



Longboat Key News

March 1, 2024

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FREE

InsideLook



Learning the art of good taste ...page 12



Longboat canal nets \$5 million ...page 6



Healing plants on Longboat Key ...page 6



Doberman chomps away ...page 10

Harry's Continental Kitchens Celebrates 45 Years on Longboat

"We have seen generations of families come through Harry's. We've catered their christenings, weddings, reunions, and now our next generation of Christensens gets to experience the same for generations to come."

What started as takeout dinners back in 1979 has evolved into a two-block radius of what is known as "A Longboat Key Landmark" – Harry's Continental Kitchens – Restaurant, Gourmet Deli and Bakery, Catering, and your local Corner Store.

Back in February 1979, Harry



Harry and Lynn Christensen stand behind son, Hal

and Lynn Christensen leased a building to house their Continental Kitchen at 5440 Gulf of Mexico Drive. The hard-working couple

made their delicious takeout dinners as well as scrumptious sandwiches, salads, party specialties, and desserts.

"I wanted to make these dinners the same as you would get in a fine restaurant," Harry recalls, "but

See Harry's, page 12

St. Mary feels the Magic of 50 Years on our Island

Masses were first celebrated in Longboat Key by Father Edward Pick at a youth center and then at a firehouse on the north end of the island between 1969 and 1973.

A champagne toast kicked off the St. Mary, Star of the Sea Parish 50th anniversary "Magical" Gala Feb. 23, 2024, on Longboat Key.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Parish in Longboat Key, is celebrating its 50th anniversary throughout 2024.

Bishop Frank J. Dewane gave the blessing before the meal, adding that his blessing was for all the faithful, living and the dead, and for those priests who have served in the Parish throughout the years.

Father Robert Dziedziak, Pastor of St. Mary, Star of the Sea, said it was appropriate to celebrate, but "we are here because of our faith, our relationship with Christ, and our love of the Church as we want to grow in our relationship with Christ in serving others."

Father Dziedziak said that he considers the faithful of the Parish his family.

Linda Olsen, Pastoral Council member and Gala event chair, agrees with that sentiment, having been regularly attending Mass on Longboat Key for 30 years while splitting time between a home in Illinois.

"It is not just about sitting in the pews, but everyone loves everyone, and we all get involved," Olsen said. "We are a Parish family filled with gratitude for the blessings we have been given by the Lord to be here at St. Mary, Star of the Sea."

Masses were first celebrated in Longboat Key by Father Edward Pick at a youth center and then at a firehouse on the north end of the island between 1969 and 1973. When it became a Parish Dec. 8, 1973, the Solemnity of

See St. Mary, page 2



Siesta Beach ranks Top-10 in the World



According to the "Traveler's Choice Awards Best of the Best Beaches" list from Trip Advisor, Siesta Beach in Siesta Key is the ninth-best beach in the world. It was ranked the second-best beach in the United States, coming in just behind Ka'anapali Beach in Maui, Hawaii.

The list credits Siesta Beach's white sand and clear water as two reasons for its high ranking.

President and CEO of Visit Sarasota County Erin Duggan said in a release, "We are honored Siesta Key Beach is once again recognized on Tripadvisor's Traveler's Choice Awards list. With the powdery soft

See Siesta, page 2

Sarasota County to work on Midnight Pass

Sarasota County commissioners unanimously approved the initiation of a feasibility study for reopening Midnight Pass, which historically ran between Siesta Key and Casey Key to connect the Gulf of Mexico with Little Sarasota Bay.

On Sunday, Sarasota County District 4 Commissioner Joe Neunder and members of the Midnight Pass Society II talked with hundreds of locals about the next steps.

The goal is to restore the water quality of Little Sarasota Bay by opening up the waterflow in and out of the Bay to the Sea, like it was before it was closed by human intervention in 1984.

Experts will research the best possible options for restoring the health of the bay and come to a conclusion for next steps, but it will take quite a few years, and quite a lot of research.

Siesta, from page 1

sand along crystal blue waters, we can't wait for visitors, both new and returning, to experience the best beach in Florida and all that Sarasota County has to offer."

