



Longboat Key News

October 17, 2025

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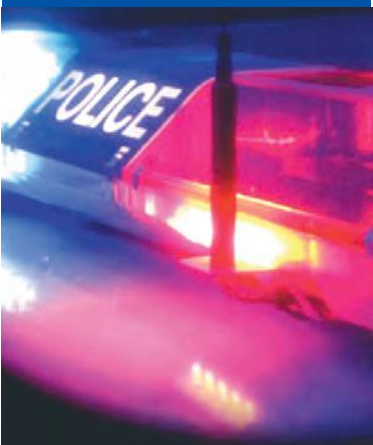
Do not ignore new travel rules ...page 4



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LBK Ed Center getting busy ...page 5



“Yes, I do work for Xfinity” ...page 10

Politics and cost to rename main roadway leaves Longboat at crossroads

Town Commission to discuss Renaming Gulf of Mexico Drive at Monday Meeting.

Nearly seven decades after the Town of Longboat Key officially named its signature roadway Gulf of Mexico Drive, the road’s name is now under the spotlight — not because of local preference, but due to sweeping changes at the state and federal levels.

On January 20, 2025, President Donald J. Trump issued Executive Order 14172, titled “Restoring Names that Honor American Greatness,” directing that the U.S. Continental Shelf region formerly known as the Gulf of Mexico be renamed the Gulf of America. In response, Florida lawmakers passed House Bill 549, which Governor Ron DeSantis signed into law, mandating that all state agencies adopt the new “Gulf of America” terminology in official materials and signage.

As a result, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) notified Longboat Key officials that it would be removing all signage referencing “Gulf of Mexico Drive” from within the State Road 789 (SR 789) right-of-way — the state’s official designation for the 10-mile stretch that runs the length of Longboat Key. Unless the Town chooses a new local road name, FDOT says it will only reinstall signage using the state road number, not the existing name.

This development now leaves the Longboat Key Town Commission with a critical decision at a Monday meeting:

- Maintain the longstanding Gulf of Mexico Drive name and potentially lose state-installed signage;
- Rename the road to comply with state standards and retain coordinated signage support; or
- Postpone a decision for further discussion and public input.

See Road name, page 2

Longboat Key Fire Rescue Partners with Youthful Aging to Launch ‘Longboat Link’

Longboat Key Fire Rescue is expanding its CARE Program (Community, Assistance, Research, Education) with a new resource designed to help residents live independently while reducing unnecessary 911 calls and ER visits.

The new service, Longboat Link, is powered by Johns Hopkins Guided Care® and delivered in partnership with Youthful Aging Home Care. The program connects residents with preventive support, health guidance, and follow-up after emergency calls, helping older adults stay safer, healthier, and in their homes longer.

“Many seniors call 911 because they don’t know where else to turn,” said Fire Chief Paul Dezzi. “Longboat Link connects them with the right services and resources, so they get the support they need without putting their independence at risk.”

How It Works

- Free Community Membership for all residents: unlimited support calls, emergency medical folder, first-responder window decal, and follow-up after 911 calls.
- Optional paid tiers: quarterly in-home health assessments or fully personalized wellness planning with health coaching.

Additional services include memory screenings, home safety checks, chronic disease management, nutrition counseling, and fitness programs.

“Longboat Link brings Johns Hopkins’ proven approach to our community,” said Nicci Lieberman, president of Youthful Aging. “It’s like an invisible safety net for aging in place.”

You’re invited to learn more about this program as Youthful Aging Home Care host a special presentation on November 6, from 10am – 11:30am at Longboat Key Town Hall, 501 Bay Isles Road. Free membership kits will be available at the event.

For details, visit youthfulaginghomecare.com/longboatlink.

Longboat Key issues final extension of building fee waivers

The Town of Longboat Key is waving the rebuilding permits in the restoration efforts after the devastating hurricanes Helene and Milton of the 2024 season.

The waived fees for the rebuilding permits will be valid through December 31, 2025.

In a report by the city, they will also be allowing refunds for permits that were paid in error, up to six months before the refund request, for storm-related damage, with proof of verified storm damage permit fees.

Living Seawall Ribbon Cutting!

The Town of Longboat Key is holding a ribbon cutting ceremony for our newest environmental project — the Living Seawall, created in partnership with the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (SBEP).

The Living Seawall is designed to enhance our shoreline by blending traditional seawall protection with innovative ecological features. This project supports improved water quality, increased marine habitat, and greater coastal resilience while protecting property and infrastructure.

By working with SBEP and other partners, the Town is trying to take a step toward sustainability and stewardship of Sarasota Bay. The Living Seawall demonstrates how innovative design and community commitment can protect our island while supporting the health of local marine life.

Location

Bayfront Park (4052 Gulf of Mexico Drive), Longboat Key

Date

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

Time

1:30 p.m.

Starbucks project on Longboat stalls amid incomplete permits

The delay casts a shadow over a plan that was expected to bring one of the island’s few chain franchises to the mid-Key area.

Eight months after a new Starbucks location was announced for Longboat Key, the project has been put “on hold,” with no interior work started and an incomplete application still pending with the town’s Planning, Zoning and Building Department.

The delay casts a shadow over a plan that was expected to bring one of the island’s few chain franchises to the mid-Key area.

The proposed 1,800-square-foot space, located at 3174 Gulf of Mexico Drive, remains empty, its windows still adorned with a “Coming soon. We can’t wait to see you” banner that now offers little reassurance. I

ncomplete paperwork is one of the project’s primary hurdles. According to Allen Parsons, director of the town’s Planning, Zoning and Building Department, the special exception permit required for the restaurant is incomplete.

Corporate silence and local frustration

Adding to the uncertainty is a lack of communication from both Starbucks and the local master licensee.

A Starbucks spokesperson did not provide any updates, stating that the company “at this time... has no store-opening plans to announce” in the area.

Greg Sausaman, the master licensee behind the project, has declined to comment on the status of the development.

Judy Johnson, the owner of the building, also did not respond to requests for comment.

The town’s measured approach to new commercial development likely contributed to the delay.

Because the property is zoned C-1 commercial, a special exception is required to operate a restaurant. This subjects the project to case-by-case review by the Planning

See Starbuck, page 13

Road Name, from page 1
History and Significance

Gulf of Mexico Drive was adopted as the local name for SR 789 on September 16, 1957, replacing the former name John Ringling Boulevard. Before settling on its current moniker, the Town Commission had considered Longboat Parkway. Today, the name is deeply ingrained in the identity of the island, associated with over 5,100 residential and business addresses, multiple resorts, and a vibrant local tourism industry.

Only six FDOT street name signs were recently removed — underscoring how well-established the name has become in local knowledge and infrastructure.

