

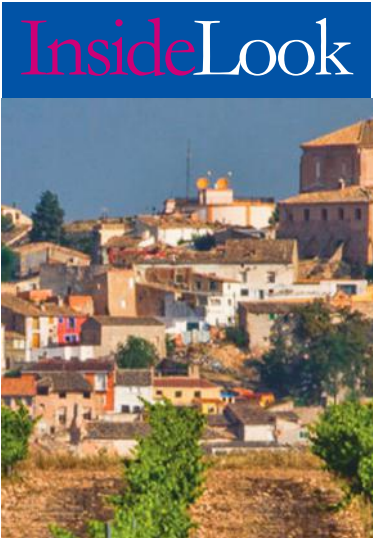


# Longboat Key News

April 11, 2025

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

FREE



InsideLook

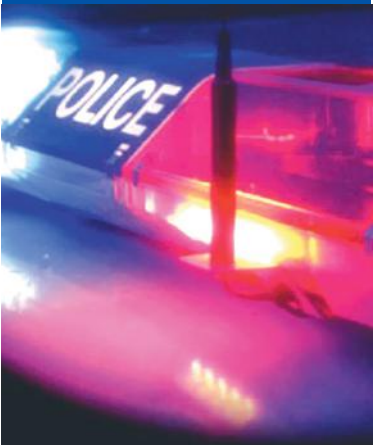
The wine path  
less taken  
...page 13



St. Armands tops  
\$3.6 million  
...page 11



Replacing trees  
post-storms  
...page 12



Man vows  
to never return  
...page 10

## Longboat Town Manager says \$2 million pledged to create custom library

*Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton said he was excited that more than \$2 million has been pledged toward Town Hall's goal of customizing a pending Sarasota County Library project by adding community space and outdoor gathering areas.*

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

The Town has been fundraising for almost a year, but Manager Tipton has been involved directly over the past few months. The \$2 million pledged leaves the Town \$1.5 million still to raise in order to fund the community hall in its indoor and outdoor spaces.

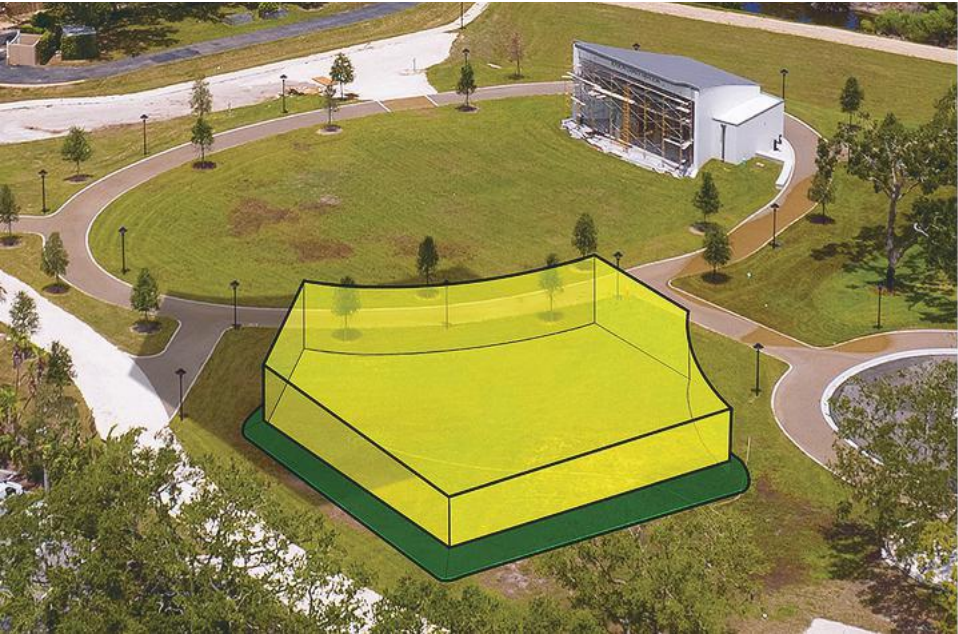
Sarasota County will be spending \$11 million to build the core library but it is the Longboat enhancements that the Town Manager says will "complete the green."

What the Manager means is the library and the additional Longboat community space will tie in with the Karon Family Pavilion and pathways and landscaping that wander through the 4.81 acre site.

The Town spent a total of \$3.7 million acquiring the sprawling site that extends from Chase Bank and the Publix Plaza all the way to the Tennis Center and Post Office. The goal of the Town has been for decades to create a walkable center and place for community gatherings.

The Community Hall will seat 200 people and there will be additional outdoor spaces providing for life-long learning classes, cultural events, and the manager says hurricane recovery efforts after storms.

As soon as the fundraising is over and Tipton says this should be by the



end of April, the County will start finalizing the design and plans for a 10,000 square foot project. The County is funding ongoing operational costs including book collections, technology and staffing. The future operating cost is estimated at \$1 million per year.

## St. Armands flood study behind schedule as repairs initiated by Sarasota County

*For St. Armands Resident's Association President Chris Goglia, no issue is more urgent than cajoling the City of Sarasota and Sarasota County into addressing storm flooding quickly.*

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

Specifically, Goglia is pushing the agencies to determine what is broken, what needs maintenance, and when and how it can all be fixed as we enter another hurricane season in less than two months.

Last Friday, Goglia issued a complete update from the County, which was supposed to 'televise' the St. Armands Circle stormwater pipes during the month of March.

Unfortunately, the County says it has not yet completed the task, but the County Stormwater Operations Manager says what has been investigated "looks really good." There were no blockages found to date.

The County utilizes closed circuit television equipment and mainly the commercial district drains underneath St. Armands Circle are being investigated. The County says if there are any compromised pipelines, they will either be repaired via direct bury, sectional liners or whole liners from catch-basin to catchbasin.

Goglia presented the County with a photo taken in February of 2025 showing one of the major drains that is supposed to have a backflow preventer to keep the bay water from entering the system, was completely broken off. The photo was taken near the southern end of St. Armands in the

See Flooding, page 2





**Flooding, from page 1**

vicinity of Fillmore Drive. The County Stormwater Manager wrote Goglia back, “Well, thank you for letting us know. I will get a work order put in to prepare the Tideflex valve.”

Goglia asked when the County would inspect the other three locations that are supposed to have the same backflow preventers to see if they may have broken off as well. The County Administrator said he did not think that would be the case but would check them.

The St. Armands drainage system utilizes a series of pump stations and generators to power the stations.

The check valves in the pump stations are in good shape. But there is a problem in that on Oct. 3, 2024, two generator fuel tank stations suffered major water infiltration. The County says that the generator behind the Fire Station has been repaired and is operational but the generator in the parking lot sustained major damage and is not functioning. Furthermore, the windings and the stator in the generator were destroyed from saltwater intrusion and parts are not available because of its age. The County is waiting on two estimates for a complete replacement.

Even with repair to new generators, the two next to the Fire Station are still vulnerable to a major flood event. The County has plans to rent backup generators for the hurricane season that will be pre-deployed and ready as backups.

**Mulching pressure**

One of the issues was the sheer volume of wood mulch, yard debris and waste and vegetation that helped clog the drainage system during the storms last summer. Goglia asked what the County’s opinion is on the City of Sarasota’s use of mulch on St. Armands Circle. The County did not give an opinion directly on whether alternatives should be investigated or whether wood mulch was a problem in particular. Instead the County said, “Yes, mulch was cleaned out of the drains, but so was a lot of trash and yard waste.”

Flooding also came to the fore last week when Sarasota County Commission Chair Joe Neunder and his fellow commissioners directed staff to hold another workshop on stormwater issues in May. Neunder emphasized that the Commission must deal with the anxiety and stress associated with the tremendous amount of loss that happened last hurricane season. He added with budget season coming up, that the commission would have to learn of all the needs that have to be addressed and find the money to tackle the problem.

Part of what is at stake in the county stormwater workshop is the budgetary prioritization and timeline for the numerous repairs and projects needed to shore up and make the stormwater system more resilient. He stressed that “We need to turn our immediate attention to the stormwater maintenance and operation program.”

**E**Bikes  
and  
cycles

The area's **largest selection** of quality electric bicycles.

We will custom fit you to your E-bike to match your riding style.

**SALES  
SERVICE  
ACCESSORIES**

423 Suwanee Ave, Sarasota, FL 34243  
(941) 531-2453 • [www.ebikesandcycles.com](http://www.ebikesandcycles.com)



Ads that work...

941.387.2200



CREATIVE KITCHENS & BATHS

YOU CREATE THE DREAM — WE CREATE THE REALITY

LEADING CONDO AND HOME REMODELING SPECIALIST LOCATED ON LONGBOAT KEY!



941-925-3723    Transforming your home, one room at a time — bringing your vision to life on Longboat Key.

Longboat Key Showroom

By Appointment Only

5610 Gulf of Mexico Drive | Longboat Key, FL 34228

State Certified General Contractor CG-C-1531837

Serving Longboat Key, Lido Key, Bird Key and St. Armands

CKB has a team comprised of general contractors, designers, expert carpenters, project management and more. We will bring your vision to life from first conversation to job completion.