Here are the top ten beaches in the world, according to Tripadvisor:

- Praia da Falesia in Olhos de Agua, Portugal
- Spiaggia dei Conigli in Lampedusa, Italy
- La Concha Beach in San Sebastian- Donostia, Spain
- Ka'anapali Beach in Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii
- Grace Bay Beach in Grace Bay, Turks and Caicos
- Anse Lazio in Praslin Island, Seychelles
- Manly Beach in Sydney, Australia
- Eagle Beach in Palm- Eagle Beach, Aruba
- Siesta Beach in Siesta Key, Florida
- Varadero Beach in Varadero, Cuba

The list was compiled of beaches that had a high volume of "above-and-beyond" reviews from Tripadvisor members over a one-year span. Less than 1% of the 8 million+ listings were able to pull that off.



Bishop Frank J. Dewane offers a blessing during the St. Mary, Star of the Sea Parish 50th anniversary "Magical" Gala. BOB REDDY | FC

St. Mary, from page 1

the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, with Father Pick named as the first Pastor, St. Mary, Star of the Sea was in the Diocese of St. Petersburg. The current Parish church was dedicated in 1978, and the hall, now named after Father Pick, was dedicated in 1991.

Following Father Pick's retirement in 2008, Msgr. Gerard Finegan was appointed second Pastor, serving until 2019. Father Dziedziak was appointed as third Pastor in 2020. The Parish has about 1,000 registered families, but the numbers increase greatly during the winter months.

The Gala concluded a series of celebrations commemorating the history of the Parish.



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Modern marvel overlooking New Pass in Lido Shores! Step into this tropical escape through the hidden courtyard that connects the three-bedroom main home to the secluded, two-bedroom guest house with an expansive sundeck, 60-foot wet-edge lap pool lined with royal palms and unique fire bowls, as the perfect introduction to a contemporary masterpiece.



Boasting all the amenities required for luxury living, this SMART home's inspired style highlights spectacular water views that stretch out to the Gulf of Mexico from just about every room of the nearly 6,600 square-foot interior. Stacked glass sliders create a seamless transition to outdoor living, opening to the glass-railing terrace, summer kitchen, built-in grill, and spiral staircase that leads down to the waterside hot tub. Boaters will appreciate the deep-water dock with multiple lifts.

NEW CONSTRUCTION TO BE BUILT



WEST OF TRAIL - HIGHLY DESIRABLE LOCATION \$9,750,000
Waterfront location, this custom home is situated on a quiet cul-de-sac steps to Siesta Key. Offering nearly 5,350 AC/SF, with an open concept floor plan, highly desirable finishes and touches, and 4-car garage, you will be impressed. Work with builder direct to create your dream home.

GULF FRONT NEW CONSTRUCTION



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

NOW PENDING SALE



SIESTA KEY • HIGEL AVE. \$16,995,000
Currently under construction and scheduled to be ready Fall 2023, this breathtaking 8,964 AC/SF residence is one of a kind, designed by DSDG. Gulf front property on one acre and offers a 2,000 SF roof terrace. Separate guest house and 8-car garage. No expense spared on this remarkable home.

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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.

FLC Monday Morning Call-In

To: Sarasota City Vice Mayor Jen Ahearn-Koch
Thank you Vice Mayor for sending. I was able to make the call yesterday as well. Good info! Additionally, I have some good and bad news on the Local Regulation of Nonconforming or Unsafe Structures Bills (SB 1526 and HB 1647). Bad news - both have made it to their second readings on their respective floors and are both on Special Order Calendar for this week. That is the final stop before the bills are passed. Good news – the Senate Bill was amended to change the ½ mile of the coastline requirement to match the House Bill, which applies to structure or buildings on a property “in which all or a portion of the property is seaward of the coastal construction control line”. I sent to Dr. Cliff and he reviewed the properties seaward of the CCCL and he reviewed the updated text of the bill and the applicable area and believes this will only affect the most western part of Lido Key, within the City of Sarasota. So we are hoping it is not as much of an impact as the prior version of the bill. Will keep watching it, but just wanted to provide an update.
Jennifer Jorgensen