Potential Impacts of a Name Change

A name change could ripple through nearly every aspect of the community:

- **Property Owners:** Roughly 5,140 addresses would be impacted, split between Manatee and Sarasota Counties. Owners would need to update official records, mail, insurance documents, and potentially property deeds.
- **Businesses and Resorts:** Local resorts, particularly those that use “Gulf of Mexico Drive” in their branding and guest materials, have expressed concern. Managers cite the need to revise advertising, licenses, vendor accounts, and guest communications. Some fear the process could take “years” and significant expense.
- **Residents:** While the USPS has assured the Town that address changes would be automatic and mail delivery unaffected, residents would still need to update driver’s licenses, voter registrations, and notify banks, service providers, and others. Affected individuals would not need to file change-of-address forms.

• **Town Operations:** Town databases — including utilities, emergency services, and dispatch systems — can adapt to a new name relatively easily. However, the Town would need to spend approximately \$1,680 to replace 12 vinyl overlays on its illuminated road signs.

Maintaining State Relationships

FDOT has been a critical infrastructure and emergency partner for the Town, with projects totaling more than \$13 million in recent and upcoming investments, including:

- \$6M for the Broadway Roundabout and Complete Street Project
 - \$2.6M for the Country Club Shores Turn Lane
 - Over \$5M for resurfacing SR 789 in Sarasota County in FY2027
 - Additional work planned for the Manatee County side
- The state agency also assisted in post-hurricane recovery and is planning a \$136 million bridge project across Sarasota Bay. Town staff emphasize the importance of maintaining strong ties with FDOT, especially in light of future funding and cooperative projects.

Name Suggestions and Community Input

- Suggested alternatives include:
- Gulf of America Drive (to align with federal/state naming)
 - Longboat Key Drive or Parkway (originally proposed in 1956)
 - Veteran’s Drive
 - Gulf Drive (used on neighboring Anna Maria Island)
- No formal public survey has been conducted, but the Town has received mixed voluntary feedback from residents and stakeholders. Some support a change; others are firmly opposed.
- A Special Commission Meeting has been scheduled immediately following the Monday, Oct. 20 workshop, to vote on a potential name change, if a consensus is reached. A prepared resolution, 2025-31, awaits the Town’s decision, with a blank placeholder for a new name should the Commission decide to proceed.

Next Steps

- The Commission will consider the following options:
1. **Take No Action** – The name Gulf of Mexico Drive remains in local use, but state signage will reference only SR 789, and the Town may need to install and maintain its own signage at its own cost.
 2. **Rename the Road** – Adopt a new name via resolution. The Town would coordinate with USPS, FDOT, emergency services, and property owners to implement the change.
 3. **Postpone Decision** – Allow further time for discussion, community input, and evaluation of impacts.

Conclusion

The debate over Gulf of Mexico Drive is more than a naming issue — it’s a reflection of evolving political decisions, community identity, and practical realities. As the Town Commission weighs its options, Longboat Key finds itself at a literal and figurative crossroads: preserve tradition or adapt to new mandates.

The final decision could shape the Town’s identity for decades to come.



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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.

Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Town Commission
I am not sure who to write to but I am against changing the name of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Please make note of this or pass it along to the correct person. Thanks you.
Margie Berger
Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission
I oppose a name change of Gulf of Mexico Dr. It is historic, it has a legacy, and familiarity. A change to Gulf of America might make some residents relatively happy, but would likely make even more very unhappy. And to the very unhappy residents it would also be cumbersome, time consuming, and expensive. This potential change is very political. It is possible the name would change back in several years in a different administration.
Bob Schaub
Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Drive name change

This name change proposal is just silly. We see no benefit in changing our street name. We have lived on Gulf of Mexico Drive for 50 years without any detrimental impact caused by our address. This political vanity proposal serves no purpose but would substantially inconvenience residents and require considerable cost to be adversely levied on a particular segment of our community.
Peter Swain
Longboat Key
Town Employees
To: Edward Kaczynski
Thanks for your kind note. I have forwarded it to our Town Clerk and Town Manager in hopes they will share it throughout our staff. Each department has worked extremely hard over the past 13 months to try to help all our residents and businesses recover from the storms and get back on line. Your appreciation is very welcome.
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Drive Possible Name Change - Opposition

To: Longboat Key Commission
My husband, Aramis Velazquez, and I are vehemently opposed to changing the name of Gulf of Mexico Drive, especially to the ill-conceived, spiteful, and petty name of “Gulf of America Drive.”
Aside from the associated financial and time burdens involved, why should we capitulate to the unjustifiable whims of our current president when the next president will most logically return the body of water back to its original name? Can you imagine if every new president decided to randomly change geographical names across the world?
Thank you for all of your hard work, time, and commitment to keeping our beautiful barrier island safe, enjoyable, and ecologically healthy!
Linda S. Velazquez
Greenroofs.com Founder & Publisher

Retain Current Name of GMD

To: Longboat Key Commission
My husband and I live at Norton Street on LBK. We’d like to weigh in with our ‘vote’ regarding the potential name change to GMD. We are against changing the name for a variety of reasons, including cost and historical issues, and feel that the name should remain Gulf of Mexico Drive.
Patricia Watral & Robert Heinbokel
Longboat Key
Gulf of Mexico Drive Name Change
To: Longboat Key Commission
Please do not change the name of Gulf of Mexico Drive. I am 100% against a change.
Teresa Ginaven
Longboat Key

Keep Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission
I am vehemently opposed to making any change to the name Gulf of Mexico Drive.
Judith Lasman
Longboat Key
GMD Name Change Issue
To: Longboat Key Commission
On the subject of possibly renaming Gulf of Mexico Drive, I am at a loss to add anything to all the well written, thought out and informative reasons already expressed to all of you in emails, calls and social media posts regarding the negative and unnecessary aspects of such a name change. So, I would like to add the perspective of a business owner. We have owned our business with a GMD address for over 31 years. In that time, our business has persevered through the challenging aspects of an oil spill in the Gulf, Red Tides, COVID, and most recently Hurricanes Helene and Milton not just flooding our business but devastating our entire LBK community. At this point we, just like residents, are still recovering from the tremendous financial challenges caused by the hurricanes. A GMD name change would add a needless governmental burden measured in money and time.
We would incur costs of:
reprinting all marketing materials & business cards,
changes to website and social media platforms,
processing changes with the bank, credit cards, phone provider, insurance carrier, all product and service providers,
business license refiling on the state and local levels
At this time as everyone in our community is still recovering, rebuilding, and wanting life to not only return to “normal,” but grow and improve; it is clear there are pressing needs on LBK
See Letters, page 6

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EditorialOpinion

New Europe Travel Rules You Can't Afford to Ignore

There have been several key updates to travel rules for particularly the Schengen Area.

D. RUTLEDGE
Guest Columnist
news@lbknews.com

Planning a trip to Europe soon? There have been several key updates to travel rules for particularly the Schengen Area (29 countries including France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and others primarily driven by the European Union's efforts to modernize border management, boost security, and combat issues like overstays and identity fraud. These changes stem from post-Brexit adjustments, rising tourism volumes (Europe saw a record 742 million visitors in 2024), and lessons from global systems like the U.S. ESTA. The EU aims to make short-stay travel (up to 90 days in 180) smoother through automation, but expect disruptions like longer queues during the phased rollout.