Full Condo & Home Remodeling

Custom & Semi-Custom Cabinetry | Custom Tile Work

Hardwood & LVP Floors | Solid Core Doors

Baseboards & Ceiling Molding/Trim



[www.CreativeKitchenAndBaths.com](http://www.CreativeKitchenAndBaths.com)



SECUR-ALL INSURANCE AGENCY

Sandra Smith | 941.383.3388

VISIT US ACROSS FROM TOWN HALL!    510 BAY ISLES ROAD SUITE 1, LONGBOAT KEY, FL 34228

CHUBB, AIG, UNIVERSAL, UNITED, SAFECO, PROGRESSIVE, FRONTLINE, VAULT, FLOOD, WE HAVE YOU COVERED!



# THE DIPINTO GROUP



Jules Mackie

Tracey Stetler

Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan

Patrick DiPinto

Rene DiPinto

Steven Moore

Janet Coughlin

**OVER \$150,000,000 VOLUME IN THE PAST 18 MONTHS**



**100' PRIVATE BEACHFRONT | LONGBOAT KEY**  
\$16,995,000 - Under Construction  
4 Beds 5 Baths 6,614 Sq. Ft.  
Contact: Patrick DiPinto 941-323-0033



**120' OPEN BAY FRONT | BIRD KEY**  
\$9,975,000 - Under Construction  
4 Beds 5 Baths 3,700 Sq. Ft.  
Contact: Patrick DiPinto 941-323-0033



**WEST OF TRAIL BAYFRONT | SARAOSTA**  
\$9,750,000 – Move-in 120 Days  
5 Beds 7 Baths 5,328 Sq. Ft.  
Contact: Patrick DiPinto 941-323-0033



**1682 HAWTHORNE STREET | SARASOTA**  
\$4,195,000 - Southside Village  
4 Beds 4 Baths 4,471 Sq. Ft.  
Contact: Janet Coughlin 941-323-3736



**549 SLOOP LANE | LONGBOAT KEY**  
\$3,595,000 - Country Club Shores  
4 Beds 5 Baths 4,127 Sq. Ft.  
Contact: Tracey Stetler 941-266-9001



**STEPS TO SANDY BEACH | LIDO SHORES**  
\$6,595,000 – Immediate Occupancy  
5 Beds 6 Baths 4,750 Sq. Ft.  
Contact: Patrick DiPinto 941-323-0033



**585 CUTTER LANE | LONGBOAT KEY**  
\$3,399,999 - Country Club Shores  
4 Beds 4 Baths 3,602 Sq. Ft.  
Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922



**3131 BAYOU SOUND | LONGBOAT KEY**  
\$2,150,000  
3 Beds 3 Baths 3,023 Sq. Ft.  
Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922



**3408 FAIR OAKS LANE | LONGBOAT KEY**  
\$2,999,999 - Bay Isles  
5 Beds 5 Baths 4,510 Sq. Ft.  
Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922



**560 SCHOONER LANE | LONGBOAT KEY**  
\$4,500,000 - Substantially Remodeled  
4 Beds 3.5 Baths 3,666 SF- Full Bay Access  
Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922



**3060 GRAND BAY BLVD UNIT 154 | LONGBOAT KEY**  
\$1,999,999 - Exceptional Views  
3 Beds 4 Baths 2,369 Sq. Ft.  
Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922



**3318 BAYOU SOUND | LONGBOAT KEY**  
\$1,495,000 - Bay Isles  
Bay Isles 3 Beds 2 Baths 2,675 Sq. Ft.  
Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922



**129 TAFT DRIVE #W102 | SARASOTA**  
\$2,350,000 - Park Res of Lido Key  
3 Beds 3 Baths 2,445 Sq. Ft.  
Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922



**1540 HILLVIEW DRIVE | SARASOTA**  
\$9,750,000 - Harbor Acres  
4 Beds 6.5 Baths 7,074 Sq. Ft.  
Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922



**1633 RIDGEWOOD LANE | SARASOTA**  
\$1,895,000  
Canal Home, Fully Furnished, 1,828 Sq. Ft.  
Contact: Jules Mackie 773-704-1438

**941-388-2021**

**53 S PALM AVENUE, SARASOTA, FL 34236**

**WWW.THEDIPINTOGROUP.COM | @THEDIPINTOGROUP**

The property information herein is derived from various sources that may include, but not be limited to, country records and the Multiple Listing Service, and it may include approximations. Although the information is believed to be accurate, it is not warranted and you should not rely upon without personal verification. Affiliated real estate agents are independent contractor sales associates, not employees. Coldwell Banker. All rights reserved. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker logo are trademarks of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. The Coldwell Banker System is comprised of company owned offices which are owned by a subsidiary of Anywhere Advisors LLC and franchised offices which are independently owned and operated. The Coldwell Banker system fully supports the principals of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act.



**COLDWELL  
BANKER**



# 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.

## Conference call

To: Jim Haft and Maureen Merrigan  
As discussed, I've spoken with Howard Tipton about our interest in learning more about where things stand locally regarding the horrendous traffic problems by Coquina Beach and the Cortez bridge.  
My regular standing meeting with the Town Manager is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Thursday, April 15th. If that date works for you, I will arrange a conference call for the four of us around that time (say, 1:30?).  
Please let me know if you can be available then and Savannah will work out the details. (If not, I'll look for another option).  
Penny Gold  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

## Non-emergency prompt for police

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
Thank you. Important Information Regarding Non-Emergency Police Calls:  
To better serve our community, the Longboat Key Police Department would like to share a helpful tip for those calling our non-emergency number, (941-316-1201).  
When you call, you will hear a recording asking which department you wish to contact. To bypass this menu and connect more quickly, please press "0" as soon as the recording begins. This simple step will reduce your waiting time by an estimated 45 seconds.  
We hope this information is helpful. Remember to always call 911 for emergencies.  
Frank Rubino  
Interim Chief of Police

Town of Longboat Key

## Non-emergency prompt for police

To: Longboat Key Police Chief Frank Rubino  
Thank you Frank  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

## Longboat Key Bicycle Association (LBKBA)- Input to Goals and Objectives Workshop

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider  
Thank you for allowing Andi and I to participate in your goals and objectives workshop on behalf of the LBKBA. I noticed you were collecting people's presentations. Unfortunately, mine was a mess. Here is a clean version.  
Tom Saunders  
Longboat Key

## Audit Representation Letter

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider  
You asked today about the amount owed to us prior to Helene and Milton.  
Ronica put this together – it looks like we have Idalia obligated at \$124,227.  
When it has been obligated that means they have agreed to pay. The other items she's mentioned are not obligated yet.  
Susan Smith  
Finance Director  
Town of Longboat Key

## Pending Obligations for FEMA

To: Longboat Key Finance Director Susan Smith  
Hurricane Idalia DR4734 Category B Federal Share 100% obligated total is \$124,227.15.  
The next step is a FEMA submission of Category Z Admin cost at 5% of obligated funds. Additional deferred revenue 100% Federal \$6,211.36  
Total expected to receive for DR4734 in fiscal year 2025 \$130,438.51.  
I also verified again the Debby DR4806 cost share which is 75% \$37,945.43 and 25% \$12,648.48. After obligation we will request Cat Z at 5% \$2,529.70.  
Also expecting obligation in 2025 fiscal year. Total \$53,123.60  
Helene DR4828 has continuing invoices and may change with each check run.  
Please advise if additional information is needed.  
Ronica Jackson  
Accounting Manager, Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 8

BREAKFAST • BRUNCH • LUNCH • DINNER • CATERING • GOURMET DELI & BAKERY • CORNER STORE



WEEKLY SPECIALS

BEST BRUNCH ON LONGBOAT KEY

20% OFF BOTTLES OF WINE DAILY

RESTAURANT & DELI

HAPPY HOUR 3-6

NIGHTLY DINNER SPECIALS



525 ST. JUDES DRIVE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL 34228 • [HARRYSKITCHEN.COM](http://HARRYSKITCHEN.COM) • (941) 383-0777

Live Lobster, Seafood & Smiles

Longboat's Local Tradition Since 2009



FEATURING:

• Live Maine Lobster

• Fresh Fish • Gulf Shrimp

• Salads • Seafood Favorites

• Ribs, Burgers & More!

• Early Dining & Happy Hour

Mon -Sat 3:30 - 5:00

Open for In-House Dining & Take Out

Lunch: Mon - Sat 11:30AM - 2:30 PM

Dinner: Mon - Sat 3:30 - 9:00 PM

Reservations now accepted online! Book a dining room table directly from our website or try our convenient online ordering for easy pick up.

5350 Gulf of Mexico Dr.  
(in the Centre Shops)  
[www.lazylobsteroflongboat.com](http://www.lazylobsteroflongboat.com)  
(941) 383-0440

Tripadvisor  
Travelers' Choice Awards



2024

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS



CHRIST CHURCH OF LONGBOAT KEY PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)

Growing in Jesus' Name

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Dr. Julia Wharff Piermont, Pastor

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Thursday, April 17 • 7:30 PM

*"Essentially Receivers"*

Communion service with choir and meditation by Dr. Piermont.

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

Friday, April 18 • 7:30 PM

Tenebrae Service with Musical Meditation

*"Shadows of The Passion"*

This is a dramatic retelling of the drama leading to Jesus' crucifixion using narratives from Scripture with musical commentary. Composed by local LBK resident Dennis Piermont, presented by vocal trio and guitar.

EASTER DAY SERVICE

Sunday, April 20 • 10:00 AM

A Festive Celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord with choir, organ, trumpet and Sermon by Dr. Piermont.

