a suspicious person in a white van parked in the public beach parking lot next to the hotel. The caller said that he was there yesterday and today has no reason to believe that he may have taken a guest's towel. The caller did not request to meet. Upon arriving on scene, Officer Pescuma made contact with the man in the van who said he was just enjoying the beach. The officer asked the man if he may have picked up someone else's towel in which he stated he did not. There was another party on scene stating that he took their towel. Officer Pescuma did not observe any suspicious or criminal activity.

## Parking

4:14 p.m.

Officer Ericsson was dispatched to Gulfside Drive to contact an individual regarding a parking ticket he received. It should be noted that Officer Ericsson issued a local parking citation for a maroon 2008 Honda CRV parking in a handicap permitted space earlier in the day. Upon arrival, Officer Ericsson contacted the car's owner who inquired about the ticket and tried to justify why he parked where he did. The man argued that there was enough parking space between the two handicap parking spots. Officer Ericsson showed him the two blue parking blocks/wheel stops in front of the handicap parking signs and pointed out that there was not a third parking block where his car was parked. Officer Ericsson further advised that the reason for significantly bigger space for handicap parking is to accommodate mobility devices and

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# Editor Letters



## Letters, from page 8

choose a neutral, enduring name that will stand the test of time and remain free from political controversy. There is no requirement that the street name match the adjacent body of water — now called the Gulf of America. A simple, dignified alternative such as Gulf Drive preserves the familiarity of the current name, avoids political entanglement, and protects residents from further upheaval.

This is a moment to put the well-being of your constituents first. Stability, unity, and respect for the people you serve must outweigh any political pressure or symbolic gesture. I urge you to reject this unnecessary renaming — or at the very least, adopt a name that is neutral, familiar, and unifying. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your service to our community.

Barbara C. Woods  
Longboat Key

## Delray Beach Community Insights Trip - Prep and Agenda

To: Sarasota City Commission

We're just under a week away from our informative Delray Beach Community Insights Trip. Please find below important details about the upcoming trip starting on Wednesday, September 10th and running through Friday morning, September 12th:

• Agenda: We are excited to share the lineup of community leaders and speakers for our program next week. Please find the agenda attached for your review.

Arrival: We look forward to welcoming you to the Opal Grand Oceanfront Resort on Wednesday, September 10. Our registration table will be in the lobby 4:00–6:00 PM—where you can pick up your program binder and agenda. The welcome reception will start at 6pm followed by dinner at 7pm.

• Dress: Comfortable business casual. On Thursday we'll be on our feet for a historic Main Street walk and the Morikami garden tour, you'll want to wear comfortable walking shoes.

• Parking: Valet is included in your registration. Tell the valet you're with the Sarasota Chamber group. Gratuities for the valet are not included and will be at your own discretion.

• Hotel:  
Opal Grand Oceanfront Resort  
10 North Ocean Boulevard  
Delray Beach, FL 33483  
(866) 994-8599

• Travel time: About 3 hours, 30 minutes from downtown Sarasota (traffic dependent). For most times of the day, Alligator Alley is the most direct and fastest route.

For any questions, please reach out to Marlon Brown or Heather Kasten. We've built a tight, well-planned itinerary and look forward to learning about Delray Beach, Florida next week.

Wishing each of you safe travels to Delray Beach and we look forward to a productive and informative program.

Liliana Torres  
Executive Assistant  
The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce

## Ringling speeding

Thank you Mitchell for your feedback per the Ringling Bridge and speeding, it is very helpful to have your input. I've copied the City Manager, Deputy City Manager, and Chief of Police on this email as well.

Jen Ahearn-Koch  
City Commissioner  
City of Sarasota

## Ringling Bridge

To: Mitchell Warner

I am writing you regarding the issue of using radar detectors for all those vehicles that are speeding over the Ringling Bridge. I fully support having any means to catch the cars and motorcycles that disturb the surrounding communities and cause probable harm to pedestrians and other motorists in the area. If there is anything I can contribute to this cause I will be involved. Thank you for your support.

