



Longboat Key News

October 3, 2025

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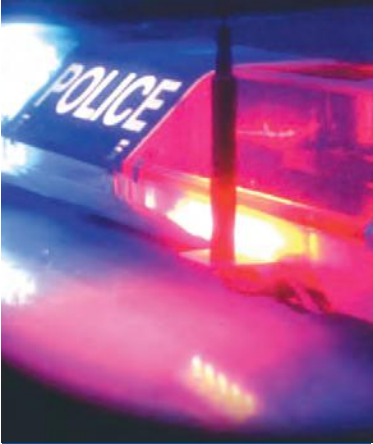
LBK road name debate rages ...page 3



Top sale circles St. Armands ...page 9



What control really means ...page 4



Shirtless and suspicious ...page 10

Mote Marine cuts red ribbon on future

Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium held a ribbon-cutting ceremony last Friday ahead of the official grand opening of the new Mote Science Education Aquarium on Oct. 8.

The event honored decades of leadership and philanthropy that paved the way for the 146,000-square-foot facility at 225 University Town Center Drive in Sarasota. Former directors, longtime trustees, and the Benderson



family, credited with a central role in funding the project, were recognized during the program.
See Aquarium, page 2

Restoration work complete at St. Armands



Significant restoration and improvement efforts were recently completed at St. Armands Circle.

Following devastation caused by Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton, City of Sarasota Parks and Recreation staff worked diligently to restore and enhance the lighting

See Circle work, page 15

Tourism still down since storms

New data in the economic impact report from Visit Sarasota shows last year's storms are still having some effect.

This report done by Downs & St. Germain Research, a market research firm in Tallahassee, compares lodging economic impact differences between this July and July of 2024.

Hotel room and vacation rental rates went up more than \$20 on average. The revenue per available room, or revpar, for hotels went up 17.6% while the revpar for vacation

See Tourism, page 2

Fall blows onshore

Photo by Bob Parrish.

St Armands Scene Fills in Missing Pieces

To the day one year after Hurricane Helen slammed its tidal surge into the heart of St. Armand's Circle, we walked up a flight of stairs to take a look at the soft opening of Tommy Bahama's Restaurant and Bar at its new location.

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

Its old location across the Circle it had occupied since 1996 suffered severe damage during the hurricane and had left locals uncertain about its return to St. Armands. Its new venue, on the right where Ringling comes into the Circle from the Bridge, says loud and clear that the Circle is back and better prepared for future weather events.

The space that Tommy Bahama's now occupies, formerly The Shore,



has the kitchen, bar, and dining areas on the second level. The entranceway has a chic beach bar look. Guests invited to the soft opening gave the staff a chance to conduct a final training exercise before the official opening to the public on the next day, September 24th.

Downstairs the retail store had a

sale on chinos in progress. This successful mixing of tropical bar and beach attire merchandizing brings Tommy Bahama's back to its 1992 roots in its original store in Naples Florida.

Across the circle, next door to the former Tommy Bahama's location, we found to our surprise that the

See St. Armands, page 15

Mote Rebuilds Floating Classroom

Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium is rebuilding its floating education platform on City Island thanks to a grant from the Suncoast Disaster Recovery Fund of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County.

The floating platform and walkway, or "outdoor classroom," which serves as a vital resource for marine science education at Mote, was damaged last October when Hurricanes Helene and Milton struck the barrier islands. Unfortunately, the damage rendered the outdoor classroom unusable.

Since its original construction with support from the Community

See Classroom, page 15

Aquarium, from page 1

Dr. Michael P. Crosby, Mote’s president and CEO, called the aquarium a bridge between research, education, and public engagement. “Mote SEA is much more than just an aquarium; it stands at the intersection of paradigm-changing research, science education, and community engagement,” Crosby said.

Local, state, and federal officials also praised the project. Several lawmakers noted that while public partners played a role, the majority of the funding came from private donors. Leaders described the facility as a beacon that will draw visitors to the Sarasota-Bradenton area and inspire the next generation of scientists.

The ribbon was cut, three cuts, to mark the moment. Crosby also thanked his wife, Sharon, for her support throughout the years-long push to bring Mote SEA to life.

The new aquarium contains more than 1 million gallons of water and will provide free, hands-on STEM learning for more than 70,000 students annually, including 26,000 from Title I schools. Exhibits will showcase sharks, rays, manatees, otters, penguins, and reef species.

Education and research labs will focus on biomedical and microbiology, marine and coastal ecology, ocean engineering and robotics, aquaculture and fisheries, coral genetics and restoration, as well as veterinary diagnostics and conservation.

“We envision a future in which tens of millions of visitors will experience the transformative power of learning and discovery, changing the way they think about our oceans, conservation, and sustainable use,” Crosby said.

Tickets and exclusive grand opening event reservations are available at mote.org/tickets.

Tourism from page 1

rentals went up almost 8%.

And at the same time the average room night stay went down almost 2%. The report also shows that the total economic impact is down 8.1% Visit Sarasota says the area hosted just under 144,000 visitors, who drove or flew to visit our town.

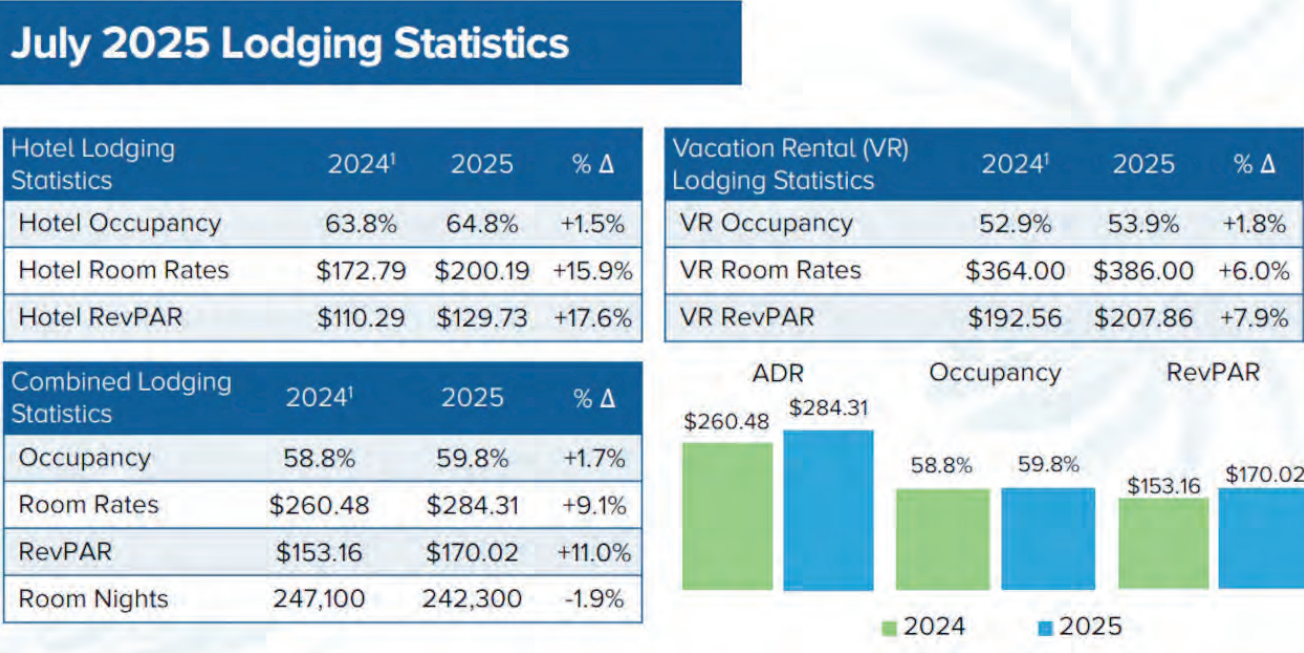
Fast facts

Visitors were 143,700 compared to 149,800 in 2024

Visitor direct expenditures were \$132,395,200 compared to \$141,012,900 in 2024

Lodging occupancy was 59.8% compared to 58.8% in 2024; Lodging average room rate was \$284.31 compared to \$260.48 in 2024

There were 242,300 room nights sold compared to 247,100 in 2024



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EditorLetters

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

Condominium Milestone Inspections submitted to DBPR

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon

Sharing the attached from Allen Parsons as an update to our community’s efforts to meet the milestone inspection report deadlines. Patti and Eileen and our entire team have been working to ensure the Town meets all reporting requirements and have done such a good job at it that Longboat Key is the standard by which all other municipalities are measured.