*"Easter Explains Us"*

Visitors & Residents Welcome • Childcare Available

Watch any service via livestream at:  
[www.bit.ly/cclbksermons](http://www.bit.ly/cclbksermons)

6400 Gulf of Mexico Dr. • 941.383.8833 (office) • [www.christchurchoflbk.org](http://www.christchurchoflbk.org)



# BEYOND FIRST CLASS™



## PRIVATE BUSINESS AND LEISURE TRAVEL



**SEAMLESS**  
Luxury Ground Transportation



**EXTRAORDINARY**  
Personal Concierge



**EFFICIENCY**  
Spend Time Where it Matters

Connecting you to Premier Global Destinations Worldwide including:  
SARASOTA | TAMPA | NAPLES | PALM BEACH | MIAMI

Offering an Extensive fleet of Light to Super Mid-Size Jets. Turbo Props and Helicopters.  
Pilot Owned. Empty leg flights with flexible schedules available.

**ORION**  
SKY CHARTERS



The World’s only 100% Carbon Neutral charter company.  
All pilots and aircrafts adhere to ARGUs safety standards, and FAA regulations





Letters, from page 4

Amendment to HB 301 (Sovereign Immunity Legislation)

To: Longboat Key Town Commission

Attached please find a recently filed amendment to HB 301 (sovereign immunity bill) that was filed by Rep. McFarland yesterday evening. This amendment was forwarded this afternoon by your lobbyist, David Ramba's office.

The amendment to HB 301 proposes a more graduated increase to sovereign immunity limits lower than what was originally proposed in the original, prior iteration of the bill. The

amendment proposes:

- Claims filed between 10/1/25-10/1/30 shall be capped at \$500k for an individual claim, and \$1 million for multiple claims arising out of the same incident. The original bill proposed caps of \$1 million (individual claim) and \$3.2 (multiple claims).
- Claims filed after 10/1/30 shall be capped at \$600k for an individual claim, and \$1.1 million for multiple claims arising out of the same incident. The original bill proposed \$1.1 million (individual claim) and \$3.2 (multiple claims).

We will keep you posted on any other significant development that are shared with us.

Maggie D. Mooney  
Town Attorney  
Town of Longboat Key

## New Home? Renovation?

### Call BRINGLES BLINDS LBK Today!

# BLINDS • SHADES • SHUTTERS

HEADQUARTERED ON LONGBOAT KEY, WE ARE EFFICIENT, REASONABLE AND TRUSTWORTHY — JUST ASK OUR DOZENS OF LOCAL REFERENCES.

CALL for a free in-home consultation — 941-320-7019  
BRINGLEBLINDS.LBK@GMAIL.COM  
BRINGLESBLINDS.COM

No more village tourism

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Please ask the residents in the village, and property owners along Longboat Drive S. if they want more traffic, congestion, illegal parking and noise. Aren't the two restaurants enough for the village to bear? Please help preserve the beautiful ambiance of the village.

Gene Jaleski  
Longboat Key

Broadway Roundabout

To: Sarah Karon

It is our understanding that the proposed Broadway roundabout is a subject for discussion at a Commission workshop this morning. We are unable to attend the meeting, but would like to reiterate our belief that the roundabout is a desperately needed solution to the problem of safely navigating the intersection of Broadway and Gulf of Mexico Drive, whether it be on foot, by car or by bike. Too many times, making a left from Broadway on either side, or crossing in either direction, results in taking your life in your hands. Speeding cars seemingly appear out of nowhere. Having witnessed many near misses over the years it is hard to believe a horrible accident hasn't already happened. It should be emphasized that the lack of accidents does not make this a safe intersection, anyone who has used the intersection regularly is well aware how many times there have almost been serious accidents.

The idea that the northbound turn lane is an acceptable means of bypassing backed up traffic for those living on the west side of GMD is a fallacy. By definition, that middle lane is intended as a turn lane, not as a special lane for left turns for those too impatient to sit in traffic like the rest of us.

We ask that you and the Commission continue to support this effort to make this busy intersection safer for all who use it.

As always, thank you for service to, and support of, the residents of our beautiful island.

Jill and Joe Nemeth  
Longboat Key

Storm Water Management CS/CS/SB 810

To: U.S. Senator Joe Gruter

I have spoken with members of your staff about SB810, who are always so helpful - thank

See Letters, page 8

## Elevate your leisure time with unparalleled experiences.

As a member you'll enjoy:

• Championship Golf

• Private Beach & Pool

• Deep-Water Marina

• Pickleball & Tennis

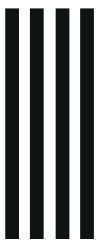
• Spa & Wellness Center

• Five Exclusive Restaurants

Contact [membership@longboatkeyclub.com](mailto:membership@longboatkeyclub.com) or (941)387-1661 for a tour.

LEARN MORE





CLIVE | DANIEL  
HOME

Winner of Over 450 Awards for design  
excellence including Best New  
Showroom in the USA!

Premiere luxury destination for residential,  
commercial and hospitality design services.

DESIGN MATTERS...INSPIRATION STARTS HERE!



- ◇ Total Home Creation
- ◇ Design, Renovation, New Build
- ◇ Expert Interior Designers
- ◇ Exclusive Collections
- ◇ Beautiful In-Stock Styles
- ◇ Custom Shop
- ◇ One-of-a-Kind Rugs
- ◇ Outdoor Furniture
- ◇ Accessories, Lighting, Art
- ◇ Unique Gift Boutique
- ◇ Weekly Shipping to Midwest & Northeast
- ◇ Immediate Delivery and much more!

ELEVATING SPACES, DEFINING EXCELLENCE WITH AWARD-WINNING DESIGN!

**SARASOTA, FL SHOWROOM**  
3055 Fruitville Commons Blvd.  
941.900.HOME(4663)  
Monday-Saturday: 10am-6pm  
Sunday: 12pm-5pm



Going east on Fruitville Rd. make a U-Turn at light (Lakewood Ranch Blvd.), then make a right on to Coburn Rd. Go around the circle to Fruitville Commons Blvd., pass Cooper's Hawk and you will see Clive Daniel Home on the right.



SYNCHRONY

CLIVEDANIEL.COM

IB26001785

AWARD-WINNING | INTERIOR DESIGN | FINE FURNISHINGS  
SARASOTA • FORT MYERS • NAPLES • BOCA RATON



Letters, from page 6

you for having such great people on your team. I continue to be concerned with this legislation that will come forward to the full Senate regarding storm sewer system inspections.

This Legislation imposes new, unfunded mandates on municipal storm water system entities by requiring an initial inspection of their entire permitted stormwater system by September 1, 2026.

We oppose CS/CS/SB 81O because it is a significant unfunded mandate for cities with stormwater systems. We are already meeting current inspection requirements. This mandate is excessive and unnecessary.

As you both know, we have experienced significant damage and expenses from the multiple storms last year. I lost my home in Hurricane Helene. If I thought for one moment that this legislation would manage stormwater from an 8 foot storm surge I would be the first to endorse this, but this legislation is not the solution. Please do not let this legislation pass.

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner, Town of Longboat Key

Sovereign Immunity

To: Longboat Key Assistant to Town Manager Savannah Cobb  
You are the best - such a nice change  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner. Town of Longboat Key

Sovereign Immunity

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
Done!  
Savannah Cobb  
Assistant to Town Manager, Town of Longboat Key

Sovereign Immunity

To: Longboat Key Assistant to Town Manager Savannah Cobb  
Please send this to the House Judiciary Committee - copy Casey Cook at FLC and Fiona McFarland  
Dear Judiciary Committee:  
You will hear the Sovereign Immunity legislation tomorrow morning (HB301). We have spent some time with Delegate McFarland discussing this legislation and we appreciate her willingness to hear our concerns. Both she and her staff have kept an open door in hearing our concerns.

Raising the caps on government liability in negligence lawsuits would impose a massive financial burden on local taxpayers. HB 301 quadruples the current limits – from \$200,000 to \$1 million per person and from \$300,000 to \$3 million per incident.

An amendment has been filed (Amendment Barcode #412749) that modifies the original bill by phasing in a slightly smaller increase over time. From October 1, 2025, to October 1, 2030, the caps would be \$500,000 per person and \$1 million per incident. Beginning October 1, 2030, the limits would rise to \$600,000 per person and \$1.1 million per incident. The increase in October 2025 would increase our insurance to cover this issue by 25%.

As many of you know, we were devastated by the multiple hurricanes last Fall and the

financial ramifications of those natural disasters make a large increase in Sovereign Immunity Insurance challenging.

The Florida League of Cities STRONGLY OPPOSES increasing sovereign immunity limits. Even though the amendment lowers the caps from the original bill, the League remains opposed to HB 301.

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner, Town of Longboat Key

Canal maintenance assessment

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra Williams

Ma'am, the canal team discussed your recommendation at length today at on our Teams Meeting. They have been reviewing the possibility of a single method (Assessment) to fund the program and are in the process of going through the pros and cons part of this methodology. They should be coming back to the group, in two weeks with their findings and may be coming to the Commission at the May workshop, if it is a viable solution.

The reason this was not a method originally considered by the consultant, was due to direction previous given to pursue a blended method. Years ago, when we were in the early phases of funding development, the blended method was preferred due to the complexity of the program, at that time. Back then we were given direction to look at Direct Benefit Canals, General Benefit Canals and Blended. We had 7, then 6 districts and other complicating factors. Now that the direction is to simplify, which we have and we can look to these other options to fund the program.