Mitchell Warner  
Sarasota

## Sewer drains and culverts

To: Christine Kitts

Thank you, Ms. Kitts, and please thank Matthew for me for caring about other children and suggesting a way to protect them. I am sharing Matthew's ideas with the City Manager and Director of Public Works.

Debbie Trice  
Commissioner  
City of Sarasota

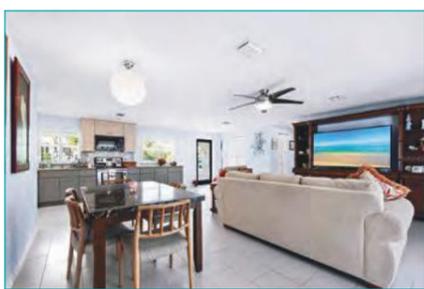
## Sewer drains and culverts

To: Sarasota City Commission

To whom it may concern, Hi there my name is Christine Kitts. I am emailing to inform you of a story that may benefit from shining some light onto the matter. This is in regards to Zaria, the 5-year-old girl that was swept in the storm drain while playing near a culvert in Sarasota County. This incident occurred right down the street from my son's Matthew's school, The Achievement Center. To give some insight Matthew is a very smart 11-year-old with Asperger's a form of Autism, speech and language impairment and chromosomal abnormality so he has his share of struggles as you can imagine. When Matthew got wind of the incident he started talking to me on the way home back to Northport about how deeply sorry he was that this has happened and how he doesn't want it to happen again, he started to mention on how these storm drains should have what resembles a steel fence like structure to block entry of small children and animals. He was deeply passionate about getting this out and has even went as far as drawing up his vision on paper and writing a heartfelt message to Zaria's family. I felt as his mom and at times his voice obligated to share his ideas and heart to the community in hopes of maybe preventing another incident like this one. Coming from a child that was nonverbal at a time for me this was huge. Attached you will find his drawings and idea for the drains and the culvert and his note. If you have any questions or you think this may be something positive to share with the community please feel free to email or call me. Thank you for taking the time to read this through, have a great day!

Christine Kitts  
Sarasota

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# KeyNature

## A day at Myakka River State Park

**MICHAEL GIVANT**  
Contributing Columnist  
givant@lbknews.com

Myakka River State Park is one of the state's oldest and largest parks at 37,000 acres. It has enough to do all day as the park features a tram ride, an airboat ride, a bird-walk, a weir and some picnic tables near Upper Myakka Lake where, on a cloudy March day, my wife, two friends and I watched a multitude of avian life.

As we board the tram ride, an osprey holding a fish in its claws flies over some tall trees. Perched in one of them is a great egret. The tall, stately white bird stands motionless. Along the tram trail we see an osprey in a tree with a fish draped across a branch. Is this the same one we saw earlier?

Adjacent to the parking lot is a grassy area where there are some picnic benches that overlook the lake where airboats go out. There are at least 120 white pelicans, winter visitors to Florida, in the water in a few tightly packed groupings. As we are about to eat lunch one of those massed groups starts to come by, moving with synchronized precision.



LBKN Special/Michael Givant

*A sandhill crane feeds at the Celery Fields. The scene is sedate beauty personified.*

These birds are collective hunters, herding fish to shallow water where they feed on them with their enormous orange bills. I'm fascinated as I've only read about this behavior before and not witnessed it in numbers of this size. They again come by slowly, but like a parade are soon out of sight. My wife admires how they seem to glide and gracefully turn in another direction. For her they are peaceful. For both of us, they alone make the drive here worthwhile.

As we are about to bite into sandwiches, five black-necked stilts fly in close to shore. These are 14-inch elegant birds with long, pencil-thin red legs and a curved black and white body design. I've never gotten as close to these birds as I'd like to, and this seems like the right moment. As I get up, two fly and the others follow.