EU Entry/Exit System (EES) Launch

- What it is: Replaces manual passport stamps with automated biometric registration. You must register fingerprints (four per hand) and a facial photo at automated kiosks on your first entry. Your entry/exit data will be stored digitally for 3 years to track stays and prevent overstays.
 - Timeline: Starts October 12, 2025, in phases—beginning at select airports, ports, and land borders, fully operational by April 10, 2026. At least one border point per Schengen country will use it from day one, expanding gradually.
 - Who it affects: Visa-free travelers from the U.S., Canada, UK, Australia, etc., for short stays. (Ireland and Cyprus continue manual stamping.)
- Impact: Expect 10-30 minute delays initially; airlines may verify compliance pre-boarding. No pre-application needed, but bring a valid passport. If you refuse biometrics or your passport isn't machine-readable, you'll be denied entry and sent back on the next flight at your expense.

ETIAS (European Travel Information and Authorization System)

- What it is: A mandatory online pre-approval (not a visa) for visa-exempt visitors, similar to the U.S. ESTA. Apply via the EU's website/app, pay €7 (about \$7.50), and get approval in minutes to 96 hours—valid for 3 years or until passport expires.
 - Timeline: Delayed from mid-2025; now expected in late 2026 (full rollout after EES stabilizes). Applications open earlier in 2026.
 - Who it affects: Citizens of 60+ visa-free countries (U.S., UK, Canada, etc.) entering Schengen for tourism/business.
- Impact: Airlines won't board without it. Carriers face €3,000-€5,000 fines per passenger under EU rules if they let you board improperly. Apply early to avoid last-minute issues; exemptions for under-18s/over-70s on fees.

UK Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) Expansion

- What it is: If your trip includes the UK (not in Schengen), non-Europeans need an online ETA (£10 fee) for short stays, valid 2 years. Apply online via gov.uk/apply-eta or the UK ETA app. Submit a passport scan, photo, and basic travel details. Processing takes about 3 days, and the ETA is valid for 2 years or until your passport expires.
 - Timeline: Already required for non-EU visitors; expands to EU citizens on April 2, 2025.
- Impact: Quick online process, but add it to your prep list. Even a layover with border control (e.g., changing terminals at Heathrow) requires an ETA.



Non-Schengen EU Countries (e.g., Ireland, Cyprus)

- No visa required for stays up to 90 days.
- No EES biometrics; manual passport stamps are used instead.

To ensure smooth entry into Europe, your passport must meet the following:

- Validity: Valid for at least 3 months beyond your planned departure from the Schengen Area. Some countries, like France or Italy, may prefer 6 months—check your specific destinations.
 - Age: Issued within the last 10 years from your date of entry.
 - Blank Pages: At least 2 blank pages for stamps, though EES reduces physical stamping.
 - Condition: Must be machine-readable and undamaged to comply with EES biometric scanning.
 - Tip: Renew your passport early if it's nearing expiration or lacks sufficient pages, as EES kiosks enforce strict compliance.
- Despite new rules, Europe's joys—history, food, nature, and people—outshine logistical hurdles. In 2024, 742 million visitors flocked to the EU, drawn by its unmatched diversity. The EES and ETA streamline security, letting you focus on sipping espresso in Rome or hiking Scotland's Highlands.

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What’s Happening at The Education Center?

Over 150 programs are available to keep the mind and body active and the spirit young! A friendly atmosphere is provided where like-minded individuals can meet, learn, and pursue myriad cultural, recreational, and educational interests.

SUSAN GOLDFARB
Contributing Writer
goldfarb@lbknews.com

The Education Center at Temple Beth Israel is gearing up for the 2025-2026 season, which promises to be stellar!

Some of the many programs include: autobiography, birding, nature walks, world politics, current events, painting, film festivals, Supreme Court, crafts, movie and book discussion groups. private piano lessons, opera previews, Shakespeare, iPhone &iPad, Broadway bios, yoga, qigong, Nordic walking, morning forums, music and art appreciation, American history, wellness and longevity, canasta, mah jongg, bridge, meditation, an annual Lecture Series with 12 lectures presented on diverse subjects by distinguished speakers, Sunday concerts, jazz nights, and special one-time festivities and offerings, including a popular winetasting workshop presented by Michael Garey, hospitable owner of the Lazy Lobster on Longboat Key.

Over 150 programs are available to keep the mind and body active and the spirit young! A friendly atmosphere is provided where like-minded individuals can meet, learn, and pursue myriad cultural, recreational, and educational interests.

Although many classes begin at 9 am, office hours are 10 am- 5 pm. We are closed on Fridays in the fall and will be closed the week of Thanksgiving.

The season is divided into three terms, Fall, Winter and Spring. The Fall Term begins Monday, November 3. Fall programs include yoga, bridge, a special film club, movie discussion groups, watercolor, mah jongg, and canasta. On Thursday, November 20 from 10 am-12 pm, a “free” community event will be presented by The MANATEE FALLS PREVENTION COALITION. This educational presentation will focus on preventing falls and promoting safety for older adults in their homes and while out in the community. Parkinson’s disease will be addressed and following the presentation, attendees will be invited to participate in optional, fall-related health screenings and assessments. Health professionals will be available to discuss risks and offer resources. This is a great opportunity to take proactive steps (pun intended) toward better health and safety, especially during the busy holidays!

The Winter Term, which begins Monday, January 5, offers an abundance of stimulating programs---everything under the sun to learn and enjoy! Sunday concerts will include the return of the amazing Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe performing Motown songs, a tribute to Billy Joel, the Yiddish Cowboys, Los Rumberos with flamenco dancing, Popera (popular opera), the Cole Porter Story and much more!

For a brochure listing all the programs or for further inquiries, call 941-383-8222, email Admin@tbieducationcenter.org. or visit www.tbieducationcenter.org. The Education Center at Temple Beth Israel is located at 567 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, FL. 34228.

We look forward to welcoming new students who discover us and the return of our loyal fans who return year after year!

The Education Center at Temple Beth Israel is a not-for-profit lifelong learning and adult enrichment center that offers non-credit courses for adults in the fine and applied arts, humanities, liberal arts, and natural and social sciences. Also available are recreational classes, performing arts programs, and special events. All adults are welcome regardless of religion or educational background. A desire to participate is the only prerequisite.



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Editor Letters



Letters, from page3

post hurricanes that require financing and man-power allocations from local funds. Such local resources would be better spent on these needs to benefit the entire LBK community rather than having residents, business owners (and the Town) spend their valuable, limited money/tax dollars and time because a choice was made to change the name of a road.

Irina LaRose
Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Drive - Renaming

To: Longboat Key Commission

As a unit owner at Whitney Beach, 6750 Gulf of Mexico Drive, I find it ridiculous that there is even a conversation happening about changing the name. It is a waste of manpower as well as a waste of money for what the cost would be to change mortgage, HOA documents etc., not to mention the costs for the town to change all the signs. Please put an end to these discussions.