Kudos to Patti and the team for managing this in addition to hurricane recovery efforts. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work put in by all of the condominiums on the Key (also in addition to their hurricane recovery efforts) who have gone through a number of different reviews (and expense) to ensure the safety of their structures so that we do our very best to prevent another Surfside type incident. Great work all around!

Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Condominium Milestone Inspections Submitted to DBPR

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

This past legislative session included further updates to Florida’s Milestone Inspection requirements (which obligate structural assessments on condo buildings that are 30 years or older & that are 3 or more stories in height) via HB 913, with many provisions taking effect on July 1, 2025. One of those new requirements is reporting duties for local enforcement agencies. By October 1, 2025, these agencies must report specific information regarding Milestone Inspections to the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR). This data includes the number of buildings inspected and, notably, a list of any buildings that have been deemed unsafe or uninhabitable.

Attached is the Town’s first Annual Milestone Inspection Report Summary. There are a couple of noteworthy items to report on:

- The first is that 197 out of 198 buildings (required to perform a Milestone Inspection) completed their reports by the initial due date of 12/31/24. The one remaining building has been granted an extension & is underway with having this inspection completed.
- The second is that only two buildings were required to have a more substantive ‘Phase 2’ inspection completed. And out of those two buildings, none were required to have follow-up building permits issued to correct any issues.

Overall this is an excellent bill of health for the structural integrity of older/taller condo buildings in the Town. And anecdotally, we’ve heard the overall completion rate of these structural assessments in the Town and the timeliness of reporting to DBPR are exemplary within the state.

On the staff side, thanks to Patti & Eileen for standing up this new Program, including getting a complete inventory of applicable buildings, developing a tracking system, staying on top of the outreach to let condo associations know about their statutory obligations & then reviewing the reports to be sure they meet statutory requirements and following up if there are structural issues that have been identified.

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

Renaming Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Editor

Except for the United States, the entire world recognizes the Gulf of Mexico as the name of

the body of water on Florida’s western border. The Town of Longboat Key should not kowtow to the Trump administration’s jingoistic renaming policies. It is possible, in fact even likely, that a future administration will reverse some of his foolish proclamations. If the State of Florida withholds or delays promised funding to the Town for keeping the name Gulf of Mexico Drive, we should be prepared to take legal action.

Jason Brandt
Longboat Key

GMD name change

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

The following is the results of a poll of our Lands End residents on renaming GMD to GOAD:

14 opposed renaming
4 in favor of renaming
James G. Haft
Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Bill Mitchell

Thanks for sharing your thoughts, Bill. Town staff are tallying all of the communications around this issue and the Town Commission will hear the community’s comments during our Oct. 20 meeting should you care to attend. That meeting will also be livestreamed.

Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon

I am writing to register my strong opposition to changing the name of Gulf Of Mexico Drive!

Bill Mitchell
Longboat Key

October 6, 2025 - Agenda Packet

To: Longboat Key Commission

Town Manager Tipton will be requesting the addition of the attached Public Forum Permit Fee Waiver request to the Consent agenda at the Regular Meeting scheduled on Monday, October 6th.

See Letters, page 5

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EditorialOpinion

Oracle’s TikTok Acquisition: A Bright Future for Security, Innovation and Streaming?

If you’re an innovation chaser, yeah, get a little excited: This locks in TikTok’s future with U.S. safeguards. But, it may look like a billionaire’s info-lockdown, with censorship red flags waving high.

D. RUTLEDGE
Guest Columnist
news@lbknews.com

In September 2025, Oracle, alongside partners Silver Lake and Andreessen Horowitz, secured an 80% controlling stake in TikTok’s U.S. operations, with the deal poised to finalize soon. Backed by both the Trump administration and Chinese authorities, this acquisition grants Americans majority control over TikTok’s algorithm, data, and board (six of seven seats), while ByteDance retains a minority share. Far from a mere corporate maneuver, this move tackles U.S. concerns about data security and foreign influence while leveraging Oracle’s enterprise expertise to elevate TikTok’s potential. This deal is more than a reprieve from a potential TikTok ban—it’s a strategic victory for users, businesses, and the tech ecosystem, although some feel the deal still leaves national security loopholes.

By channeling all U.S. user data through Oracle’s secure cloud infrastructure, the acquisition severely eliminates risks of sensitive information reaching China-based servers. Oracle’s proven track record in enterprise-grade security—powering everything from financial systems to government operations—ensures robust protection for TikTok’s 170 million American users against cyber threats and espionage.

TikTok is no longer just a social media app—it’s a streaming powerhouse, with users consuming over 1 billion hours of video daily, increasingly through longer formats and live sessions. Oracle’s involvement could redefine the streaming industry in several ways. The acquisition expands cloud services to handle explosive growth in video consumption (over 1 billion hours daily). For viewers, this translates to faster load times, fewer buffering issues during live sessions, and reliable access even on mobile devices.

Fueling an Algorithmic Arms Race

With U.S. control over TikTok’s recommendation engine, Oracle could open-source or license parts of it, pushing competitors like Meta’s Reels and YouTube Shorts to accelerate innovation. This democratization of advanced personalization tools enables smaller streaming platforms to compete, fostering niche content in areas like education, fitness, and independent film, and challenging the dominance of legacy giants.

Bridging Short- and Long-Form Streaming

Oracle’s cloud capabilities pave the way for hybrid streaming models, such as embedding TikTok clips into Netflix-style marathons or Twitch live streams. Imagine a 15-second viral teaser seamlessly linking to full episodes on partner platforms, enhancing discoverability and viewer retention. Analysts predict a 20-30% increase in cross-platform engagement as Oracle’s

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secure, low-latency streaming technology sets new industry standards.

If you’re an innovation chaser, yeah, get a little excited: This locks in TikTok’s future with U.S. safeguards. But, it may look like a billionaire’s info-lockdown, with censorship red flags waving high. With Ellison’s media empire (CBS, Paramount, MTV, Nickelodeon) expanding to TikTok—and potential Fox/Murdoch ties—the app could tilt toward more conservative narratives, swapping one overlord for another. Pre-sale, TikTok was accused of left-leaning suppression of conservative voices, and they were not alone. Platforms now openly acknowledge yielding to Biden-Era /DOJ demands on “misinformation,” including the Hunter Biden laptop story and anti-vax memes. Meta echoed this, confirming

thousands of removals on election/vaccine topics.

Public sentiment appears mostly in favor of the deal. Support for banning the app has plummeted to about one-third of Americans (32-33%), down from 50% in early 2023, meaning a clear majority (roughly 67%) oppose a ban and will likely welcome a U.S.-controlled alternative that keeps the platform alive. TikTok, with its 170 million U.S. users and over 1 billion global users has become a cultural juggernaut, captivating audiences with its unique blend of addictive features. If you’re a user, test the new app and see—sentiment could shift fast.