I just wanted to follow back to let you know that your suggestion is being considered further and I will provide additional updates when available.

Charles Mopps  
Public Works Director  
Town of Longboat Key

Canal maintenance assessment

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra Williams

Ma'am, I did reach out to the Team on 3/28 and inquired about your thoughts. I was hoping to get something back soon than later and reached out to them again today. I apologize for not getting back to you sooner. As soon as I have something from the team I will share it with you.

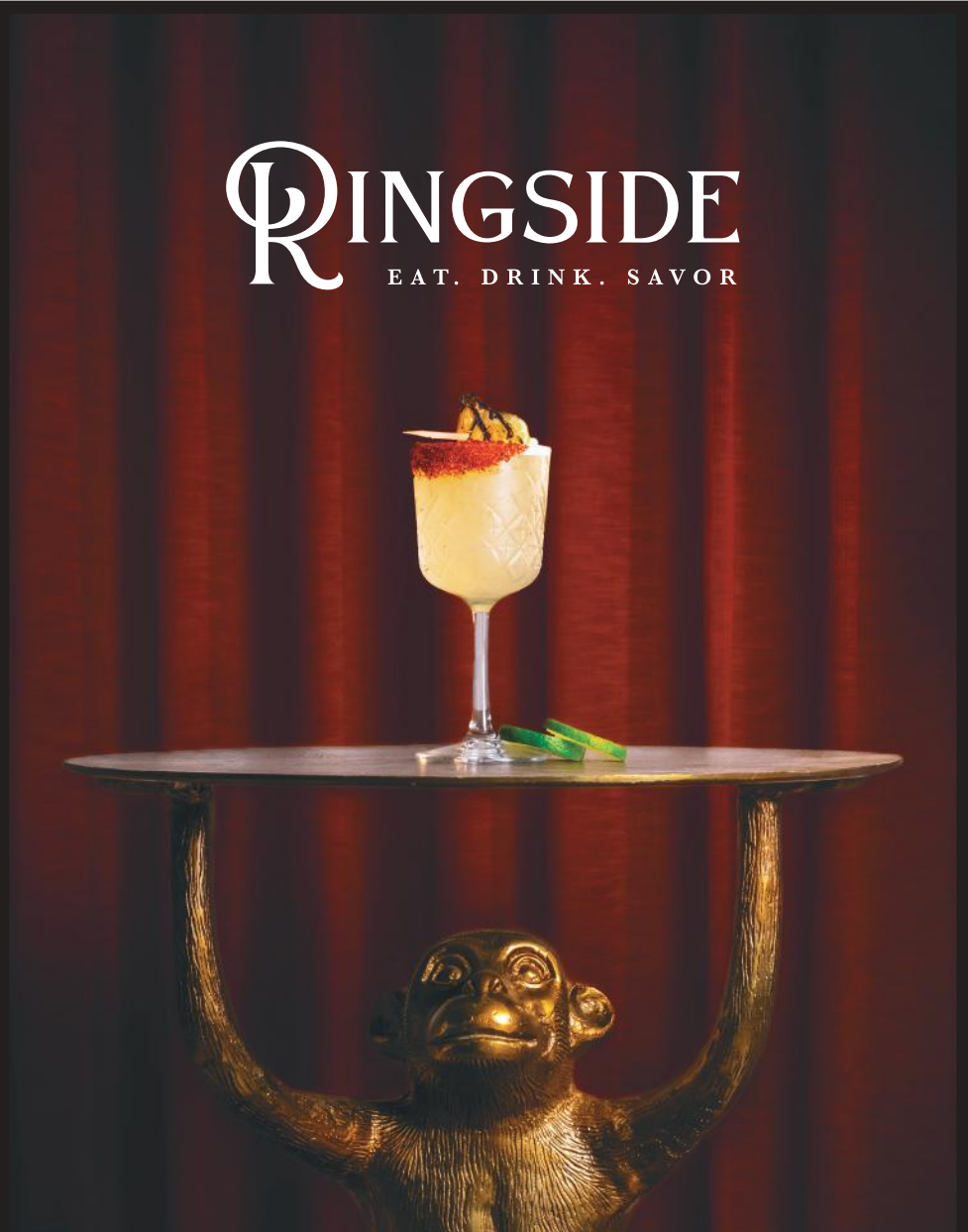
Charles Mopps  
Public Works Director, Town of Longboat Key

Canal maintenance assessment

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Charlie Mopps

After the last workshop discussion regarding canal maintenance assessments, I started thinking about what an assessment program would look like if we removed the ad valorem component completely, and simply used the EBU's for direct benefit properties, and a non-EBU for non-direct benefit properties. This would simplify the assessment methodology, and, imho, move the program toward an even fairer strategy. For example, a \$3M non direct property gets no more/less utility from not having a canal than a \$1M non direct property, so why use an ad-valorem assessment? the 80%/20% cost split between direct/non-direct properties could

See Letters, page 12



**RINGSIDE**  
EAT. DRINK. SAVOR

Sarasota's Newest Dining Spectacle - Now Open!

A fresh, inventive dining destination just a short stroll from St. Armands Circle, Ringside balances bold flavors and Gulf seafood favorites in the mesmerizing setting of Cirque St. Armands Beachside.

opalcollection.com/cirque-st-armands      941.388.5555



**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  
Planning and Zoning Board  
Zoning Board of Adjustment  
Sarasota County Citizens Oversight  
Committee for Public School Facility Planning**

All applications must be submitted to the Office of the Town Clerk **by 12:00 p.m. on April 23, 2025**. All applicants must be registered voters of the Town of Longboat Key. Late applications will be held for one year for any future board/committee vacancies that may arise.

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

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

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

Stephanie Garcia, Deputy Town Clerk II  
Published: 04-04-2025, 04-11-2025





**in the World**  
Coldwell Banker

JUDY  
**KEPECZ**  
HAYS  
*Team*



**\$3.4 Billion Career Sales**

**WE PAY COMPENSATION TO CO-BROKERS**

Kepecz@JudyHays.com | www.LongboatKeyLuxury.com

**Leah  
George**

**941.780.0597**

**Judy Kepecz-Hays**

**941.587.1700**

**Steven  
Kepecz**

**941.376.6411**

## Inn on the Beach



240 Sands Point Rd #4201  
\$1,198,000  
[InnOnTheBeach4201.com](http://InnOnTheBeach4201.com)

230 Sands Point Rd #3501  
\$1,150,000  
[InnOnTheBeach3501.com](http://InnOnTheBeach3501.com)

## North Siesta Key



**UNDER CONTRACT**

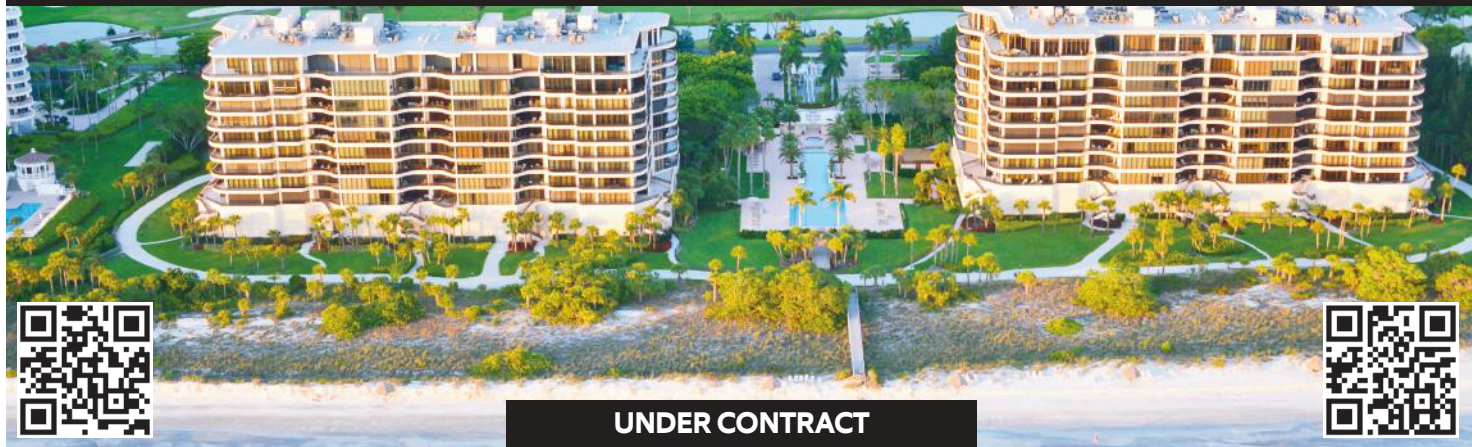
3500 Bayou Louise Lane  
\$10,000,000  
[www.eliteauctions.com](http://www.eliteauctions.com)

## Aria



2251 Gulf of Mexico Drive #204  
\$7,685,000  
[Aria204.com](http://Aria204.com)

## L'Ambiance



**UNDER CONTRACT**

435 L'Ambiance Drive #L807  
\$3,500,000 | Furnished  
[LAmbianceL807.com](http://LAmbianceL807.com)

415 L'Ambiance Drive #A401  
\$4,999,000  
[LAmbianceA401.com](http://LAmbianceA401.com)

415 L'Ambiance Drive #A801  
\$7,500,000  
[LAmbianceA801.com](http://LAmbianceA801.com)

## Gulf Front Estate

Lot Size 100 x 465 sq. ft.