Jean Reposa
Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission

As a full time resident of Longboat Key, I strongly urge the Commissioners of Longboat Key to stay the course and leave the name of our Gulf of Mexico Dr unchanged.

Gerald Lasman
Longboat Key

Please Do not Change My Address

To: Longboat Key Commission

Not able to attend the meeting on Monday. Simply asking that the town commission does not make any name changes.

Cyndi Seamon
Longboat Key

No to name change

To: Longboat Key Commission

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

Denise Fusselman
Longboat Key

Question

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon

Thanks Sarah. And thanks for sharing with the North End group. You can relay that: The Town does have an inventory of the properties were visibly damaged (from the outside). Staff does monitor those properties to ensure that any construction that is done, is associated with applicable permitting (for owner/residents' safety).

Staff is also enforcing Town property maintenance codes.

With regard to structures that were damaged by the hurricanes, we've been sensitive to property owners' challenges with getting those properties either repaired or replaced. In some cases, there are plans to demolish structures that are underway, in other cases property owners have indicated they are dealing with contractors or insurance or both.

Please do encourage folks to contact the Town's Code Enforcement Team at either codeenforcement@longboatkey.org or by phone at 941-316-1966. We follow-up on every complaint received (you can also remind that, by state statute, complaints can't be anonymous) & there may be conditions or concerns that we are missing.

Allen Parsons
Planning and Zoning Director
Town of Longboat Key

Question

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons

I was wondering what we North-Enders should expect regarding the storm-damaged properties in our neighborhoods that remain untouched or in a state of decay. Do you and your team have a list of the places that are languishing, or would you appreciate info from neighbors? And are you in touch with owners, or should we register our concerns with you? Folks are wondering when they might see progress. Thanks for your guidance, and for all of your department's stellar efforts this past year.

Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

I strongly oppose the name change of Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission

I strongly oppose any name change of Gulf of Mexico Drive.

Bryan Williams
Longboat Key

See Letters, page 12

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A glass of white wine and a bunch of green grapes resting on a wooden barrel in a vineyard. The background is a soft-focus view of grapevines and leaves, bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The glass is partially filled with white wine, and the grapes are a vibrant green. The wooden barrel is in the foreground, showing its curved shape and texture.

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KEPECZ
HAYS
Team



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George
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Judy
Kepecz-Hays
941-587-1700

Steven
Kepecz
941-376-6411

Villa di Lancia



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

Ritz-Carlton Managed



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\$3,750,000
BeachResidences709.com



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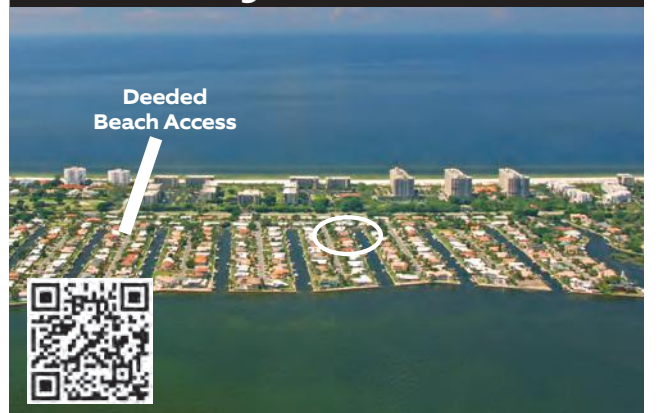
435 L'Ambiance Drive #L807
\$3,500,000 | Furnished
LAmbianceL807.com

Hideaway Bay



757 Hideaway Bay Drive
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757HideawayBay.com

Country Club Shores



521 Wedge Lane
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521WedgeLn.com

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1211 Gulf of Mexico Dr
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Promenade704.com

1211 Gulf of Mexico Dr
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Promenade105.com

Tangerine Bay Club



350 Gulf of Mexico Drive #211
\$938,500
Tangerine211.com

Golden Gate Point



660 Golden Gate Point #32
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MarinaView32.com

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

KeyRealEstate

Bird Key, Lido Key, Longboat Key latest sales

Address	Sq. Ft.	List Price	Bed/Bath/Half Bath			Days On Market	Sale Price
435 L AMBIANCE DR Unit#PH-J	4,711	\$11,200,000	5	5	1	71	\$10,250,000
2675 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#301	2,180	\$1,625,000	3	3	0	205	\$1,580,000
3491 BYRON LN	2,480	\$1,675,000	3	3	0	239	\$1,450,000
240 SANDS POINT RD Unit#4403	626	\$1,090,000	1	1	0	2	\$1,075,000
5055 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#115	1,484	\$775,000	3	2	0	148	\$738,000
178 N WASHINGTON DR	5,064	\$10,000,000	4	4	1	113	\$8,830,000
455 CLEVELAND DR	4,702	\$5,850,000	6	6	2	75	\$5,150,000
1800 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#A304	2,230	\$2,195,000	2	3	0	294	\$1,850,000



178 N WASHINGTON DR



JEFF
RHINELANDER

941-685-3590

Jeff@jeffrhinelander.com



COURTNEY
TARANTINO

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443F John Ringling Blvd. • Sarasota, FL 34236



BIRD KEY • SARASOTA
247 Robin Drive
New Construction • \$13,999,000



BIRD KEY • SARASOTA
605 Wild Turkey Lane
2,200 SF • \$1,995,000



L'AMBIANCE • LONGBOAT KEY
435 L'Ambiance Dr #J703
3BR/2BA/1HB • \$4,795.000



NOW PENDING

GRAND BAY • LONGBOAT KEY
3030 Grand Bay Blvd #381
3BR/3.5BA • Furnished • \$2,795,000



BEACHES • LONGBOAT KEY
775 Longboat Club Rd #203
3BR/3BA • Gulf front • \$1,999,000



COUNTRY CLUB SHORES • LONGBOAT KEY
510 Wedge Lane
4BR/3BA • Canal front • \$2,215.000

OnPatrol



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

Oct. 10
Vehicle

10:02 a.m.

Officer Ericsson was dispatched to Channel Lane for a suspicious vehicle involving a silver van. The caller believed someone may be living in the van, which was parked in a vacant lot. Upon arrival, Officer Troyer was on scene and checked the license of a silver GMC Explorer van which was parked in the lot. The van responded back to the resident living at Channel Lane. Officer Ericsson called the party who lived on Sloop Lane and advised him that the van belonged on the block and there was no safety issues. Case clear.



was a vehicle parked next door that appeared suspicious. The complainant stated the vehicle had been operating their lights and he was concerned due to a recent employee that had been harassing him. The complainant's concerns about the suspicious activity prompted him to contact law enforcement for assistance. Officer Nazareno and Officer Maple located the vehicle which was a 2024 Ford passenger vehicle. The vehicle contained one occupant at the time of contact. Officer Maple approached the vehicle to speak with the individual inside to determine the nature of their presence at the location. The occupant, who identified himself as a Longboat employee stated he had just arrived early to work and was taking a nap until it was time to start work. After speaking with the occupant, Officer Maple determined there was no suspicious activity and no

criminal intent involved in the situation. Officer Nazareno passed reports of the talk with the occupant of the vehicle to the complainant to inform him of the resolution. Officer Maple determined there was no suspicious activity and no criminal intent involved in the situation. Officer Maple passed reports of the talk with the occupant of the vehicle to the complainant to inform him of the resolution. Case clear.