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 3

The request was received by our Public Works Department after the agenda was finalized and distributed. The requestor, Christ Church, has a new events coordinator who was unaware of the process and has requested the waiver approval for the October 15th event.

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Note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Under Florida law, e-mail addresses are considered public records when they pertain to Town business. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to a public records request, you should not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, you may wish to contact our office by phone or in writing. All written documents are also considered public records and open for inspection upon request.

Stephanie Garcia
Deputy Town Clerk II
Town of Longboat Key

October 6, 2025 - Agenda Packet

To: Town of Longboat Key Commission

The agenda packet for the upcoming October 6, 2025, Town Commission Regular Meeting is now available on your iPads.

If you would like to access the packet using a different device, click here.

Please let me know if you have any issues accessing the material. Thank you!

Stephanie Garcia
Deputy Town Clerk II
Town of Longboat Key

Condominium Milestone Inspection Reports- Submitted to DBPR

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

This is a remarkably positive report in so many ways. Thanks to Allen and his team for compliance with these critical new rules. And thanks again to him, but also to our condo owners and managers, for maintaining such high standards for your properties when others have failed to do so. This is just another reason to be proud of our community.

Ken Schneider
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Condominium Milestone Inspection Reports- Submitted to DBPR

To: Longboat Key Commission

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Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

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Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Canal Cost Inflation Factor

To: Longboat Key Vice-Mayor Debra Williams

In response to your question about whether the canal cost estimates contained any allowance for inflation, Tara Hollis with Wildan Financial Services provided the following:

To develop the numbers for Years 1 – 5, we included annual inflationary adjustments of 4.5%. The total anticipated costs for the 5-year period were then divided by 5 to get the projected annual amount to be recovered from both the Ad Valorem and Non-Ad Valorem assessments.

The maintenance costs for Year 6 and the resulting anticipated assessments we recently showed for Year 6 do not currently include a provision for inflation as they will be refined closer to Year 6. Please advise if you need any additional information.

Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Renaming Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission

I am a full time resident of Longboat Key and I am strongly opposed to renaming Gulf of Mexico Drive.

Jerome Schwartz
Longboat Key

Canal Cost Inflation Factor

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Thank you. That's exactly what I was looking for.

Debra Williams
Vice Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

GMD Name Change Preferences from Bayou Hammock

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon

A poll of the Bayou Hammock Assoc (14 members) on the GMD name change yields the following preferences:

Of the 8 responses:

7 - Leave name unchanged

1- Suggestion that it be changed to Gulf Dr. to minimize future kerfluffles

Doubt we will hear from the remainder of the owners based on historical response rates from this group. Hope you can add this to your position for the upcoming commission meeting topic on this issue. Thanks for all your efforts and hope you all had a good summer.

Winnie Nelon
Longboat Key

August Tourism Numbers from Visit Sarasota County

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

The commencement of October signals the start of our new fiscal year at Visit Sarasota County!

To gain insight into our strategic priorities and financial projections for FY26, please click here.

We also extend an invitation to our upcoming Indicators and Insight summit, taking place November 18th at The Carlisle Inn; click here for more details.

(In addition to handing out the Haley Hall of Fame Awards, we'll also hear from Nicole Porter, VP of Political Affairs with the U.S. Travel Association.)

Below, we present our August tourism data, illustrating a sustained increase in average daily rate, which boosts visitor expenditures, despite a slight drop in visitor numbers and occupancy.

August numbers comparing 2025 to 2024:

- Visitors were 118,100 compared to 124,000 in 2024
- Visitor direct expenditures were \$96,431,000 compared to \$89,007,300 in 2024
- Lodging occupancy was 49.8% compared to 48.0% in 2024
- Lodging average room rate was \$237.97 compared to \$225.04 in 2024
- There were 199,700 room nights sold compared to 202,300 in 2024

As always, we welcome your questions and feedback, and our team remains committed to supporting the community.

Erin Duggan
President/CEO
Visit Sarasota County

GMD Name Change

To: Longboat Key Commission

I am a full time resident of Longboat Key. I STRONGLY DISAGREE with changing the name of Gulf of Mexico Drive to Gulf of America Drive.

Marcia Mackin
Longboat Key

Please do not rename Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission

I am writing to ask that you absolutely do not rename Gulf of Mexico Drive. Every thought that needs to be expressed in opposition to any name change has already been raised and I wholeheartedly agree with all of them. Please keep the name Gulf of Mexico Drive.

Thank you all for everything you do for the good of our community,

Jill Nemeth
Longboat Key

See Letters, page 6

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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 5
Happy New Fiscal Year!

To: Longboat Key Employees

As the calendar turns to October 1st, some people start to think about Halloween or the upcoming holiday season. But for cities, counties across Florida, and the Federal government, 10/1 marks the start of a new fiscal year.

What that means is that the budget the Town Commission approved in September becomes effective and will run from 10/1/2025 through 9/30/2026. Not too many people get excited about this kind of new year, but there are several things about it to keep in mind:

- First, you don't have to stay up until midnight to celebrate it.
- Next, we are now fully funded to pay salaries and benefits for the coming twelve months which is always worth a high five.
- Our capital projects are also funded so that we can address our infrastructure and equipment needs.
- Lastly, we have the opportunity over these next months to continue to build our skills and knowledge. It could be earning a Lean Six Sigma yellow and/or green belt, more specific job training, or perhaps achieving a certain certification. The budget for continuing learning allows for all of that to happen.

As we kick off a new fiscal year, I want to share my thanks and appreciation for all of those who worked to build the budgets we are now living under. I also want to thank the Town Commission for their continuing support of all that we are doing to provide exceptional services. We couldn't do what we do without their support. So Happy New Fiscal Year (party hats and streamers optional)!

Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Name change Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Audrey Bear

Thanks for all your work on this. We have asked staff to analyze the costs of a name change as well before our October 20 workshop on the subject.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Name change Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission

Please see the attached letter. I assume that the Town staff has done a more comprehensive job of compiling similar information. Thank you so very much for all of the time you are spending on this project. I consider it a state and federal government vanity project.

Audrey Bear
Longboat Key

Gulf of America Drive

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Hello, As a resident of LBK, I am in favor of changing the road on LBK to Gulf of America Drive.

Mary Meckley
Longboat Key

GMD name change

To: Jmes Haft

Thanks, Jim. Town Clerk Trish has been collating all the (alarmingly massive) correspondence and social media comments that have come in. FYI, more than a few who have favored renaming have proposed something other than Gulf of America Drive. Could that be true of your membership?

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Changing Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission

Please! I have lived on the Gulf islands most of my life and am horrified that you could even consider changing the name of a drive at the whim of an entirely unhinged president.

Jean Blackburn
Longboat Key

SBEP's finances during the government shutdown

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

As you know, the US EPA provides the vast majority of SBEP's funding. For our current fiscal year, FY25, EPA provided us with \$850,000, matched with \$393,000 from Manatee and Sarasota Counties, the cities of Bradenton and Sarasota, the Town of Longboat Key, and the SWFWMD. Over the past few years, EPA has also provided us with a bit over \$900,000 a year, which we have spent on habitat restoration projects at the FISH Preserve, GT Bray Park,

See Letters, page 11

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MATTHEW EDLUND
Guest Columnist
Edlundr@lbknews.com

I'm not referring to alcohol.