However there's a consolation prize. It's a yellowlegs that's walking in and around clumps of grass in the water. These sandpipers are so named because of their yellow legs, and this one appears to be a lesser yellowlegs because it doesn't have a slight upturned curved bill, as do the greater yellowlegs. A friend of mine thinks that they are sedately beautiful birds. I note the brown



LBKN Special/Michael Givant

*A group of white pelicans parades by at Myakka River State Park.*

pattern on its back and the feeling of calm that it brings. Some boat-tailed grackles are here. The males are large and iridescent black with a long broad tail that resembles an oar. The females are smaller, tawny and lean like greyhounds. When they are in a group there's something Shakespearean about them.

By now the sun is out and there's a mystery in the water. There are a number of coots, black duck-like swimmers with white bills and ruby-colored eyes. They are quintessential Florida birds and are sometimes nicknamed "mud hens." One appears to have a stick in its bill that is trailing in the water. This can't be nest material or is it? I watch for a while and see one submerge its head and come up with some aquatic vegetation. Partially obscured in a tree near our table to which I've returned is a male boat-tailed grackle. It's calling and stays still while I take a few photos, one showing its clearly open bill. I could stay here all afternoon but we've got the airboat ride coming up soon.

As the airboat is preparing to depart, a glossy ibis is feeding nearby. Its long down-curved bill probes the sand below the water for tiny shells. If the day was really sunny the bird's brick red color and iridescence would show but today it looks uncharacteristically dull.

Out on the boat I'm impressed with the captain's intimate knowledge of the lake and its wildlife, as I always am. It makes the trip more than just a pleasurable ride. Some white pelicans come flying overhead, their huge

wingspans showing black at the tips. On the far shore an alligator slides into the water while others remain on shore snoozing. One has its jaws wide open showing a pink mouth and those teeth. How'd you like to be its dentist?



LBKN Special/Michael Givant

*A great egret takes a bath at Myakka River State Park.*

Out at the birdwalk a bald eagle flies by. In the grass are five sandhill cranes, large gray birds with tiny heads that have red crowns. These stately birds go

back in the fossil record 2.5 million years, much longer than most other birds. For me, that puts them on a pedestal. There is also a very large feral pig that we see at some distance.

We go back to the parking lot and out to the weir, a small dam where the lowering sun falls on two birds. A great blue heron stands close to the walkout, its body still while it looks straight ahead, somehow looking so alive in its stillness. The scene resembles an outdoor museum. Nearby a white ibis probes the water with its long, down-curved, Lifebuoy-colored bill making concentric circles in the water. Watching those circles I start to feel mellow. It's a sedate way to end our full day at Myakka River.

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# BreakPoints



## Focus on the Serve & Volley

*Sometimes my opponent will suddenly start to serve and volley. What is my best strategy to deal with that? Also, when is it appropriate to serve and volley, and when does it not make sense?*

**JACKIE BOHANNON**  
Guest Columnist  
tennis@lbknews.com

If your opponent starts serving and volleying, focus on the ball and not on the movement of your opponents. Have a preplanned game plan of how you are going to return based on the serve you receive. If your opponent has a strong serve, an appropriate return to neutralize the serve and volley is a lob over the server's partner's head. Down the middle and low is always a good return. Try to make sure if you can't lob or pass your opponent that you hit your shots nice and low at their feet. Positionally, stay one-up one-back as the receiving team unless you are not having success. If you are getting attacked off your return then I highly suggest having the receiver and the receiver's partner at the baseline. Having both players at the baseline, gives the serving team a different look which alone can cause good results. Playing both back takes pressure off the receiver so they aren't pressured to hit a perfect return. If the receiver's partner is at the baseline they have a better chance and more time to defend themselves if needed. The receiver's partner can always resume their position at the net if their partner hits a good offensive lob, or if the serving team stops serving and volleying.