5941 Gulf of Mexico Drive  
\$8,800,000  
[5941GulfOfMexicoDr.com](http://5941GulfOfMexicoDr.com)

**Integrity. Commitment. Excellence. Communication. Knowledge. = Results for the Judy Kepecz-Hays Team**

## Country Club Shores



521 Wedge Lane  
\$1,948,000  
[521WedgeLn.com](http://521WedgeLn.com)

## Promenade



**UNDER CONTRACT**

1211 Gulf of Mexico Drive #211  
\$1,950,000  
[Promenade211.com](http://Promenade211.com)

1211 Gulf of Mexico Drive #704  
\$1,100,000  
[Promenade704.com](http://Promenade704.com)

## Tangerine Bay Club



350 Gulf of Mexico Drive #211  
\$998,000  
[Tangerine211.com](http://Tangerine211.com)

## Sanctuary



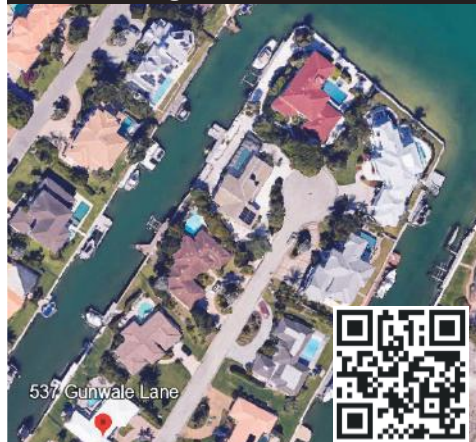
575 Sanctuary Drive #A303  
\$1,670,000  
[SanctuaryA303.com](http://SanctuaryA303.com)

## Emerald Harbor



6011 Emerald Harbour Drive  
\$2,470,000  
[6011EmeraldHarborDr.com](http://6011EmeraldHarborDr.com)

## Country Club Shores



537 Gunwale Lane  
\$1,900,000  
[537GunwaleLn.com](http://537GunwaleLn.com)

## Regency House



435 S. Gulfstream Ave #1004  
\$1,128,000  
[RegencyHouse1004.com](http://RegencyHouse1004.com)

**100 North Tamiami Trail | Sarasota, FL 34236 | Kepecz@JudyHays.com | www.LongboatKeyLuxury.com**



# OnPatrol



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

**April 4**  
**Citizen assist**

8:55 a.m.

Officer Maple responded to Norton Street for a property damage call. Upon arrival, located a barge owned by the seawall company tied up to property owner's dock with two workers preparing to remove barges. Workers informed they do not have the owner's permission to utilize his dock and empty lot to move equipment from barge to nearby house being repaired. Officer Maple spoke to the property owner who said he wanted a police report as he had the vacant lot groomed and prepared for construction but it is now damaged. The property owner is currently in Texas and was instructed to follow up when he returns to Longboat Key as he needs to be onsite for any possible further actions. Case clear.



## Trespassing

2:28 p.m.

Officer Nazareno was dispatched to the 4400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a trespassing call. Upon arrival, offices were met by the HOA President who advised that a woman in a Toyota van was in the parking lot and wanted to speak with one of the employees. The employee stated that he knows the woman's husband but doesn't want to speak with her at his place of employment. The man said that he knew the woman's husband, but he doesn't want to speak with her at his place of employment. The President then went outside and told the woman to leave the property. Case clear.

## Citizen assist

6:00 p.m.

Officer Miklos was dispatched to the 4400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a vehicle burglary. While en route, dispatch advised that the caller that no burglary had occurred and she had entered the wrong vehicle. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos met with the caller in the parking lot. The woman showed Officer Miklos her black Lexus and started an identical vehicle was parked next to hers. The woman stated that when dispatch asked for the license plate of her vehicle, she realized the vehicle had an Ohio tag instead of Florida. The other vehicle involved was leaving the parking lot as Officer Miklos was speaking with the woman. Case clear.

## April 6 Parking

1:46 a.m.

Officer Miklos while on patrol in the 4000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive, observed a truck parked near the rec center. Officer Miklos did a suspicious vehicle screen. Officer Miklos while exiting his vehicle, observed a foot hanging out of the passenger window. As Officer Miklos approached the vehicle, two men had returned to the vehicle from the park with fishing equipment. Officer Miklos spoke to one of the returning men who stated it was his girlfriend's vehicle and she was sleeping in the vehicle while he fished. The man advised he was unaware of the park hours. The man was shown a sign with the park hours listed. The man was issued a local ordinance citation for being in Bayfront Park after hours. The two individuals left the park without further incident. Case clear.

## Rescue

8:34 p.m.

Officer Troyer was dispatched to Sarasota Bay off of Grand Bay Drive for a report of a marine rescue. The caller said she saw a vessel with a flashing white light and it appeared to be in distress. While enroute, Longboat Key Fire Department arrived on scene first and were able to observe the occupants of the boat throwing a cast net and appeared to be fishing. No visual signs of distress was observed by the Fire Department. U.S. Coast Guard was dispatched as well and cancelled their response. Case clear.

## April 8 Noise

10:39 a.m.

Officer Van Dyke responded to Sanctuary Drive in reference to a noise complaint. Upon arrival, Officer Van Dyke spoke with the caller who advised that the air compressors above her roof were loud enough to keep her awake and was negatively affecting her sleep and overall wellbeing. According to the caller, she has been dealing with the noise issue for three months and has reported the incident to her HOA several times already. Officer Van Dyke did observe a consistent humming sound, although not loud enough to warrant immediate action or a violation. The caller presented Officer Van Dyke a letter from the contractor which stated that a 39-decibel measure was recorded, but 25-30 is

considered comfortable. She also advised that she hired an attorney to handle the issue civilly, therefore Officer Van Dyke provided the caller a case number for future reference. The caller said that she has placed the residence on the market due to the issue. The caller said she was satisfied with the outcome. Case clear.

## Turtle

3:50 p.m.

Officer Van Dyke responded to Longboat Club Road in reference to an animal problem. Upon arrival, Officer Van Dyke spoke with the housekeeper who advised that a turtle was stuck in the pool of her client's residence. According to the housekeeper, she was concerned that the turtle may be endangered, therefore she didn't attempt to remove the turtle. It should be noted that her husband was also on scene with similar concerns. In the rear of the residence, Officer Van Dyke observed what appeared to be a Florida Soft-Shell Turtle. Officer Van Dyke carefully encouraged the turtle to the surface of the pool. Officer Van Dyke then swiftly grabbed the turtle by the shell and meticulously relocated it to the stream immediately behind the residence where it likely originated from. The turtle appeared satisfied with the outcome. Case clear.

## Suspicious

5:51 p.m.

Officer Van Dyke responded to Golf Links Lane in reference to a suspicious person. Ultimately, the subject was located nearby in front of Putter Lane. The caller didn't wish to meet, but she provided a description of a man soliciting door-to-door. Officer Pescuma located the subject in front of Putter Lane. The man was identified and he said he was soliciting for a cleaning supply business. The man was told that soliciting is prohibited on Longboat Key without a permit. Officer Van Dyke advised that he would be receiving a verbal warning for the ordinance violation. Although the man was boisterous, he was cooperative throughout the investigation. The man said he didn't plan to come back to Longboat Key. Officers observed the man leave the scene on foot without incident. Officers checked the FCIC/NCIC for warrants yielding negative results. Case clear.

**April 9**  
**Citizen assist**

9:20 a.m.

Officer Maple while on patrol was dispatched to the 5400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a citizen's assist call to a possible illegal dumping. Upon arrival, Officer Maple met with the complainant who stated the two men in a black Toyota Tundra were dumping yard waste into a dumpster behind the Centre Shoppes businesses but left prior to Officer Maple's arrival. Pictures and video were taken and Officer Maple reviewed the evidence. Officer Maple stationed himself in an area to observe the dumping area and witnessed a vehicle matching the description return to the scene. The occupants were questioned and the driver stated he was the property manager. Case clear.

## Disturbance

10:50 a.m.

Officer Maple and Sgt. Smith were dispatched to Bayport Way for a civil disturbance call. The call was about a property boundary and contractors causing damage while turning around on private property. Upon arrival, Officers met with the complainant who said they have been having issues with contractors and homeowners on Kingfisher Lane. Officer Maple spoke with one of the homeowners who stated he removed a couple of property stakes to allow for his landscapers to complete work but had marked the area with stones and had intended to return stakes after morning work completed. The homeowner was requested to contact the complainant to work out civil matters. The complainant and the homeowner both agreed to work on a solution outside of law enforcement. Case clear.

## Vehicle

11:46 p.m.

Officer Tillman was called to a report of an abandoned vehicle at Rountree Lane. Officer Tillman responded to the area and observed the vehicle parked on the easement of the roadway. The complainant stated that the vehicle had been parked at that location for approximately one week. A red removal sticker was placed on the rear windshield. The vehicle will be passed onto the oncoming shift. Case clear.

LBK  
Liquors



941.953.1835

The Island's largest selection of Beer, Wine & Spirits  
Come check out our competitive prices!