The summer blazes. Florida's red tide pricks at skin and distends nostrils, California forest fires clog lungs, humid urban inversions break your breath. Wet bulb temperatures of 35 degrees celsius prove fatal to undressed humans after several hours. One internet calculator puts 95 degrees Fahrenheit with 80% humidity as providing a warning wet bulb reading of 34 celsius.

It's time to drink.

As a doctor who sees many taking drugs that change people's ability to sweat, like antidepressants, antipsychotics, antihypertensives and the like, it becomes more important than ever that people get enough water into them to survive the summer, every day and through many ways.



MATTHEW EDLUND

Reasons to Hydrate

The climate is changing. Heat is rising. Summers are warmer and longer. A clear cut scientific issue becomes a "political" issue when science itself is disregarded, denigrated and derided by those who have something to lose by keeping the planet habitable. The data on global climate change were fairly overwhelming fifteen years ago, and now they're worse. We don't just get hot. We get cold. Freezing. Drowned. The arctic melts, plants migrate into Antarctica oceans, ticks spread. Human diseases change as does our ability to grow food.

People remain wedded to the linear fallacy – the idea these shifts are occurring along a straight line. But that's not how biology works. There are tipping points. Go without drinking on a hot, humid day, and the mild headache abruptly progresses to heatstroke. The same is true of climate. At a certain stage, protective factors morph into exacerbating ones; the permafrost does not just take up heat, but releases its content to flood the atmosphere. The "linear progression" turns into an asymptotic curve, a hockey stick. Soon we're not living on a planet we recognize.

Just as the planet needs protection, so do you. Keeping hydrated helps. Keeping cool is equally important. Simple, effective means: clothing that covers you and lets the sweat stay on your body, as uncomfortable as that may be. Wearing hats, which prevent dehydration, heat stroke and skin cancer.

When To Hydrate

Before going outside is best. Then when out, sip. And continue to drink when you're back inside. Most of our water losses are called "insensible" because we don't sense them.

How To Hydrate

Water usually is the easiest, most delectable substance. But we also lose salt and solutes. In severe cases, we can use salt tablets for working in the Houston sun. Yet food may be best.

People forget how much of their food is water. When going out in a hot sun, fruits like apples, pears, bananas, oranges, are fine and add healthy solutes. Many fruits are more than 80% water. Fruit juices are more like sugar drinks, a direct pipeline into your gut and liver. In a population where 170 million adult are overweight or obese, sugar drinks may not be the best hydraters.

How Much is Enough?

People vary dramatically in their overall use and secretion of fluid. If it's 111 degrees and you're hiking the Arizona desert, you may well want a liter or more fluid each hour. Over a standard day, most of us do okay with 3 liters. When it's hot, we need more.

That extra half gallon of fluid can prove helpful for hot, humid summer days. Arguments that you need to keep your urine clear may not really hold water. Drink when you feel thirsty. Drink to replace your sweat, and ideally so that you don't sweat too much. Athletes know that. So should we.

Common Problems

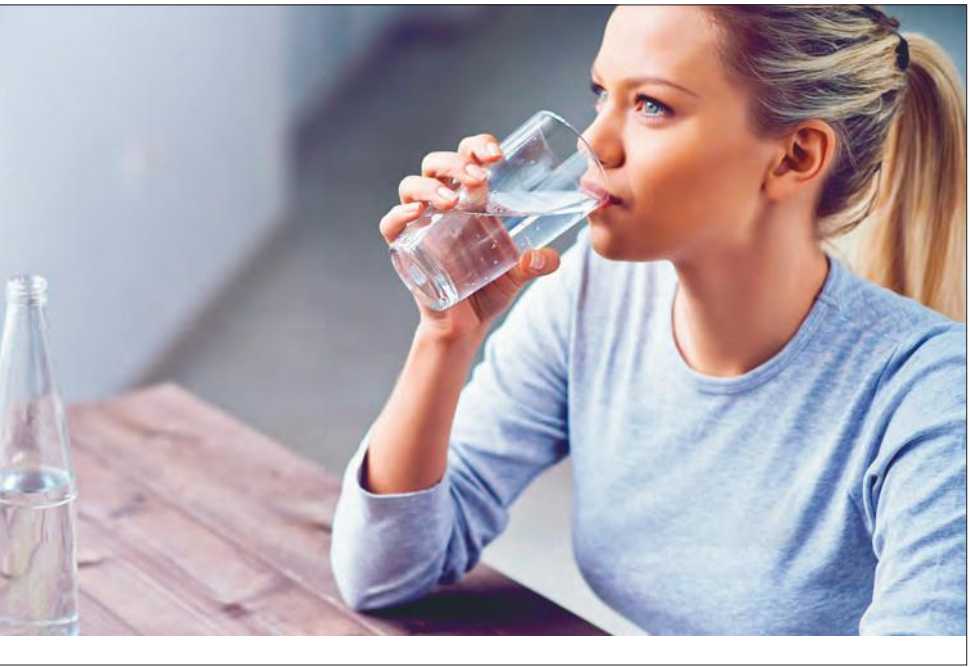
Lots of us love tea and coffee. Many a summer whiles away with iced tea. Yet both coffee and tea are mild diuretics, prone to lose more solute and fluid than we gain imbibing them.

Coffee and tea are worthy food-drugs. Frequent coffee consumption can decrease population risk of diabetes and Parkinson's disease. Green tea helps keep us from lingering disabilities. Yet in the middle of a hot hot day, they may not be the best solution. Follow you ice tea with water and fruit.

Overhydration is also another worry. It is possible to drink too much. But it's hard. You have to drink enormous amounts. Unless you have problems with absorption, GI and kidney function, most of the time we expel excess fluid easily and rapidly. In general, underhydration is a considerably great problem than excess.

Bottom Line

You need food to live. You need sleep to live. The majority of your body is water, so you need fluid to live.



It's easy to stint on drinking outside in summer. It's not enjoyable carrying water. It interferes with fun things to do. Yet it's necessary for your well being. So drink to your health. Drink for it, too.



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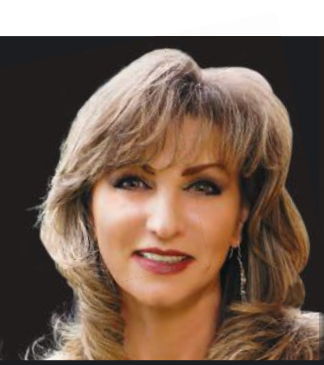
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KEPECZ
HAYS
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The Beach Residences

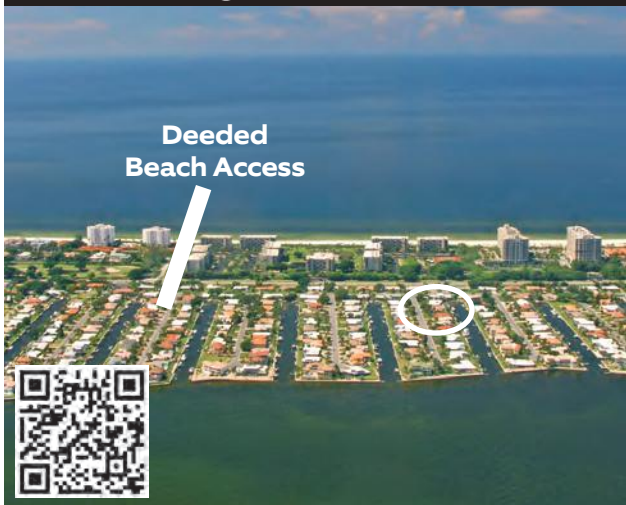
1300 Benjamin Franklin Drive #709
\$3,750,000
BeachResidences709.com