Oct 11
Vehicle

7:03 p.m.

Officer Pescuma was dispatched to General Harris Street in reference to a verbal dispute between a man and woman. The caller said that a woman was sitting on the sidewalk while the man was in a silver vehicle. The caller was not in the area and didn't wish to meet. Upon arriving on scene, Officer Pescuma observed a silver vehicle pulled over and a woman sitting on the sidewalk talking on the phone. Officer Pescuma made contact with the woman and man. The man was sitting in the driver seat of a 2017 silver Honda and Officer Pescuma didn't observe any verbal dispute in progress. Officer Pescuma separated both parties with the assistance of Officer Ericsson and Officer Van Dyke and conducted an interview which concluded in both parties only engaged in a verbal argument and nothing physical occurred. Both parties advised that they spent the day at the beach and were in the process of leaving when they began to argue and did not realize that someone overheard their argument. Both parties advised that everything was okay. No criminal activity occurred. Both parties departed without incident. Case clear.

Oct. 12
Citizen assist

1:24 p.m.

Officer Troyer responded to Ketch Lane in reference to a signal 67. The caller wished to surrender ammunition for safekeeping. Caller was informed as to Police Department policy and we would not take the ammo. The caller was referred to find a local firearms store to surrender to. Case clear.

Oct. 13 Incident

2:46 p.m.

Officer Tillman responded to a suspicious incident in the police department lobby. Upon arrival, Officer Tillman spoke with the complainant who spoke Mandarin. Through broken English and a translator it was determined that the complainant received an email from FLHSMV stating that a toll was owed for \$6.69 and needed to be paid online or they would be arrested. The complainant had recently rented a vehicle at Sarasota/Bradenton Airport and did go through a toll in Bank of America credit card through several times before realizing this could be fraud. Officers called Bank of America and were able to use an interpreter to cancel and reissue another credit card. The Bank of America employee stated that the card has not been charged the \$6.69. Neither the Bank or complainant is out any money. Case clear.

Oct. 14
Vehicle

5:58 a.m.

Officer Maple and Officer Nazareno were dispatched to Bay Isles Road for a report of a suspicious vehicle. Upon arrival, Officer Maple met with the complainant who reported there

Construction

3:25 p.m.

Officer Nazareno was dispatched to Hideaway Bay Drive for a disturbance call. The caller stated that she had a verbal dispute with a construction crew who was blocking access to her driveway. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno made contact with the supervisor for the Window company as they were leaving the area. The supervisor advised that the caller arrived when they were loading up the heavy machinery into the trailer and had asked her to wait for two minutes. The truck was no longer blocking the driveway and no violation was observed. Officer Nazareno also made contact with the caller who advised that the construction vehicles parked blocking her driveway has been an ongoing issue. Officer Nazareno then advised the remaining crews on the construction site to avoid blocking private driveways on the street. Case clear.

Incident

8:15 p.m.

Officer Martinson was dispatched to the 4200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on a call of a suspicious incident. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson was met by the caller in front of the location next to an above ground metal cable box. The caller said while on a walk she observed a Jeep parked up on the sidewalk with the hazard lights flashing. The caller stated as she approached the vehicle she observed a man wearing a baseball cap, crouched down and pulling wires out from inside the cable box. The caller said she confronted the man and he told her that he works for Xfinity and he left some cables inside the box when he was out working on the box. The caller said she did not believe the man and he refused to show her an ID and got into his vehicle and drove away. The caller said there was a woman in the front passenger seat. The vehicle did come back registered to a woman. Officer Martinson inspected the cable box and confirmed it belonged to Xfinity and was not Town property. Case clear.

Oct. 15
Found property

3:15 p.m.

Officer Troyer was flagged down regarding a found wallet that fell off a moving vehicle in the 2100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Inside of the wallet, Officer Troyer located identification, social security card, business information and seven dollars U.S. currency. Officer Troyer was able to locate the owner using the internet. Officer Troyer contacted the owner and met her at the police department where she retrieved the wallet. Case clear.

Oct. 16

Television

3:11 a.m.

Officer Pescuma was dispatched to the 4400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to voices heard by a neighbor in the unit about an hour ago. The caller said that no one should be occupying the condo. Upon arrival, Officer Pescuma approached the front door and could hear voices. Officer Pescuma attempted to knock and make contact with negative results. Officer Pescuma went to the back sliding glass door and did not observe any lights or subjects, however could hear voices. Officer Pescuma observed the television and surround sound was on. Officer Pescuma contacted the homeowner and she requested that Officer Pescuma search the unit and provided the front door code. Officer Pescuma checked the interior and found everything to be in order. There were no indications that anyone was there. Officer Pescuma secured the television and ensured all was secured prior to leaving. The owner will follow up with her property manager. Case clear.

Incident

6:02 p.m.

Officer Troyer was dispatched to Sands Point Road on the report of a suspicious person. The complainant said he saw a suspicious person driving around the golf course and was talking outlandish about the resort. Upon arrival, Officer Troyer met with the complainant who reported a patron was staying at the resort and he kept complaining about the resort and saying he was going to get everyone fired because he knew President Trump. The complainant was concerned about the mental status of the patron and requested Officer Troyer make contact for a welfare check. While there, the patron arrived and went on about how he was an employee of a big sign company and he was going to throw a party and huge elite personnel were going to attend. The patron did not have any law enforcement concerns and didn't need their services. Case clear.

The advertisement for LBK Liqueurs features a central graphic of a pink flamingo standing on its left leg, with its right leg tucked up. The text 'LBK' is in a large, black, serif font, and 'Liqueurs' is in a black, script font. To the right of the flamingo, the phone number '941.953.1835' is displayed in a black, sans-serif font. Below this, the text 'The Island's largest selection of Beer, Wine & Spirits' and 'Come check out our competitive prices!' is centered. Further down, 'Discounts on cases of wine | Special orders welcome' is centered. Below that, 'Locally owned & operated' is centered. At the bottom, 'Whitney Beach Plaza' and '6854 Gulf of Mexico Drive | Longboat Key, FL' are centered. On the left and right sides of the bottom section, there are stylized illustrations of three liquor bottles in yellow, teal, and magenta.

KeyArchitecture



This stunning home has been thoughtfully renovated with a blend of coastal elegance and modern sophistication, offering indoor-outdoor living along one of the island’s serene canals. Inside, you’ll be welcomed by a bright, open-concept design featuring engineered wood floors, custom beadboard ceilings, and a soothing palette of sea-glass blues and clean whites.