Discounts on cases of wine | Special orders welcome

Locally owned & operated

Whitney Beach Plaza  
6854 Gulf of Mexico Drive | Longboat Key, FL





# KeyRealEstate

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

Address	Sq. Ft.	List Price	Bed/Bath/Half Bath			Days On Market	Sale Price
145 N WASHINGTON DR	3,559	\$4,000,000	3	3	2	75	\$3,621,000
1800 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#A801	2,070	\$2,500,000	2	3	0	27	\$2,400,000
1 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#121	1,389	\$1,599,000	2	2	0	95	\$1,450,000
455 LONGBOAT CLUB RD Unit#807	2,410	\$2,699,000	3	3	0	192	\$2,462,000
1211 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#706	1,598	\$1,400,000	2	2	0	63	\$1,250,000
3060 GRAND BAY BLVD Unit#162	2,143	\$1,295,000	3	3	1	59	\$1,205,000
4725 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#103	1,032	\$1,215,000	2	2	0	88	\$1,175,000
4825 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#303	1,393	\$1,050,000	2	2	0	74	\$900,000
5201 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#103	1,184	\$950,000	2	2	0	34	\$885,000
1922 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#1102	1,590	\$649,000	2	2	1	14	\$605,000
611 CEDARS CT	1,440	\$525,000	2	2	0	27	\$510,000
3808 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#E307	1,007	\$375,000	2	2	0	276	\$362,500
699 EL CENTRO Unit#182	1,327	\$250,000	2	2	0	24	\$210,000



145 N WASHINGTON DR



JEFF  
RHINELANDER  
941-685-3590

Jeff@jeffrhinelander.com



COURTNEY  
TARANTINO  
941-893-7203

courtney.tarantino@floridamoves.com



443F John Ringling Blvd. • Sarasota, FL 34236



COUNTRY CLUB SHORES

585 GUNWALE LANE • LONGBOAT KEY

3BR/3.5BA • OPEN WATER VIEWS • OFFERED FOR \$5,699,000



BIRD KEY

605 WILD TURKEY, SARASOTA

3BR/2.5BA • 2,200 SF • OFFERED FOR \$2,090,000



NEW PRICE

BEACHES - LONGBOAT KEY

775 LONGBOAT CLUB RD., #902 • LONGBOAT KEY

3BR/3BA • 1,842 SF • OFFERED FOR \$1,799,000



NEW PRICE

ST ARMAND TOWERS

101 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR., #63, SARASOTA

2BR/2BA • 1,275 SF • \$1,195,000

LISTED BY NATHALIE NOLANDER & COURTNEY TARANTINO



BIRD KEY

419 PARTRIDGE CIRCLE • SARASOTA

4BR/3BA • 2,229 SF • NOW PENDING \$2,495,000



BIRD KEY

247 ROBIN DRIVE, SARASOTA

SOLD \$5,500,000 • REPRESENTED BUYER



# Editor Letters

### Letters, from page 8

still be maintained. Was this a method that the consultants considered?

Debra Williams  
Commissioner, Town of Longboat Key

### Amending code: replacement trees

To: Carol Weis  
Thank you very much for your thoughtful note regarding the tree ordinance. We will be discussing a potential temporary hurricane exemption of the Island's two-for-one tree replacement requirement at the Town Commission meeting this Monday, (April 7 at 1:00 p.m.).  
Penny Gold  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

### Trees

To: Longboat Key Commission  
It has come to my attention that there is a rule to replace every removed tree with two new ones. Given the impact of the hurricanes and the need to remove many more trees than usual, this creates an unusual hardship for our community. Given how many expenses have been incurred Involving these hurricanes it seems only fair to waive this requirement at least for the time being to allow the communities to do the necessary tree work without straining their budgets even further.

Please consider this request and act on it promptly. It would be very wise to change the number of trees to replace as our condo association is working very hard to take out the damaged trees and it's heartbreaking to see the old, beautiful banyans which provided shade, removed due to damage as well as the palm trees. Please consider amending the code under the circumstances. Our grounds were the pride of Longboat and we have lost so many beautiful, old ones.  
Carol Weis  
Longboat Key

### Tree Replacement Policy

To: Cathy and Chip Lothes  
Thank you very much for your note regarding the tree ordinance. We will be discussing a potential temporary hurricane exemption of the Island's two-for-one tree replacement requirement at the Town Commission meeting this Monday, (April 7 at 1:00 p.m.).  
Penny Gold  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

### Tree Replacement Policy

To: Longboat Key Commission  
We are writing to you today to encourage your consideration of a hurricane disaster exception for Longboat Key's

current two-for-one tree replacement policy.  
We are owners of an LBK condominium and while we applaud the original intent of this requirement, we feel this requirement should be amended to a one-for-one replacement for any trees which need to be removed due to the 2024 hurricanes. Thank you for your service to our community and town.  
Cathy and Chip Lothes  
Longboat Key

### Stormwater Unfunded Mandate bill moving

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
Here is our suggested response to FLC's questions. Note we didn't go down the exact path they asked for as we just don't have time to analyze this. Please feel free to share with Sen. Boyd and Rep. Robinson as FLC requested.  
The Town of Longboat is a Co-Permittee of the MS4 permit with Sarasota County, that consists of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District One, the City of Sarasota, Sarasota County, the City of North Port, and the City of Venice. While the Town has been successful in maintaining and inspecting 100 percent of our drainage facilities in 2024, much of this is due to the support provided by the Florida Division of Emergency Management. After Hurricane Helene, the Town requested support from the Sarasota County Emergency Operations Center to provide Vacuum and Jetting trucks to clean the debris from all the Town maintained drainage boxes, pipes and culverts. The Town repeated this request after Hurricane Milton. The Town also coordinated with FDOT District One to accomplish the same along State Road 789.  
The Town also conducts yearly in inspections of our dry retention systems and maintains them regularly, through inhouse and contracted services. This is to maintain our compliance with Southwest Florida Water Management District Permits. These inspections are reported every year on the Annual Report Form for Individual NPDES Permits for MS4 Systems. In addition, the Town does inspect the systems within our flood prone areas on a more frequent basis. These areas have systems with one-way valves to prevent canal return waters, that require more frequent inspections and maintenance. Many of these low lying, flood prone drainage systems areas are currently under redesign and construction, supported by Hazard Mitigation Grants, appropriation requests, and internal funding.  
The Town of Longboat Key has a history of providing and demonstrating the goal of meeting or exceeding existing MS4 requirements. Any additional, unfunded inspection requirements could place an unnecessary burden on the Town, who is still recovering from the impacts of last year's storm season.  
Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

## Luxury Living out EAST!

**LAKEWOOD RANCH**  
3008 TOLMINO COURT

Waterfront Deeded Golf lot at the end of cul de sac! Two Bed/Two Bath plus Den, Oversized two car garage with an extended 4 feet. An extended screened in Lanai that is Pre-Plumbed with Electric, Gas and Water for your future outdoor kitchen. Electric and Gas were also provided during build out for your future private pool! Located in the coveted gated Esplanade at Azario community, with deeded Golf Membership and tons of amenities!

2BR/2BA • 1,689 SF

Don't miss out!

Thinking of moving off island? You will want to call this your next home. CALL US TODAY!

Earl Larson & Tryla Brown Larson

**941-962-1122**

**MySRQHomes.com**

**/TrylaBrownLarson**

## Longboat Key News

## Sarasota City News

PO Box 8001  
Longboat Key, FL 34228  
941-387-2200  
www.lbknews.com

Steve Reid, Editor & Publisher  
sreid@lbknews.com

Associate Publisher  
Melissa Reid

Columnists  
Susan Goldfarb, Sig Hermansen,  
Greg Rusovich, Blake Fleetwood

Sales  
Lillian Sands  
Steve Reid  
ads@lbknews.com

Graphic Production  
Dottie Rutledge



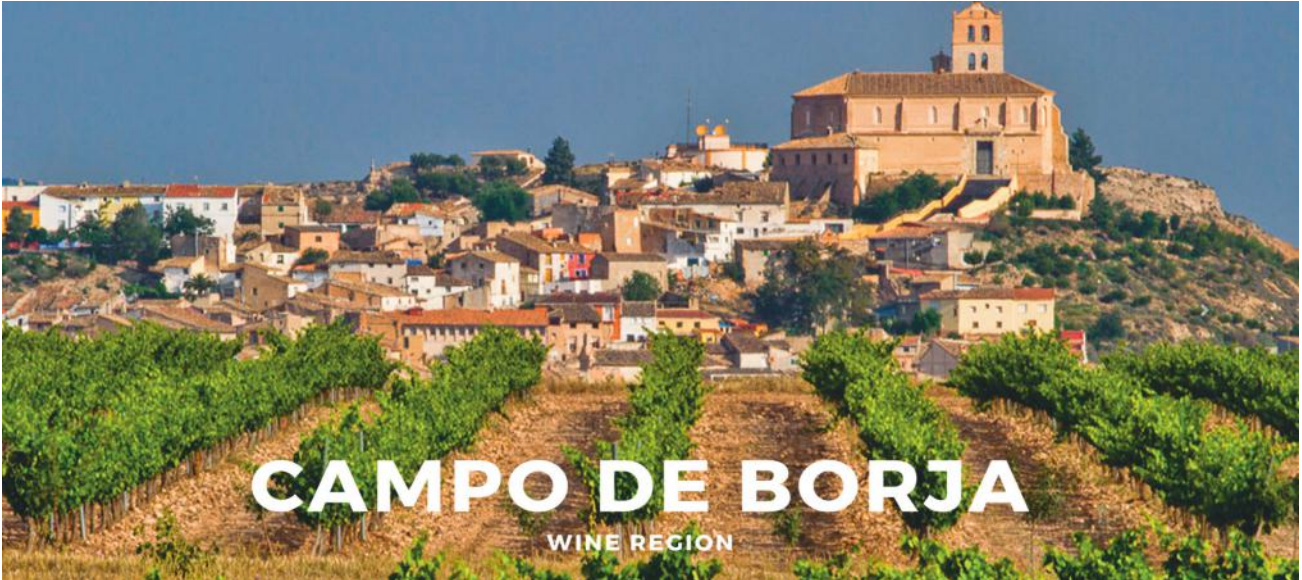
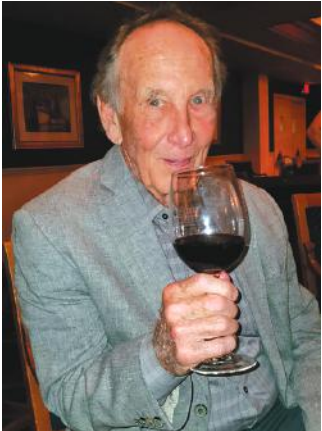
# WineTimes