Villa di Lancia



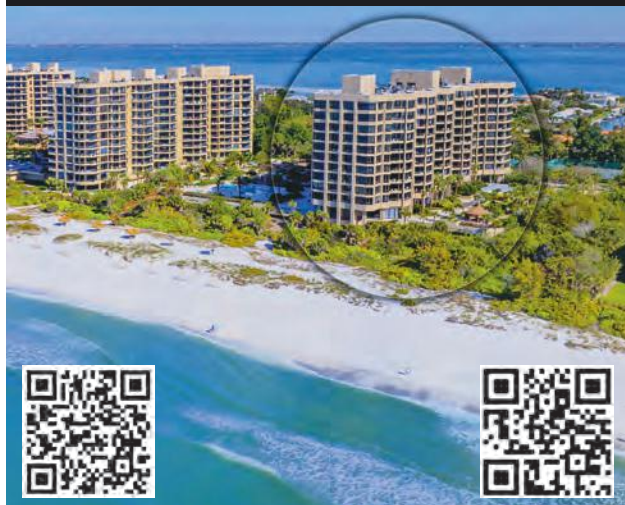
2165 Gulf of Mexico Drive #114
\$2,250,000
VillaDiLancia114.com

Country Club Shores



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521WedgeLn.com

Promenade



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Promenade704.com Promenade105.com

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KeyRealEstate

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2050 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#B603	2,936	\$2,450,000	3	3	0	182	\$2,250,000
101 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#71	1,275	\$1,195,000	2	2	0	145	\$1,125,000
540 GULF BAY RD	1,880	\$1,950,000	3	3	1	124	\$1,850,000
2425 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#3E	1,524	\$1,799,000	2	2	0	99	\$1,735,000
2944 GULF OF MEXICO DR	4,997	\$1,550,000	4	4	1	74	\$1,150,000
4401 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#907	1,314	\$1,100,000	2	2	0	130	\$1,020,000
2045 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#M1-302	928	\$539,000	2	2	0	111	\$485,000
594 SPANISH DR S	1,427	\$279,000	2	2	0	110	\$253,000



121 N BOULEVARD OF PRESIDENTS



JEFF
RHINELANDER

941-685-3590

Jeff@jeffrhinelander.com



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BIRD KEY • 465 E. ROYAL FLAMINGO DRIVE

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OnPatrol

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

Sept. 27 Citizen assist

8:03 p.m.
Officer Ericsson was dispatched to Tarawitt on a public service call regarding a sewer backup. Upon arrival Officer Ericsson contacted the resident who was concerned with the sewer in front of her residence backing up onto the street and her driveway. Officer Ericsson observed a large puddle originating from the manhole cover and extending the length of her property. The puddle was dark and judging from the odor, appeared to be sewage. The owner stated before Officer Ericsson's arrival, the water was bubbling out of the manhole cover into the roadway and her driveway. Officer Ericsson advised the woman that because it was not an emergency, Officer Ericsson would email Public Works. He advised the owner to follow up with Public Works on Monday and if the backup continued and threatened her property to call back and they could assess. Case clear.



Vehicle

7:46 p.m.
Officer Miklos while on patrol in the 2000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive near the tree line. Officer Miklos initiated a suspicious vehicle call through Sarasota Sheriff's Officer Dispatch. Officer Miklos came into contact with the driver and a man who returned to the vehicle with fishing rods. The driver advised that they were fishing on the golf course. The vehicle was a white four door sedan Toyota. Officer Miklos conducted a NCIC check of the man and his vehicle which returned negative for wants and warrants. The man was advised he couldn't mpark in the right of way nor fish on private property. Case clear.

Sept. 28 Animal

6:36 p.m.
Officer Pescuma was dispatched to the 4000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to two dogs on the beach. The caller does not wish to meet. Upon arrival, Officer Pescuma canvassed the area and located the dogs and owners. Officer Pescuma spoke with the complainant who said the dogs are properly marked as service animals and owner provided credentials. No violations were observed. Case clear.

Sept. 29 Noise

8:15 a.m.
Officer Smith responded to St. Judes Drive on a noise complaint. Contact was made with the worker who was identified as being responsible for the landscaping activity. A verbal warning was issued for the ordinance violation. Case clear.

Fire

2:58 p.m.
Officer Smith responded to the 1000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive with Officer Nazareno and Officer Tillman in reference to a reported gas leak. Upon arrival, both lanes of Gulf of Mexico Drive were shut down and traffic control was established. Fire Rescue advised that a construction crew had struck a two-inch gas main approximately one foot underground. TECO responded to the scene, secured the leak, and placed clamps on the line. Gas readings taken by Fire Rescue Units showed no hazardous levels. Traffic control was maintained until 3:25 p.m. when one lane was reopened and by 3:30 p.m. both lanes were cleared. Case clear.

Sept. 30 Suspicious

4:02 p.m.
Officer Tillman responded to the 6600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of a suspicious person at the vacant residence. According to dispatch records, three subjects were seen parking in the front of the residence and exiting a white four door, hard top Jeep with large tires. The complainant said the person was on their security cameras. The three subjects were videoing themselves walking around the exterior of the residence and appeared to have been videoing for Social Medical. Prior to Officer Tillman's arrival, he observed the vehicle travelling south on Gulf of Mexico Drive that would have been in the area at the approximate time. The tag was entered as the possible suspect vehicle. The residence was secure and no attempt to enter was noticed. Officer Tillman contacted the complainant who was calling from another location and advised her of his findings. Case clear.

Oct. 1 Vehicle

12:09 p.m.
Officer Troyer while on patrol received a license plate reader alert to a white Honda Ridgeline. The License Plate alert indicating the LPR alert was regarding the registered owner having had an expired driver's license. Officer Troyer located the vehicle in the 4000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive and observed the driver appeared to be the woman whose license was revoked. Upon walking to the vehicle, Officer Troyer introduced himself and inform the driver as to the reason for the stop. Officer Troyer asked the driver what her name was to which she confirmed she was the woman whose license had been suspended. Officer Troyer found probable cause to issue the driver a criminal citation in violation of the following Florida State Statute. Officer Troyer followed the driver to Bayfront park where she could safety wait until a licensed driver drove to her vehicle. Case clear.

Suspicious

6:50 p.m.
Officer Van Dyke responded to the 5300 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a suspicious person. Upon arrival, Officer Van Dyke observed a man laying near the shoreline upon walking to the beach access of the residence. The complainant left the area and didn't want to meet or be contacted. As Officer Van Dyke approached the man he appeared to be sleeping on his back. He was shirtless, but his jeans were zipped and buttoned. Upon initial contact, the man was cooperative. He advised that he's dating a girl on Longboat Key and stated he doesn't have a full time residence. As time went on, the man became more hostile and uncooperative. Although the man was coherent, Officer Van Dyke and EMS was unable to determine if he was intoxicated. Officer Van Dyke didn't notice the scent of alcohol but he refused to provide a phone number. The man didn't fit the criteria for Baker Act or Marchman Act, therefore EMS left the scene. Case clear.

Person

11:15 p.m.
Officer Butler while on patrol conducting security check for CVS observed a woman around the dumpster in the rear of the building. Officer Butler conducted an inquiry of her vehicle which was parked in the fire lane and identified the individual. Officer Butler engaged in a consensual encounter in which she said she had permission from CVS to be in the area. Officer Butler inquired if she needed services and she stated no. Case clear.