**BOHANNON**

Serving and volleying is a great strategy if you have good mobility, a strong serve, and solid volleys. If you or your

partner have a difficult time moving backward it is probably not for you. I do not suggest ever serving and volleying on a second serve. Serving and volleying can be used as a change of positioning/strategy if you are losing. Sometimes, just making your opponent have a different look can sway momentum. Perhaps your opponents don't have a good lob, or seeing you rush the net puts pressure on them? Sometimes serving and volleying can cause missed return of serves because it makes the receiving team nervous. These are potential benefits or serving and volleying. Also, if you have a big serve and or your opponent has a weak return, serving and volleying makes sense. If you play someone that has an effective drop shot serving and volleying helps take that shot away as well. Generally, throwing in some serve and volleying is a good strategy because you want to take your opponent off guard. No matter how good you are at serving and volleying do not do it every time, because you do not want to be pre-

*Serve Jackie your best shot!*



*Long-time tennis pro and recently-named America's Top Coach Jackie Bohannon will answer any question on tennis. Please email question on strategy, technique, mental game, fitness, equipment, etc., to: news@lbknews.com*

dictable. Serving and volleying is a great skill set to develop, and when used at appropriate times can be highly effective.

*Jackie Bohannon is the Director of Tennis at the Bird Key Yacht Club.*

## KeyCrossword



### Limited Choice

Edited by Linda and Charles Preston

**ACROSS**

- 1 Michelangelo work
- 6 Ram down
- 10 Biblical wise men
- 14 Fat
- 19 Missile
- 20 Culture medium
- 21 Solar disk
- 22 Formed into bundles
- 23 African lake
- 25 Plotting in secret
- 27 French summers
- 28 Bowling lanes
- 30 Needy
- 31 Lisa
- 32 Thing, in law
- 33 Nigerian native
- 34 Greek aitch
- 36 Arabic A
- 38 Sailor
- 39 God of love
- 40 Support
- 42 Zola or Zatopek
- 44 Inhume
- 47 Gallows
- 49 Light refractors
- 53 IN's state flower
- 54 Tolerable
- 55 Recording ribbon
- 57 Legislator
- 58 Scottish-Gaelic
- 59 Forbidden
- 60 Habituate
- 62 Proboscis
- 63 Goddess of dawn
- 64 Connect again
- 65 Crimson, in Caen
- 67 German metaphysician
- 68 Pagan deity
- 69 Additions
- 75 Trimmed, as shrubs
- 78 Slow-moving boat
- 81 Simple
- 82 Uncanny
- 83 Stair part
- 84 Father
- 85 Senseless
- 87 Finger millet
- 88 Poems of praise
- 89 Low-ranking nobleman
- 90 Sots
- 92 Signified
- 94 Criminals
- 95 Tears
- 97 Certain consonants
- 98 Overlook
- 99 Not pres.
- 102 Require
- 104 Aves. counterparts
- 105 Tinge
- 106 Deface
- 109 Later in time; prefix