## Signature wines from less well-known regions

*These wines offer memorable tastes and better values than found in wines from famous regions.*

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

We learn to associate signature wines with famous wine regions early in our explorations of wines. Red Pinot Noir and white Chardonnay go with the Burgundy region in France. Red Sangiovese in Chianti go with the Tuscany region of Italy. Red Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, or Cabernet Franc go with the Bordeaux region in southwest France. Red Tempranillo goes with the Rioja and Ribero de Duero regions of Spain. Cabernet Sauvignon goes with the Napa Valley of California. Red Shiraz (Syrah) goes with the Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale regions of Australia. Malbec goes with Cahors in France and the Mendoza Valley of Argentina. Sauvignon Blanc goes with the Sancerre region in the Loire Valley of France and the Marlborough region of New Zealand. Chenin Blanc goes with the Vouvray region in the Loire Valley of France. White Chardonnay and red Pinot Noir (sans skins) in Champagne go with, of course, the Champagne region of France.



Other less well-known wine regions have their own signature wines. These wines offer memorable tastes and better values than found in wines from famous regions.

A wine recommended by the Norwegian Viking Kirtley, at bar at the Arts and Central, a Backyard Restaurant in the Rosemary District of Sarasota, the red 2021 Alto Moncayo Veraton Garnacha (\$34) comes from the Campo de Burja region in northern Spain. The Spanish clone of the French Grenache grape produces wine with an intense dark fruit hue and taste. The Veraton fills the mouth with flavors a touch sweet with ripe tannins, and it has a lingering finish. It brings out the savory essence of grilled pork, lamb, or game. Compare it with Rhone Valley red blends such as Hermitage or Gigondas, or a fine Australian Grenache. The Campo de Burja region within Aragon has a special gift for producing wine from the Garnacha clone.

A wine rated as one of the best from Sicily comes from the northern slopes of Mt. Etna in Italy: the 2018 Pietradolce Contrada Rampante Etna Rosso (\$35). Produced from the native to Mt Etna 90-year-old Nerello Mascalese red grape bush vines, it makes red wine with profuse red fruit tastes and sturdy acidity. It pairs well with a Mediterranean diet of fin and shellfish rich in omega oils, birds, root vegetables, and olive oil.

A sweet dessert wine akin to a Sauterne from the Bordeaux region of France, the Sémillon with Botrytis (a so-called noble rot that concentrates sugars in affected grapes and makes them “sticky” as the Australians say it) will work well. The 2019 De Bortoli Noble One Botrytis Sémillon (1/2 bottle \$24) from the Riverina region in New South Wales Australia has a high sugar content and tastes of lemon, caramel, and dried tropical fruit.

As a final example of many possible ones, we return to Chateau Purcari in Moldova. The

new 2021/2022 vintage of the Freedom Blend (\$20) of Saperavi, Rara Neagră, and Bastardo grapes from the countries of Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. The wine carries a clear pollical message, but it also tastes great.

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 Otego 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.

Ads that work...

ads@Lbknews.com or 941.387.2200

You Can STOP Crime in Your Community

Report Criminal Activity - Anonymously

Cash Reward up to \$5,000.00

TIP LINE 941-366-TIPS (8477)

Download our FREE mobile app

Pd by CSTF

DRIFT

KITCHEN & BAR

Top-Ranked for a Reason

Perched on the eighth floor of Lido Beach Resort, Drift ranks #1 among 900 Sarasota restaurants on TripAdvisor for its unrivaled views and unforgettable flavors.

opalcollection.com/lido-beach

941.388.2161



# Business Directory

Professional Home Watch & Concierge Service



CERTIFIED • BONDED • INSURED • TRUSTED



- Detailed Interior & Exterior Home Checks
- Time & Date Stamped Reporting & Photos
- Concierge Services to Fit Your Needs
- Home Maintenance Coordination



WELCOME HOME  
CONCIERGE

The Home Watch Experts

941.915.1248

www.whcsarasota.com



SCAN ME

Loved again

Boutique

UPSCALE WOMEN'S CONSIGNMENT STORE



SALE

HIGH END CLOTHING, SHOES, AND ACCESSORIES

- JOHNNY WAS
- CHANEL
- HERMES
- JIMMY CHOO

4141 S. Tamiami Trail #8 • Sarasota

BESIDE TRADER JOE'S

941.702.8159



GREENWICH INTERIORS, LLC

Creating beautiful, functional  
residential and commercial spaces.

- New construction
- Remodeling
- Project management

We bring your vision to life.

NANCY O'ROURKE, Principal

(941) 279-7500

nancy@greenwichinteriors.com

Greenwichinteriors.com



MesaAesthetics

wellness

BE WELL WITH DR. MESA!

- Direct Primary Care
- Weight Management
- Anti-Aging Care
- Now Offering: The HydraFacial

Dr. Nathalia Mesa

941-251-0600

www.mesaesthetics.com

Wildewood Professional Plaza  
3645 Cortez Road West, Suite 110  
Bradenton, FL 34210

Hablo español



Cortez Bait & Seafood

Fresher than Fresh!

Local Florida Seafood

Oysters • Shrimp • Clams

Fish Spread • Smoked Mullet



MON - SAT: 10 AM TO 6:30PM | SUN: 10AM TO 5PM

941.794.1547

12110 Cortez Road West

Cortez, FL

www.cortezbaitandseafood.com

SEE US ON FACEBOOK

SARASOTA  
PAINTING

INTERIOR / EXTERIOR / CABINET

FULLY INSURED • OWNER OPERATED

CALL OR TEXT 941-900-9398 TODAY!

OWNER: DON HUBIAK

Instagram Page: @SarasotaInteriorPainting



KAREN & ANGELO POMPETTI

Two Generations of Master Barbers

Traditional & Cutting Edge Barbering

38 Years in Business



200 CENTRAL AVE. SUITE 11

ACROSS FROM WHOLE FOODS

484-889-8991 • menshaircutsarasota.com

Steff's Stuff

ANTIQUES AND TREASURES

ESTATES & CONSIGNMENTS ARRIVING DAILY

5380 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE

IN THE CENTRE SHOPS • 941.383.1901

CLOSED THROUGH MID-OCTOBER

SteffsStuffLBK.com

ANTIQUE ORIENTAL RUGS.COM



FOR OVER 40 YEARS...  
ALL HAND CHOSEN  
ALL ONE-OF-A-KIND  
BOUGHT • SOLD • APPRAISED

Visit our Sarasota Gallery  
Call Robert Mosby  
941.925.1025  
By appointment only

DESIGN  
DESIGN  
DESIGN  
DESIGN  
DESIGN

00000

Celebrating 27 years  
on the island!

EXCELLENCE  
AND EXPERIENCE  
IN HAIR AND NAIL DESIGN

941-387-9807

We are THE Color experts on  
LBK - a Goldwell salon.  
Make your appointment today!

6840 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE  
AT WHITNEY BEACH PLAZA

www.design2000longboatkeyfl.com

THE FISH HOLE

ADVENTURE GOLF

18 HOLES

OPEN 9am-9pm  
7 DAYS A WEEK

COME PLAY  
A ROUND!

115 BRIDGE STREET  
BRADENTON BEACH, FL  
34217

PHONE: (941) 778-3388

www.THEFISHHOLE.com



Angelo Pompetti Bonetti

Professional men's barber services.

At our salon or at your residence  
on Longboat or Lido Key.

Call or text for appointments.

200 Central Ave.  
Suite 11

941.297.8991

www.menshaircustsarasota.com

MASSAGE &  
FACIAL REJUVENATION



AcuMed

Wellness & Acupuncture

941.250.6911

AcuMedFL.com • KCHILL@ACUEMEDFL.COM

2953 Bee Ridge Road • Sarasota, FL 34239

- Acupuncture
- Injection Therapy
- Herbology
- Homeopathy
- Massage

EBikes

and  
cycles

Fresh Air  
and  
Exercise?

Scan Our Free Guides

Legacy Trail, Sarasota Bayfront,  
and the Gulf Islands



Ads that  
work...

ads@Lbknews.com or

941.387.2200



# The problem with vaccines

*Physicians see vaccines along with sanitation as provided some of the greatest successes of human health. Who could be opposed to treatments so life giving?*

**MATTHEW EDLUND**  
Guest Writer  
news@lbknews.com

Who wants smallpox? The name of the disease was sufficient over the past many centuries to instill terror in anyone who invoked it. You start with flu symptoms, progress to tense pustules, total body pain, racking fevers, eventually overwhelming fear until many wished to die. In the 20th century alone, it was thought that 300 million people died of smallpox, nearly the same number as presently live in the United States.