Oct. 3 Citizen assist

2:58 p.m.
Officer Mathis was dispatched to St. Judes Drive in reference to a citizen assist. Upon arrival to the incident, Officer Mathis met with a woman who explained that she is on the board for her HOA as the secretary. The woman also advised that she has had problems with construction traffic pulling into her complex parking lot. The woman further advised that these are rather large commercial trucks with equipment and she is worried about the gravel lot being damaged. According to the woman, the parking lot is not designed for such large heavy commercial vehicles and ruts are beginning to form from them to turn around. The woman further advised that she will speak with the other board members about blocking their driveway from construction vehicle use. The woman and Officer Mathis discussed several different alternatives to the ongoing situation and nuisance vehicles turning around. During the incident, Officer Mathis didn't observe any vehicles pull into the private parking lot or any apparent damage. Officer Mathis made contact with the building company whose contact information had been located on the job box. The man answered the phone and advised he is the owner of the company. Officer Mathis explained the situation to the man that this was the first of him hearing of any problem or concern from the jobsite. Officer Mathis then provided the woman with the builder's contact information. Both parties were adamant they could reach a solution.

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EditorLetters



Letters, from page 6

the 12 artificial reef modules put out in the bay, and our recently completed seawall enhance-
ment project at the Town of Longboat Key.

So what happens when we have a government shutdown? Well, we don't know, exactly, but
the guidance we've received was to process as many outstanding invoices as possible before
today (the start of the shutdown). On Monday, I signed off on over \$120,000 worth of
invoices for folks doing work for us, whether it was to maintain our IT systems, local NGOs
taking kids out on the bay, or the consultants and contractors who permit, design, construct,
and/or maintain our various habitat restoration projects.

We have sufficient funds to last for a few weeks, at least. This includes a checking account
balance of over \$600,000, through which we will pay our direct and indirect expenses for
maintaining our program. Next week, we will be sending out requests for local government
partners to contribute funding in line with the amounts laid out in our approved Work Plan
and Budget for FY26 – those amounts are the same as requested for FY25. That would give
us nearly \$400,000. Typically, we get requests processed in a couple of weeks, although the
SWFWMD (our biggest local funding source) typically disperses its funds in two tranches,
received in December and then March.

Should all those funds run out, we have a reserve amount of a bit more than \$400,000 set
aside that should allow us to operate for an additional six months. Those funds are held in an
account that is meant to be used (as requested by the Policy Board) for operating the program
should we run out of funds for some reason. Those funds would not allow us to do projects;
however, they would just pay for staff time and employee-related expenses.

So...we should be fine, but we don't know how long this will last, and we don't know if
the shutdown will mean that the people who help process our reimbursement requests will be
working or not.

Which means, if we can't pull funds down from the Bil / IIJA funding portal, we may end
up having to stop work on some of our projects. At least momentarily. We will likely try and
test that out, to see if the funding portal allows us to be reimbursed even if nobody at EPA who
helps us with these programs is still working

Maybe this will be like what we went through earlier this year, when we had less than a
day's notice that our BIL / IIJA funding portal was going to be shut down. That left us with
about \$200,000 worth of bills to pay, and no way to get reimbursed. That was a stressful time,
which lasted until the funding portal came back online a few days later – with no notification,
I might add.

Anyway, we're fairly comfortable with our situation right now, but this could slow down or
maybe even stop some of our habitat restoration and/or public outreach efforts, if this drags
on too long.

Dave Tomasko
Executive Director
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission
Please consider our strong opposition to renaming Gulf of Mexico Drive.
Fritz Attaway
Longboat Key

Street Name

To: Longboat Key Commission
You are welcome!
Gabriel E. Iriarte
Longboat Key

Gulf of America

To: Longboat Key Commission
Very observant. Yes, for practical reasons, I still have a Maryland phone number, but for the
last four years, I have been a full-time resident of Longboat Key - Bay Isles.
The name “ Gulf of America “ sounds great and inspires patriotism. My son and I love it,
however, my wife thinks it is a waste of money.
So, you have two “YES” votes from my household.
If you need more information, please don't hesitate to reach out.
Gabriel E. Iriarte
Longboat Key

Happy New Fiscal Year

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Thanks for all your help and guidance Tip, and hats off to Lynn Curelli for a fabulous issue
of Key Notes. Congratulations on a cohesive work environment that I know takes a lot of
personal skill and energy, it is much appreciated.
Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Renaming Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission
I am a resident of Longboat Key, living at Sanctuary Drive I oppose changing the street
name to Gulf of America Drive. If we must change the name to retain state funding, I suggest
Gulf Drive or Longboat Key Drive.
Abby Byerly
Longboat Key

Name change of Gulf of Mexico Drive is a waste of time and money

To: Longboat Key Commission
I live on Gulf of Mexico Drive, and I am opposed to changing the name of the street.
Changing the name of the street would cost much money and time to alter drivers' licenses and
other official documents. It is absolutely unnecessary, and the Town officials should be free to
do the important business like public safety and protecting us from natural disasters.
Arlene Levy
Longboat Key

Name change Gulf of Mexico Dr

To: Longboat Key Commission
Please see the attached letter. I assume that the Town staff has done a more comprehensive
job of compiling similar information. Thank you so very much for all of the time you are
spending on this project. I consider it a state and federal government vanity project.
Audrey Bear
Longboat Key

See Letters, page 12

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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 11

Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission
Please don't change it to Gulf of America Drive signed
Pamela and Jerry Donnelly
Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Bill Mitchell
Thanks for your clear input ...I expect a lively discussion!
Steve Branham
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Opposition to Gulf of Mexico Drive name change

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Steve Branham
I am writing to register my strong opposition to changing the name of Gulf Of Mexico Drive!
Bill Mitchell
Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Drive name change

To: Longboat Key Commission
Sent to me by Lillian Sands. Her point is well taken. She is in her 80s and unwell. She is concerned for herself and other older seniors who will need to spend hundreds of dollars for professional help to make the legal change request if the street needs changes.
Srlene Skversky
Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Drive name change

To: Arlene Skversky
I have sent a copy of my letter to the mayor of Longboat and all the members of the board. I hope that you get this I sent it to all the papers, but nobody said they saw it. I sent it to the Herald, Observer and the Longboat News, but no one has seen it. I plan on being at that meeting. God willing I'm still in tough shape, but I'm working on it.
Lillian Sands
Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Drive name changeTo: Lillian Sands

Thank you for taking the time to contact Senator Boyd and express your perspective. I will be sure to share your comments with him.
Amanda E. Romant
Senior Legislative Assistant to Senator Jim Boyd, District 20
Bradenton

Gulf of Mexico Drive name change

To: Office of Senator Boyd
I am aware that there is a proposal to change the name of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Just a few months ago, residents were devastated by Hurricane Helene (myself included).
While I could debate the merits of such a senseless proposal with no huge upside in my mind, I think your main concern should be protecting and helping residents and businesses thrive. A name change may sound simple but this proposal is a costly move for residents right now. With the median age of residents being around 72, luddite homeowners like myself will need to engage assistance to change utilities, banks, subscriptions, etc.
Businesses will need to update websites in addition to these. The additional costs per household could run approximately \$200-\$300, and businesses would pay out approximately \$350-\$900 for the additional HTML coding. All told, you would be agreeing to impose approximately \$2-\$4 million in direct costs to businesses and residents (mainly due to stationery, address updates, forms, helpers, and web updates—while older residents would incur higher costs for assistance). This does not include municipal signage which could cost tens or hundreds of thousands added to the municipal budget.
I would like to know what measurable improvement this name change will mean for our community because I only see mounting costs and inconvenience at a time we are struggling (and snowbirds are not around to weigh in on this at all).
How will this change genuinely benefit our residents and businesses after we have covered the expense and recovered from all this upheaval? Why add this now rather than focus on the many things Longboat Key desperately needs to recover?