The heart of the home is a gourmet kitchen outfitted with stainless steel appliances, designer pendant lighting, and stylish lattice-front cabinetry. A large island anchors the space, perfect for entertaining, while the adjacent living area boasts custom-built-ins, a sleek gas fireplace, and expansive views that flow effortlessly outdoors. Each bedroom is designed for comfort and privacy, with spa-inspired bathrooms that feature elegant tile work, modern fixtures, and soft lighting. The primary suite is a retreat of its own, with custom shelving, cozy window seats, and garden views through plantation shutters.

Step outside to experience Florida living at its finest. The spacious screened lanai surrounds a heated saltwater pool and paved deck, creating a private oasis perfect for lounging, swimming, or dining alfresco in total comfort. Just beyond, a large, newer dock awaits, offering deep-water canal access—an ideal setup for avid boaters and water lovers. Offered for sale by Courtney Tarantino, Coldwell Banker Realty, Longboat Key, for \$2,215,000.

Country Club Shores
510 Wedge Lane
Longboat Key, FL 34228
4BR/3BA | 1,840 SF



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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 6

GMD name change

To: Longboat Key Commission
We feel it is not cost effective nor necessary to change the name of our street to GoA drive. It will cost homeowners time and money to change the address on everything they use and own. Who will pay for this? Will the town of Longboat? Thank you!
Marcia Jean Taub
Longboat Key

GMD name change

To: Longboat Key Commission
I strongly disagree with a GMD name change, and truly hope that I'm not the first or the last LBK resident to express this opinion!
Karen Stark
Longboat Key

GMD name change

To: Longboat Key Commission
I vehemently request that my address and the road in front of my neighborhood remain Gulf of Mexico Dr. I am probably not going to be able to attend Monday's meeting, but I also have a question about the signs the state took down. Were any of them our recently paid for signs, and if so, did we get them back? Thank you for all the work you do for us.
Sue King
Longboat Key

Change of name of Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission
I am the owner at The Shore, Gulf of M Dr and am a Florida resident as well. Our family has owned and still owns Unit 106 since the 1970's and my unit for the past 20 years.
I have read a copy of the email sent to you by Mr. Dan Chester whom I know so I won't bother to repeat his message other than a couple of points. As a Florida resident, unlike many LBK inhabitants,
the impact of the proposed name change to the Drive is much greater given all the addresses that have to be changed (and the people and organizations that have to be contacted.)
For no good reason that I can think of. While I am neutral on President Trump's renaming the Gulf, I oppose renaming the drive as well in a knee-jerk reaction and/or in sympathy to renaming the Gulf.
It's part of LBK's history. (Just as I was and am opposed to the tearing down statues and renaming places and buildings across the country for the same reason.)
I have received pictures of poles on the Drive where the G o M names have already and prematurely been removed at the direction of some overzealous officials or politicians. Is it really worth the time, effort and taxpayer dollars (even if the town's coffers are fuller than usual because of recent new construction) for this project. Along with Mr. Chester's comments and my own above, I think not! You should oppose proceeding with this project and replace the now removed G o M street signs in short order.
James Akers
Longboat Key

Name change
To LBK Commissioners,
Please do not change the name of Gulf of Mexico Drive to Gulf of America Drive. It is a waste of money to change the name. What is to prevent the next Democratic president to change the name back to Gulf of Mexico? Or the next Governor to change the name back. This could bounce back and forth every four years and lead to a waste of time and money. Thank you.
JoAnn Heisen
Longboat Key

Name change

To: Longboat Key Commission
The decision to change the name of our roadway rests squarely with you, and we urge you not to impose this costly, disruptive, and unnecessary change on the residents.
There are many consequences that a new name will incur. Every household will have to update:
1. Bank accounts
2. Brokerage accounts
3. Driver's licenses
4. Insurance policies
5. Legal documents
6. Medical records
7. Passports
8. Global Entry
9. Voter cards
There are many more unintended consequences to this change, so we are firmly against it. We urge you to maintain its current legal name. Proceeding with this would be unconscionable.
Joyce Sambursky & Steven Maimon
Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico name change -- Don't make one

To: Longboat Key Commission
I am writing to express my opinion that the name of Gulf of Mexico drive should not be

changed. I wholeheartedly agree with the arguments Audrey Bear made in her October 1, 2025 letter to you (attached) about the costs and risks of making a name change. The only reason to consider renaming our main road doing would be if the State of Florida and/or Sarasota County is threatening (a) to withhold historically provided and/or already committed funds, or (b) the physical safety of me and my fellow Longboat Key residents. And if either of those things are in play, then we have much more concerning problems to worry about. Thank you for welcoming resident input.
Mary Alexander
Longboat Key

Name change for GoMD

To: Longboat Key Commission
We have three properties on Gulf of Mexico Drive. We are COMPLETELY opposed to any name change.
Jan and Ray Ball
Longboat Key
Change of name of Gulf of Mexico Drive
To: James Akers
Mr. Akers- thank you for writing. Let me clarify, the Town had no role in the sign removal. The staff was informed by FDOT after the GMD signs were removed.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Vote No on Proposed Name Change of “Gulf of Mexico Drive”

To: Longboat Key Town Commission
As a third-generation resident of Longboat Key, I strongly oppose the proposed name change of the stretch of road about 10 miles long named “Gulf of Mexico Drive” and urge you to vote No, when the Commissioners convene next Monday, October 20th, to deliberate on this proposed change.
The substantial time and inconvenience this proposed name change would impose on both residents and businesses alike is overwhelming, and when added to the financial burden it would create for all parties involved, including on the town and its resources, it is insurmountable.
The duties and responsibilities for an individual resident, along with the potential consequences arising from this change, are too extensive to enumerate in this context. Nevertheless, the brief list I present below simply highlights the substantial burden that such a change would impose; this list is not exhaustive nor all-inclusive, having been assembled through a quick 3 min. online search – Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Social Security Administration (SSA), US Department of State (Passport – New and Renewals, etc.), U.S. Customs & Border Protection (Global Entry), Transportation Security Administration (TSA Pre), Florida Department of State - Florida Division of Elections (Voter Registration), Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV / Driver's Licenses, Motor Vehicle Registration, etc.), Florida Department of Revenue / Manatee County Tax Collector's office / Sarasota County Tax Collector's office / Town of Longboat Key, U.S. Postal Service (USPS), Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulations (DBPR), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC – Hunting and Fishing Licenses), Financial Institutions & Financial Services (Checking, Savings, Retirement, Investment Accts., Credit Cards, etc.), Insurance Agencies & Providers (Medical, Dental, Home, Auto, Boat, Umbrella, Professional Liability & Malpractice, Doctors, Dentists, Hospitals, etc.), Professional Memberships Associations, Utilities, Power, Telecommunications, Gas, Subscription Services, etc.. This is merely a preliminary list of the future that awaits each one of us, should you approve this name change. The agencies and businesses tasked with handling these requests will also face an overwhelming burden. And the likely confusion, disruption, inconvenience, and potential for errors or mistakes, and the resulting consequences, could be, not only considerable, but catastrophic and potentially devastating, if not ruinous or even fatal for residents and businesses alike.