In the late 1970s, smallpox was eradicated. The finisher of smallpox were vaccines. Smallpox vaccines had been used in late Ming China from the 16th century on, and eventually, engaging viruses from the same family as the original variola, eliminated the illness from the Earth.

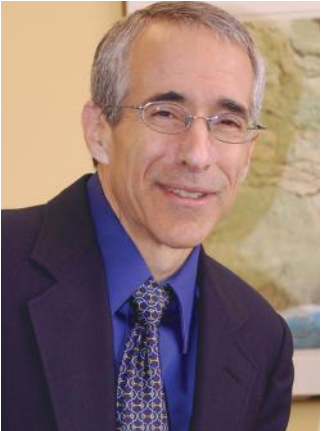
Smallpox is one of several reasons many physicians cannot understand why people do not want to take up vaccines. Who would not want to prevent mass horror and death? Who would not want to prevent a horrifying end of yourself and your family or lifelong debilitating illness, like the blindness so often brought by smallpox? Physicians see vaccines along with sanitation as provided some of the greatest successes of human health. Who could be opposed to treatments so life giving?

But vaccines have a problem. They work by first making people sick. Vaccines produce an immune response that allows people to fight off major infections. Often it is that immune response which causes the symptoms and even the fatal illnesses that infective agents produce, whether it is smallpox or tuberculosis.

The Covid virus, with its many mutations and variations, was famous for causing heart disease. It was not surprising that vaccines to Covid would also cause cardiac conditions. That's what inoculation and the immune response is all about. Health to a large extent is something the body learns. We are constantly bombarded by newly mutated viruses, bacteria, and other infectious agents. Through a process of forced evolution, we create new ways to fight them off. The better we are at it, the longer all of us can live.

Vaccines are necessary because infectious agents can hit everyone and anyone, When mass infections occur, whether colds or pandemics, my health is your health, and your health is mine. If enough of the population can develop effective and sustainable immune responses, we may eventually get a form of "herd immunity" that allows us to protect large communities. But as we learned with flu and Covid, mutations do not stop once we have effective vaccines. Viruses exist to infect and reproduce. They are relentless, inexorable. They will never give up, even if we do. But when we have effective means to prevent them, why should we surrender?

So vaccines are social drugs. They are not constructed to treat individuals alone . Instead they help you and populations simultaneously. When people receive vaccines that work, they protect not only themselves but their families, their communities, even in many cases, the entire



human population and beyond. We have been fighting viruses and bacteria for as long as we have been human, really, much longer than that. That is why so much of our DNA is made up of material from viruses and bacteria. Vaccines allow us to amplify that response so that we protect all of our species and that of others, like our livestock and pets. Who could be against something that saves not just you but your community?

Yet to prevent more serious illness, and death, vaccines do make people sick. Vaccines can cause serious disease, especially if given to millions of people. One of the reasons smallpox vaccines were eventually stopped is that one or two in a million who received the vaccines would die. That compares to a 30% mortality rate before vaccines. When it was clear that less of the population was dying from smallpox than from immunization, smallpox vaccination stopped.

In the past, people were willing to accept these trade offs. In New York City in 1947, five million people were inoculated against polio in six days. People wanted to prevent an illness that caused paralysis, leaving children on iron lungs for the rest of their lives. Polio was a much less deadly disease than many others, but people understood its risks. They took the risks of vaccines gladly, knowing they were taking care not just of themselves, but of everyone else around them.

The legal foundation supported by the present administration's secretary of Health and Human services has fought to ban the smallpox vaccine, along with many others.

We used to care about others. We used to do what we could to protect them. What has happened to us?



LONGBOAT KEY TENNIS CENTER

Join the fun!

10 OPEN COURTS | TOURNAMENT PLAY | LESSONS

FULL SERVICE TENNIS PRO SHOP

ROUND ROBIN LEAGUE

CERTIFIED INSTRUCTORS AND CLINICS

OPEN MON-FRI 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM

SAT-SUN 7:30 AM - 1200 PM

SEASONAL AND ANNUAL PASSES ENJOY

UNLIMITED FREE PLAY!



590 BAY ISLES ROAD | LONGBOAT KEY, FL

941.316.8367



SAVE Up to 35% Off  
Plantation Shutters!



HunterDouglas

SHUTTERS • ROLLER & SOLAR SHADES

BLINDS • CUSTOM DRAPERIES & CORNICES

Visit our Showroom

4201 N. Washington Blvd. Sarasota

Mon-Fri 9 am to 5 pm & Sat 10 am to 2 pm

www.blindsanddesignsofflorida.com

941-360-9200



941-320-1120 • beachlimosfl.com

Experience first-class luxury transportation

AIRPORT, MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS, NIGHTS OUT, SPECIAL EVENTS AND MORE!

RELIABLE • SAFE • LICENSED • INSURED

I'm Chris Pinto, and together with my wife, Tiana, we've been happily serving Long Island, New York, for the past 20 years. We recently moved to Sarasota with our four adorable puppies, and we're beyond excited to bring our passion for service to your community!





# BRUCE MYER GROUP



COLDWELL  
BANKER

#2 COLDWELL BANKER DUO TEAM IN THE NATION  
No Realtor has listed or sold more Longboat Key Properties



Learn more at [www.BruceMyer.com](http://www.BruceMyer.com)



CHASE MYER (941) 315-5318



BRUCE MYER (941) 376-5311



EN PROVENCE • \$4,995,000  
2161 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #3  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
3BR/3.5BA • 3,800 SF • Gulf front terrace



ORCHID BEACH CLUB • \$2,850,000  
2050 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR. #A601  
SARASOTA, FL  
3BR/3.5BA • 3,242 • Beach/Bay views



MARINA BAY • \$2,695,000  
2410 HARBOURSIDE DR., #121  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
3BR+FAMILY ROOM/3.5BA • 3,825 SF



PROMENADE • \$2,250,000  
1211 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #401  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
3BR/3BA • 2,100 SF • Gulf & Bay views



MARINA BAY • \$1,999,000  
2550 HARBOURSIDE DR., #322  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
3BR/2.5BA • 2,830 • Updated



NEW PRICE

EMERALD POINTE NORTH - \$1,849,000  
2065 HARBOUR LINKS DRIVE  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
3BR/3.5BA • 2,865 SF • Updated



NEW PRICE

GRAND BAY • \$1,695,000  
3010 GRAND BAY BLVD. #482  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
3BR/3.5BA • 2,250 SF • Furnished



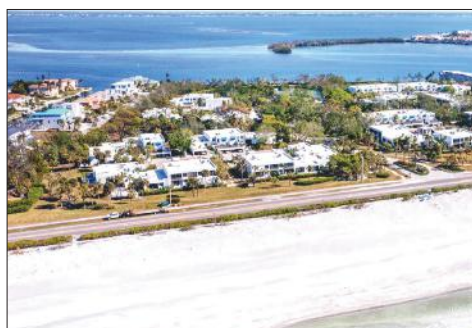
COREY'S LANDING • \$1,235,000  
3467 BYRON LANE  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
3BR/2.5BA • 2,227 SF • 2-Car garage



HARBOR OAKS • \$1,095,000  
2129 HARBOURSIDE DR., #901  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
3BR/2.5BA • 2,219 SF • Golf views



FAIRWAY BAY • \$995,000  
1900 HARBOURSIDE DR., #102  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
2BR/2.5BA • 1,590 • Updated • Boat Dock



BAYPORT BEACH & TENNIS CLUB • \$895,000  
520 BAYPORT WAY  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
2BR/2BA • 1,456 SF • Gulf to Bay



PLAYERS CLUB • \$895,000  
1485 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #205  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
2BR/2.5BA • 1,569 SF • Gulf front



FAIRWAY BAY • \$885,000  
1928 HARBOURSIDE DR., #1404  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
2BR/2BA • 2,565 SF • Furnished



LBK YACHT & TENNIS CLUB - \$869,900  
4215 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #103  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
2BR/2BA • 1,497 • Furnished



ISLANDER CLUB • \$799,000  
2301 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #85N  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
2BR/2BA • 1,235 SF



NOW PENDING

LONGBOAT KEY TOWERS • \$1,595,000  
603 LONGBOAT CLUB RD., #1102N  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
2BR/2BA • 1,458 SF • Gulf & Bay views



NOW PENDING

THE MARK • \$1,295,000  
111 S. PINEAPPLE AVE., #1004  
SARASOTA, FL  
2BR/2.5BA • 1,513 SF • City views



NOW PENDING

L'AMBIANCE • \$2,995,000  
415 L'AMBIANCE DR., #C404  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
3BR/3.5BA • 2,820 SF • Furnished



NOW PENDING

BIRD KEY - \$4,150,000  
524 N. SPOONBILL DRIVE  
SARASOTA, FL  
3BR/3BA • 3,425 SF • Waterfront



NOW SOLD

EMERALD POINTE NORTH - \$1,770,000  
2063 HARBOUR LINKS DR. #6  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
3BR/3.5BA • 3,056 SF • Represented Buyer

This material is based upon information that we consider to be reliable, but because it has been supplied by third parties, we cannot represent that it is accurate or complete, and it should not be relied upon as such. The offering is subject to errors, omissions, changes, including price, or withdrawal without notice.

595 BAY ISLES ROAD, SUITE 250 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL 34228