If the town persists with this proposal, I suggest we engage an independent appraisal of the benefits and costs. That is money worth spending before devastated residents waste a bunch of time and money.
Lillian Sands
Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission
I vote for no name change. The many letters that I have read outline a myriad of reasons many of which I agree with. Thank you Commission members for all of your hard work.
Madeleine Stewart
Longboat Key

Renaming GOM drive

To: Longboat Key Commission
Please consider my vote on this issue:
I am against it. GOM should remain as is.
Nora Dempsey
Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission
I vote for no name change.
The many letters that I have read outline a myriad of reasons many of which I agree with.
Thank you Commission members for all of your hard work.
Madeleine Stewart
Longboat Key

Name Change of State Road 789 From Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission
My wife and I have owned our condo at Sutton Place since 1994. We have been full time residents here since 2019. We object to any change of the current name. Since the road is the main throughfare on Longboat Key, we believe that the town commission has the right to maintain the current name regardless of the name change of the adjacent body of water.
That body of water was changed by a presidential order and not by the legislative branch, Congress. Therefore, the next president could change the name back to the current one. Then we would have the expense of restoring the current name.
William Shakespeare would have described this controversy as “A tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing”.
The town commission has better uses for its time and money than considering this change.
Carole Cohen
Howard Cohen

Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission
I am strongly opposed to changing the name of Gulf of Mexico Drive to Gulf of America Drive. In the interest of compromise and representing all citizens of our town, not just MAGA, if it must be changed I suggest simply “Gulf Drive.” That way, everyone can feel free to interpret it how they wish, and we won't have to go through this again, and spend more money, changing it back to Gulf of Mexico in 3 (or however many) years.
Lori Price
Longboat Key

“Yes” to Gulf of America Drive

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Hi Mr. Tipton, thanks for all the good work you do.
My wife and I own two residences on Longboat, both single-family homes, one of which is across from the current Cannons Marina (I'm sure that name will change as well with the new ownership). We would like to see the name changed to Gulf of America Drive (or similar, such as Way, Boulevard, etc.).
Sorry, you have to deal with this matter, as we know you have much to do. Thanks again for all you and the staff there do.
Marcel and Debbie Bartley
Longboat Key

Opposition to Renaming Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission
I urge the Commission to keep the name Gulf of Mexico Drive. Changing it to Gulf of America Drive is unnecessary, confusing, and a waste of both time and taxpayer money.
The current name is geographically accurate, historically rooted, and recognized worldwide. Renaming would erase that authenticity while forcing costly updates to signage, maps, addresses, and emergency systems — all without providing any real benefit to the community.
Longboat Key should be focusing on issues that truly affect residents' quality of life, not fixing something that isn't broken. Please keep Gulf of Mexico Drive as it is.
Elizabeth Morrison
Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Commission
In consideration of the upcoming meeting to discuss the topic of what to call GMD, please, please, give full consideration to keeping the name of this roadway as it has always been, Gulf of Mexico Drive.
First and foremost, my spouse and I are the owners of a historic cottage that holds a 1914 footprint in what was once Longbeach Village. I am aware that this road name has been in place since 1957. History is worth recognizing in this discussion.
A sitting President of our Country, who will be out of office in three years time, should never, ever be bothering with directing a name-change of local/county/state roads.
Consider the impact and cost to residents and businesses to adjust their proper addresses, and giving consideration to this preposterous name change idea, should it move forward, could simply revert back with the next Commander in Chief.
After all LBK residents and businesses have been through with back-to-back hurricanes, considering a crazy, and downright insulting name change is like pouring salt on a wound that is still trying to heal. Thank you for reading my email and giving consideration to my expressed opinion.
Ellen and Chris Buckley
Longboat Key

Canal drainage

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra Williams
Commissioner Williams, I did state on many occasions that a lot of the Key makes its way to a canal. I must have been misquoted or misspoke in the article. I will try to dig up some drainage maps to show this. You are correct about the Zota drainage, that is why it ponds there every time we have a significant rain. Give so time to dig up the drainage maps we have and get ahold of FDOT's info. In addition, I will see what is available in the private areas like

Editor Letters



Letters, from page 12

Bay Isles.
Charlie Mopps
Public Works Director
Town of Longboat Key

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Charlie Mopps

I received a few calls and emails from residents wanting clarity on something you’ve said before, and were recently quoted in the LBK newspaper as saying, specifically, that “All of the drainage from Longboat Key ends up in a canal at some point in time”. I also find this a little confusing. My understanding is that we don’t have a lot of storm drains on Longboat Key, and that much of the storm water runoff gets absorbed relatively close to where it fell. For an example, I’m thinking of the persistent road flooding in the 4000 block of GMD, near Zota. I’m sure there are other areas on the key as well that are not close to draining directly into a canal. Can you help me to understand this?
Debra Williams
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Road/beachside pathway

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
Mike and Commissioner Bishop, we did forward the request to FDOT this morning. Once we get a response, we will pass it along.
Charles Mopps
Public Works Director
Town of Longboat Key

Road/beachside pathway

To: Michael Bergin
Not as easy as it may appear. It is a state road issue and theirs to repair. I will forward your note to Public Works and see if they have any info from FDOT.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico street name

To: Longboat Key Commission
I support retaining Gulf of Mexico as the name of our main LBK street and I oppose changing it to Gulf of America. Thank you for taking into account the wishes of the citizens.
Shelly Lazarus
Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle
Good afternoon. Could you clarify the best way to express an opinion on the proposed name change of Gulf of Mexico Drive. I am strongly opposed to that change but not sure how to best convey that information.
Vilia Johnson
Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Vilia Johnson

Thank you for your inquiry on Friday. The Town Commission will receive your email, as included below, for their consideration. The meeting to discuss the proposed name change of Gulf of Mexico Drive is scheduled for October 20, 2025, beginning at 1:00 p.m. This is a public meeting, and all residents in attendance will have the opportunity to speak.
Please note that your email will be included in the meeting agenda materials and will become part of the official hearing record. If you are able to attend the meeting, you may choose to reiterate your comments or simply reference your previously submitted email expressing opposition to the name change. Should you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me or any of the Town Commissioners.
Trish Shinkle
Town Clerk
Town of Longboat Key

Name change

To: Longboat Key Commission
As taxpayers and concerned citizens we abhor the misuse of taxpayer dollars and unnecessary time to make changes to the longstanding designation of Gulf of Mexico Drive.
Nancy and Martin Zimmerman
Longboat Key

Signs and flags

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
There are a couple of issues that were in the photo. Signs in the r-o-w are not allowed. The Coffee Kiosk is allowed an A-frame/menu board sign during hours of operation, but it must be within the vending area. The A-frame sign for Swim City is larger than allowed by Code. And then any flag has to be set back at least 10 ft. from the property line. Please do continue
See Letters, page 15

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Letters, from page 13

to pass along any issues you become aware of.
Allen Parsons
Planning and Zoning Director
Town of Longboat Key

Signs and flags

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons
So , this is illegal?
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Signs and flags

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
Thanks BJ. Code Enforcement has followed up & will be monitoring the situation. PD has also been made aware of requirements & allowances for after-hours & weekends.
Allen Parsons
Planning and Zoning Director
Town of Longboat Key