Longboat Key is as sought after as any town that has ever been in existence. It is praised by both residents and business owners alike as a prime vacation spot for tourists and a beloved place to live. And yet, this proposal has ignited a fiery debate and caused unnecessary division, in what was once our tranquil and picturesque oceanfront community.
The Longboat Key that I have known for approximately 50 years, since I walked along the beach with my grandmother, is a community that represents the colors red, white, and blue, rather than one defined solely by the partisan hues of red or blue. The core of our community is defined by the quality of the life we lead, our families, neighbors, friends, local businesses, our work, the places where we volunteer, worship, learn, the town hall where we convene to engage in a healthy debate, and also, where we come together and unite. Our identity is not determined by the name of a street, a body of water, or even our political affiliations, but by the beauty and tranquility of our extraordinary coastal town, and the individuals who reside within it. WE are Longboat Key.

Some contend that a name change would pay tribute to America's economic and security contributions to the Gulf, referencing its significance as a “critical” resource for national prosperity. Please explain how the present name of this street disrespects our nation or undermines our country's contributions? Would a name change genuinely honor American greatness and reflect a commitment to American prominence in the Western hemisphere, or is such a change merely symbolic at best, doing little to address urgent domestic and international issues? Moreover, while it may seem only symbolic, such a change would reshape how the populace perceives the Gulf, and by proxy, our street and Longboat Key, and only further serve to ignite nationalistic narratives and present a distorted dominant truth that would be impossible to challenge. The body of water after which our street was named after, was designated as such over four centuries ago, long before either the United States or Mexico came into existence. It is not a reference to the contemporary state of Mexico, but rather to a Native American city that

See Letters, page 15

Longboat selected for Johns Hopkins Guided Care® pilot program

Dr. Chad Boulton to present care model on Longboat.

Sarasota County and Longboat Key have been selected as the exclusive location for a pilot program implementing the Johns Hopkins Guided Care model in home care, a new approach to managing complex health needs for high-risk older adults.

Sarasota-based Youthful Aging Home Care will welcome Chad Boulton, MD, MPH, co-developer of the Guided Care program and lead author of landmark research published in the American Journal of Managed Care, to present two educational sessions in October to help introduce the pilot program to the community.

The presentations will take place Oct. 28 at the Sarasota Yacht Club at 10am and Oct. 29 at 10am at Temple Beth Israel on Longboat Key.

Youthful Aging Home Care has been chosen as the exclusive provider to deliver this pilot program, making Sarasota County the first community in the region to offer residents access to this evidence-based care management system.

“This pilot program represents a significant opportunity for our community,” said Nicci Lieberman, founder and president of Youthful Aging Home Care. “Families in Sarasota County and Longboat Key will have access to a care model that has demonstrated remarkable results in helping older adults remain safely in their homes.”

Boulton’s research showed the Guided Care model reduces hospital readmissions by 13 percent, skilled nursing facility days by 26 percent, and home health episodes by 29 percent compared to traditional care approaches. The model employs specially trained nurses certified by the Institute for Johns Hopkins Nursing who serve as “nurse guides” creating what researchers call “an invisible safety net” connecting patients, families and physicians.

The Guided Care approach focuses on proactive care management for patients with high-risk chronic conditions and complex health needs, stopping health crises before they start and preventing others from escalating.

Boulton previously served as senior adviser to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation. His work has focused on developing innovative approaches to primary care that improve quality while reducing costs for older adults with multiple chronic conditions.

The October presentations will detail how the pilot program will operate in Sarasota County and Longboat Key, providing families with evidence-based strategies for comprehensive care management that enables aging in place.

“Traditional home health care helps temporarily, but doesn’t connect the dots the way comprehensive care management does,” Lieberman noted. “We are excited to demonstrate how proactive care coordination can transform outcomes for our most vulnerable residents.”

The presentations are open to anyone interested in helping themselves or loved ones age in place, as well as medical and emergency professionals. Reservations are required for both events.

For reservations and additional information, contact Youthful Aging Home Care at 941-925-9532 or visit youthfulaginghomecare.com.

Starbucks, from page 1

and Zoning Board.

While chains are not prohibited, Longboat Key has historically seen few franchises. This project was set to join a small group, including Publix and CVS.

A town prohibition on drive-thrus further distinguishes this location from a typical Starbucks model.

A long, slow road for a ‘community coffee house’

The project’s lengthy timeline was noted early on. In February, Sausaman estimated that the process from start to finish would take about a year and a half. This meant a late 2025 or early 2026 opening was already a possibility, even before permitting issues came to light.

The franchisee had previously attempted to assure residents that the location would be a “community coffee house” with a beachy, art deco feel designed to fit the island’s aesthetic. However, with the project now in limbo, it remains unclear when, or if, Longboat Key will get its corporate coffee fix.

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Temple Beth Israel, Longboat Key

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Letters, from page 12

shares the same name, and it has carried that name for more than 400 years. Regardless of your perspective, the tangible consequences of this change on the residents and business owners of Longboat Key are significant, and should not be dismissed. In fact, they ought to dominate the discussion. Whereas, the consequences of choosing not to act, or make any name change, is negligible. Are we Florida’s “best-kept secret,” or just a political maneuver, one that could ultimately leave us as America’s refuse and political debris.

As you cast your vote regarding the proposed name change, please consider the implications for residents and businesses, for our town, and for our common good, and take time to carefully consider the necessity of a name change, that is neither required nor vital for the welfare of our community, and please vote No.

Daniel Chester
Longboat Key

Canal Navigation Dredge Analysis

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Charlie Mopps

To further clarify, does this mean that the highest valuation properties are not represented in these numbers? Is it possible to get the representative minimum, representative average, and representative maximum with the low and high end outliers included?

Debra Williams
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Canal Navigation Dredge Analysis

To: Longboat Key Vice Mayor Debra Williams

Vice Mayor Williams, I asked the Funding Consultant to help answer the question. With regard to the minimum and maximum categories, they first eliminated some of the outliers. For example on the low end there were some parcels that have little to no taxable value due to additional exemptions (i.e. disability, etc.). Once the outliers were eliminated (from both the min and max end, if any) they then calculated a representative minimum and maximum based on the 10 – 15 lowest values and 10 – 15 highest values for each category (customer class and direct/non-direct). The average values also excluded the outliers.

I hope this helps answer the question, if there is additional information you need, please ask and I will do my best to get you the answer.

Charles Mopps
Public Works Director
Town of Longboat Key Public Works

Canal Navigation Dredge Analysis

To: Longboat Key Assistant Town Manager Isaac Brownman

Can you please provide some clarity and additional data on the attached power point slides? Do the “representative minimum” and “representative maximum” represent the actual lowest valuation and highest taxable values, respectively? Additionally, can we get a range of costs for the representative median? This would present a clearer picture of how the taxes will be distributed across properties.

Debra Williams
Vice Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission

Please don't rename Gulf of Mexico Drive, for the following reasons.