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- 111 War god
- 113 Indolent
- 115 Alto or Verde lead-in
- 116 Predilection
- 119 Comes between
- 121 Journalist Goodman
- 122 Light gas
- 123 E'er's opposite
- 124 Tidal flood
- 125 Erects
- 126 Italian princely house
- 127 Jewels
- 128 Waste allowances
- 8 Manufacture
- 9 Devotional tome
- 10 Prefix to Scottish names
- 11 Over
- 12 Major Italian port
- 13 Part of a shoe
- 14 Japanese sash
- 15 Yeast on brewing liquors
- 16 George "Adam Bede"
- 17 Dried cassia leaflets
- 18 Allan Poe
- 24 Man of wealth and prominence
- 26 Dress up
- 29 Pierce
- 33 Television award
- 35 Vinegary
- 37 Conifers
- 39 First class
- 40 Large animal
- 41 Babylonian mythic hero
- 43 One of the Barrymores
- 44 Fencing sword
- 45 Agrippina's son
- 46 Fling
- 47 Desert in Mongolia
- 48 Goad
- 50 Narrow aperture
- 51 Greatest amount
- 52 Dirk
- 54 More briny
- 56 Certain weasels
- 59 Taut
- 61 Sea duck
- 64 Operated
- 66 Drowse
- 67 More acute
- 69 Issue forth
- 70 Strange: prefix
- 71 Snare
- 72 Toward the mouth
- 73 Actor Bruce who played Dr. Watson often
- 74 Nets
- 75 Remonstrating
- 76 Carnival features
- 77 Employed
- 78 Edible rootstock
- 79 Onto
- 80 Proscribes
- 84 Chums
- 86 Ireland to Yeats
- 89 Outstrip
- 91 Lance
- 93 Atop
- 94 More delicate
- 96 Calm
- 98 Secretive hoarders
- 99 Symbol for and (abbrev.)
- 100 Milton
- 101 Stone pillar
- 103 Sand hills
- 105 pole
- 106 Skin disease
- 107 Wide awake
- 108 Thorned flowers
- 110 Southwest wind
- 112 Assessment
- 114 Arrow poison
- 115 Bosc or Anjou
- 117 Printer's measures
- 118 Boston to Gloucester dir.
- 120 Spot's doc

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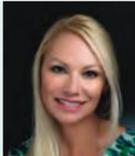
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# WineTimes



## The middle of the pack flows in a glass

*In an era of rapid changes in climate, some regions that depend on a specific feature appear to be losing it.*

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

Gamblers on the ponies know that place and show tickets keep them in the game. They don't have to pick a winner. The second or third best offers good value at a more reasonable price. The top horse in a stable lends it prestige. The next level horses come close, but fail to reach the heights of the top horses. But for the better, they offer good value for less.

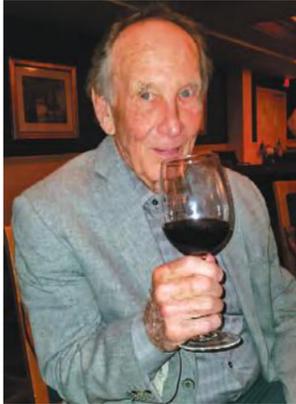
The place and show wines on a wineries' list have the same virtues as the show and place ponies. The grapes that don't quite make the cut for premier wine make great wines for everyday drinking.

Premier French Chardonnay from Burgundy and Rhône white wine blends have price tags of \$40 and up. A top California Chardonnay, say Shafer or Rombauer, sells

for only slightly less. The 2023 Famille Perrin Côtes du Rhône Réserve Blanc (\$14), an intriguing blend of Viognier, Roussanne, Marsanne, and Grenache Blanc, delivers aromas and tastes that give more prestigious wines a run for their money. If the Perrin blend of Rhône grapes doesn't match your preferences, the Rhône region has many other blends to try.

A building trend in winemaking in the USA is leading prestige brands to create new brands in a price tier below that of the prestige brand. The new brand has a distinct name, but the same grape varieties. Why? Because the producer of the prestige wine expects to sell only a limited quantity at a favorable wholesale price to retailers and restaurants. Putting a greater quantity on the market would either increase unsold inventory or force a lower wholesale price. Better to sell excess production of the prestige wine under another brand name to avoid undercutting the market for the prestige wine.

This tactic appears to be behind, for example, the creation of the Lyric brand of California Pinot Noir by the producer of the prestigious Etude Pinot Noir from the Carneros region in the Napa Valley. At twice the price, we buy Etude as a gift for a fellow wine aficionado or for a special dinner; for a more ordinary occasion, the Lyric tastes close enough to the Etude. We have to ask "Is it really Etude under a different label, or a close second?" Winemakers talk about the subtle differences in selection of grapes, skin contact during fermentation, and aging in oak, but these fineries don't add much to the flavor profile of the 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.*

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