Opposition to Renaming Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Town Commission
As a follow up to my prior emails, I am writing to respectfully voice my strong opposition to the proposed renaming of Gulf of Mexico Drive to Gulf of America Drive. I read that you are keeping a tally of resident emails on this topic. I am heartened that you are taking our views into account in making this important decision. While the state of Florida has passed legislation related to the federal directive, our town should consider the significant financial and reputational risks this local action presents. Instead of aligning Longboat Key with a divisive national political issue, we should prioritize the town's tradition of neutrality and focus on maintaining our appeal to all visitors.
My opposition is based on the following key points:
The name change is not recognized internationally and is highly controversial. The U.S. Executive Order 14172, which prompted Florida's HB 575 and HB 54, applies only to U.S. federal agencies. The Gulf of Mexico is an international body of water, and this name change has not been recognized by international bodies like the International Hydrographic Organization. Critical opposition has been voiced both abroad and within the United States. A January 2025 poll of U.S. voters showed 72% oppose the change. Most notably, Mexico, which shares the Gulf, objects to the change, and foreign governments continue to use the traditional name.
Renaming our main thoroughfare carries significant financial risk by alienating tourists. Longboat Key's economy is highly dependent on tourism. Adopting a politically charged name like "Gulf of America" risks alienating visitors who do not share the political ideology behind the Executive Order, as well as international tourists who are aware of the controversy and do not recognize the name change. Potential visitors seeing an address like "Gulf of America Drive" for our world-class resorts, such as the St. Regis or Zota , could be put off. They may view this as an act of arrogance and hubris, leading to a loss of bookings and revenue for our local businesses.

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Sarasota City News

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St. Armands, from page 1

popular ice cream and candy store, Kilwin's, had opened a week or two before its grand reopening date of Saturday, September 28th. The manager Nathan explained that everything had come into place early, so they opened their doors to the public. Kilwin's originated in 1947 as a candy and confectionary shop in Michigan. A Kilwin's franchise opened on St. Armand's Circle in 1985 and became a mainstay of the popular ice cream and gift candy trade on the island. Its reopening returns a landmark to the Lido Beach side of the Circle.
Reopening Tommy Bahama's and Kilwin's on the Circle brings the recovery of the restaurant and bar presence up to perhaps ninety percent of what it was before Helene. New ventures are opening to fill some of the remaining gaps. Le Colonne on the hard-hit S Boulevard of the Presidents side of the Circle is being reintroduced as Nönnö Umbertö, an Italian seafood and steakhouse restaurant and bar, named for the founder of Le Colonne by his grandson. On the same side at the end of that block, A Philadelphia restaurant with a Trinidadian flavor is migrating its concept to a new Flambo Caribbean Restaurant in a space formerly occupied by a corner market.
Barring another disastrous close of the hurricane season, St. Armand's and Lido Key restaurants and bars seem poised and ready to welcome Sarasota and Manatee County visitors and returning and new tourists. We look forward to reviewing food and drink options in the Circle and surrounding areas.

Mote Classroom, from page 1

Foundation several years ago, the platform has hosted hundreds of thousands of participants, including school groups, home-schoolers, summer campers and lifelong learners. In 2024 alone, more than 50,000 students attended Mote's education programs on City Island.
With the platform out of commission, Mote's education programs were left with limited water access. Now, the floating classroom will once again offer students interactive education opportunities in Sarasota Bay.
Now fully rebuilt and ready for use, the floating classroom has reopened. Summer camps, field trips, homeschool programs, and lifelong learning experiences will continue to be offered at both the City Island campus and upcoming Mote Science Education Aquarium (SEA).

Circle Work, from page 1

and landscaping at St. Armands Circle, bringing this highly visible public space back to and even exceeding its former condition.
Workers installed a wide selection plants, including 30 new trees and 4,600 shrubs, annuals, and groundcovers. Plants were selected for their resilience, sustainability (including saltwater tolerance), limited reliance on irrigation, and environmental friendliness.
In addition to landscaping, work was done in conjunction with the Public Works Department to restore sidewalks, electrical and lighting systems including the installation of new light bollards around the circle.
The project is estimated to cost \$500,000 for which the City has applied for federal reimbursement.

KeyCrossword

ACROSS

1 La Scala locale

6 Tizzy

10 Maugham's "Cakes and ____"

13 ____ of Pigs

16 Isaac of sci-fi

18 Wit

20 TN ball player

21 Kim's ex-spouse

23 Japanese mother?

25 Type of Asian rug

27 Unique person

28 Colombian city

29 Parsley cousin

31 A Polynesian people

32 Boa constrictor

35 Bell town taboo?

37 Peter Martins's milieu

40 Weasel relatives

42 "The Plague" selling

43 Dutch conductor de Waart

44 Sugarloaf Mountain city, briefly

46 ____ buco

47 "Have you ____ wool?"

48 Surgeon's org.

51 Texas dullard?

55 Old hat

57 Actress Claire and a Polynesian deity

58 "Lord's Prayer" close

59 Galaxies

61 Diane Sawyer specialty

63 German songs

65 Probe

67 General meaning

68 English actor Noël

71 WY county seat

73 Beach house

74 In reserve

75 Cheesecake

76 Shrew

78 Play times

80 Jud Fry portrayer Rod

82 PDQ, politely

86 Biblical verb enders

87 Large sharks

89 South Sea Islands monkey?

91 "____ Hear a Waltz?"

92 Evergreen

93 Ideal of Hindu womanhood

95 Reg. east of the Yukon

96 Ignited

97 Pinball infraction

99 More chilling

102 Well-being

104 Nebraska fence?

107 Ones possessing special knowledge

109 Russian people

110 Go amok

112 Oversight

113 Weather forecast

117 Charles Kuralt specialty

119 Hawaiian wonder?

122 Locale

123 Work unit

124 Onset

125 Exempted

126 Motorists' org.

127 Pig's digs

128 "And ____ bed"; Pepys

129 Declare

DOWN

1 BLT dressing

2 "When the frost ____ the punkin..."

3 Similar to

4 Without principles

5 Japanese drama

6 Peace, to Peres

7 Creative energy

8 "____ Little Teapot"

9 Male mousers

10 Shuns

11 Doone of cookie fame

12 Whiffenpoof

13 Kind of split

14 Pennsylvania granny?

15 Pine

17 Went on holiday

19 Writer Rama ____

22 Ad award

24 Brit's raincoat

26 Campus near Atlanta

30 Lord's house

33 Dweeb, to a tween

34 Talk nonsense

36 "____ taxes": a Bush promise

37 Lugosi

38 First family man

39 Knowledge

41 Honor

45 Father of Azariah

47 Suit to ____

49 Jokester Jackie

50 Ad ____ per aspera

52 Intertwines

53 Washington Monument, for one

54 Boxer Roberto

56 Fulminate

57 Sailor's winter craft

60 Fit into

62 All male

64 Angers

66 A wife of Augustus Caesar

68 Prepared apples

69 ____ a customer

70 Kansas farewell?

72 Relatively new name at the UN

73 Handsprings

75 Salad fruit

77 Checking item

79 Margaret Chase of ME

81 French pewter

83 Threshold

84 Busy

85 Tropical helmet

88 Ancient Italian

90 Roman road

92 SOS signal

94 Warp-knitted fabrics

98 King's "____ dream..."

99 ____ dog story

100 Debutante's date

101 Great White Way

103 ____ as a pancake

104 Mel or Christophe

105 Natalie Wood role

106 Nautical position

108 Actress Joanne

111 Christ's monogram

114 Ambience

115 "____ a song go out ..."

116 Impolite

118 Guitarist Paul

120 Cape of eastern Spain

121 Times for bulls on Wall Street

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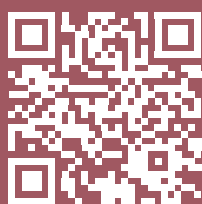
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