1) The President required the body of water’s name to change, but not any streets with similar names. Our street name is up to our lovely town. (We have a lot of streets and subdivisions with Spanish/Mexican names. Must all of those eventually be changed as well?) This name is not in defiance of the President’s order. We can acknowledge the new name for the Gulf without changing the street name. I disagree that the DOT had to remove the signs to comply with the Governor’s order. Our street name is separate from the name of the Gulf.

2) Politicizing the name of this road is dangerous, especially if other even more political names are considered. It can decrease property values, rental values, etc, as it could alienate half of the country.

3) Changing the name will require money and effort from all of us. The money is not just for new road signs, but also for addresses displayed out front of individual properties, business cards and advertisements, etc. Effort would be for any residents with IDs, and updating mailing addresses at numerous locations (credit cards, banks, bills, packages, etc). It seems minor, but your names might be spoken of negatively while people were dealing with this extra work.

Julie Lahren
Longboat Key

Gulf Of Mexico name change

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Please let’s use some common sense and not bow the idiocy of Trump/DeSantis. I love LBK and my neighbors, I’ve been a full-time resident for 11 years and have been visiting relatives and in laws on the island since 1992.

There is no reason to change the name and for businesses to be forced to spend their hard-earned dollars on this foolishness. I like the current name and hope the vote will be No name change.

Gail Gilvey
Longboat Key

Longboat Key Ferry Expansion

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

I realized after hitting send on my earlier note yesterday that I jumped right into the matter at hand without properly introducing myself. Please accept my sincerest apology.

My name is Adam N. Germany, Founder & CEO of Saranova Marine, a Sarasota-based clean marine mobility company. We’re working to bring a zero-emission water shuttle and private transport network to the Gulf Coast.

As you can tell by my first email, I’m genuinely excited to open the lines of communication directly with you. What the Town is exploring aligns closely with what we’ve been building, and I believe there’s a real opportunity to deliver something both visionary and practical for the community. I look forward to connecting with you. To bold vision in uncharted waters,

Adam N. Germany
Founder & CEO
Saranova Marine

Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission

I have been a proud resident on Longboat Key for over 13 years. The whole issue of changing the name of Gulf of Mexico Dr. to Gulf of America Drive is completely ridiculous. It will cost a lot of time and taxpayer money and aggravation. Please do not change it. it’s a beautiful avenue and a beautiful island.

Tom Gurrentz
Longboat Key

Renaming of Gulf of Mexico Dr -- Strong vote No

To: Longboat Key Commission

I understand the town of Longboat Key is carefully considering the renaming of Gulf of Mexico Dr. to Gulf of America Dr. As fairly new year-round residents, I am reaching out to express our strong disapproval of that idea. In the spirit of “if it isn’t broken, don’t fix it...”, we do not think it’s wise to change the name of the street to reflect the whims of one politician. Additionally, I can only imagine the burden this renaming event will place on the town of Longboat Key, as well as to residents (in having to update their driver’s licenses and mailing addresses, purchase new address labels and stationary, etc.). There are surely more meaningful projects deserving of our resources and attention, such as continued post-hurricane recovery, and also future storm resiliency and infrastructure. We strongly object to any Gulf of Mexico Dr. renaming efforts.

If you would like to further discuss, or if we can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you for your ongoing efforts on behalf of LBK residents.

Renee Dillon & Phil Johnson
Longboat Key

Renaming of Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Town Commission

I am writing to oppose the proposed renaming of Gulf of Mexico Drive.

First, the cost in time, money, and administrative burden associated with this change far exceeds any conceivable benefit. Renaming the island’s main thoroughfare would force residents, businesses, and institutions to make unnecessary and costly address updates, while offering no tangible improvements to our community. Longboat Key has far more pressing priorities than spending public resources on a symbolic name change.

Second, our community is still recovering from the devastation of Hurricanes Helene and Milton just a year ago. We have banded together in an exceptional demonstration of community and solidarity, working hard to rebuild our homes and restore our beloved island. Introducing a politically motivated and divisive change at this time would undermine that recovery, distract from urgent needs, and erode the sense of unity that has defined our island during difficult times.

Changing this street name serves no public good — only disruption, expense, and confusion. I urge the Commission to reject this proposal and focus on issues that strengthen, rather than divide, our community.

Debra Herschmann
Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission

I oppose changing the name of the Gulf of Mexico Drive to the Gulf of America Drive. Please Keep the name as Gulf of Mexico.

Debra Karlin
Resident of LBK

Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

I own a home at Gulf of Mexico Dr. This condo has been our winter home for almost 17 years. I know that there is consideration of changing the name of Gulf of Mexico Dr to Gjlf Of America. I am a Republican, supportive of both Trump and Disantis.

But changing the name of a road is a bad idea. Not like a building, bridge, or even a large body of water, changing an address for thousands would be expensive and labor intensive. Taking myself as an example. Our condo is in trust. I would have to pay for an attorney to change this in both my trust and will. All utilities, drivers licenses, passports etc. would need to be changed. As the demographic of the area is mostly older folks, imagine the burden on them to have to change all that. Just getting a passport changed would be tough for many.

If this change is made in May very well have an unintended result, anger at the ballot box. People vote in a manner typically what is best for them or their families, they also vote out of anger and revenge. It would be difficult to imagine a negative effect of leaving the name as is, for all the reasons I listed, but imagine the anger the inconvenience and expense this change could have on people. Please leave the name as is, maybe use Gulf of America Dr as a ceremonial name, like honoring a person, by using then name as an honor, not a legal change.

Thank you for considering this.

Stephen Tardella
Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission

I am a Florida resident (Gulf of Mexico Drive). I do not want the street name changed.

Susan Lesburg
Longboat Key

Just say no to road sign change-resent

To: Longboat Key Commissionluding trusts, wills, deed, bank accounts, credit

I am 100 percent against the name change of Gulf of Mexico Drive on Longboat Key. As a resident of over 12 years this would require undue hardship and expense to modify multiple legal documents including trusts, wills, deed, bank accounts, credit cards, utility bills, driver’s license, insurance, car registration to name a few. We could go thru all those changes and expense and then have it changed back to Gulf of Mexico under a new administration whether it be in the state or federal government. If signs need to be displayed then the nonpartisan thing to do would be to use State Road 789. Thank you.

Debbie Shapiro
Longboat Key

Consideration of Name Change for Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission

I am a property owner at Club Longboat (Gulf of Mexico Drive, Longboat Key, FL 34228). I oppose any name change of Gulf of Mexico Drive.

Thomas Arendshorst
Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission

I want to voice my strong opposition to renaming Gulf of Mexico Dr. The is no legal requirement to do so, and it will cause Longboat Key and its residents senseless and unnecessary substantial cost and inconvenience.

Richard Zussman
Longboat Key

Gulf Of America Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission

The Gulf’s name has been. Officially changed by the elected POTUS. In support is the elected Governor of Florida and the road is owned by the State. Keep it simple, change the Gulf road name to Gulf of America Drive because that is what and where it is.

Bob & Shannon Gault
Longboat Key

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