Director Governmental Affairs
City of Sarasota

FLC Monday Morning Call-In

To: Sarasota City Vice Mayor Jen Ahearn-Koch
Per our conversation about the “coastal construction control line”, please find attached the CCCL map instructions and the link to the map below. For the map, you have to zoom in on Sarasota and it will show you the line. <https://ca.dep.state.fl.us/mapdirect/?focus=beaches>
Jennifer Jorgensen
Director Governmental Affairs
City of Sarasota

FLC Monday Morning Call-In

To: Sarasota City Director Governmental Affairs Jennifer Jorgensen
Thanks Jennifer so much for this very valuable information! Much appreciated!
Jen Ahearn-Koch
Vice Mayor
City of Sarasota

FLC Monday Morning Call-In

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
Please see the link Ms. Jorgensen sent with the update on potential impacted structures. This is better than when it started but still an overreach and pre-emption on our local historic preservation efforts.
Feel free to call me with questions. Also, I am at CCNA on Saturday if you want to chat then. It is a moving target and we need to stay on top of this.
Jen Ahearn-Koch
Vice Mayor
City of Sarasota

Contraction Media Interest

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
A reporter from Channel 10 (on camera interview) along with another reporter (Leslie Lake) have asked for information regarding the request from the Jewfish Key Association. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Contraction Media Interest

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

See Letters, page 7

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Dr. Julia Wharff Piermont, Pastor



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Rickey Bolden, All-American high school football and All-Metroplex basketball player, had a distinguished career at Southern Methodist University, where he started for five seasons as Offensive Line.

In his seventh season in the NFL, Rickey responded to God's call to pursue full time ministry. He became an active pastor in the Southeast Christian Fellowship which quickly became a beacon of light in the Southeast DC community.

Rickey serves our nation's leadership on Capitol Hill by hosting weekly Bible Studies with a number of Congressmen, along with working with community and business leaders throughout the Washington D. C. Metropolitan area.

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Growing in Jesus' Name



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Please join us and be mesmerized by the majesty and glory of Chris playing the “King of Instruments.”



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6609 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

Coastal-inspired elevated pool home. This North Longboat Key 4 bedroom, 4 bath, 4,132 sf home with private beach access features views of the Gulf of Mexico and sunsets from wide covered decks and the third-level widow's walk. The main level is ideal for family gatherings and entertaining with ample seating in the kitchen, living room, dining area and wet bar. All bedrooms have ensuite baths. The Gulf of Mexico facing glass sliders open to an expansive balcony with a gas grill overlooking the pool, spa and lush array of mature tropical trees and landscaping.



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\$1,100,000

569 BAYVIEW DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

100 ft. x 100 ft. canal front homesite in Sleepy Lagoon. Great location – perfect balance between beach/ICW. Updated seawall and 10,000 lb. lift. Topographical survey and geo-technical engineering reports available.



\$2,100,000

370 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #432 | LONGBOAT KEY

Delight in scenic views of Sarasota Bay in this custom-designed 4-bedroom, 4.5-bathroom PENTHOUSE in the gated resort-style Tangerine Bay community on the southernmost tip of Longboat Key. The spacious condominium features soaring ceilings, skylight, great room with gas fireplace, marble gallery for displaying artwork, and private gated courtyard. All bedrooms are ensuite. Sliding glass doors in the primary suite and great room open to a tiled terrace where you can start your day with a cup of coffee while watching the sunrise. An additional west-facing terrace boasts stunning sunset views.



\$1,495,000

1211 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #805 | LONGBOAT KEY

Enjoy the Gulf views from this 8th Floor Promenade condominium, offering 2-bedroom, 2-bath, an open floorplan, and a primary bedroom suite with balcony access. Resort living at Promenade is a discerning experience on the beach of Longboat Key!



\$4,495,000

648 BAYVIEW DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

Boater's dream property on oversized (19,994 sf) rarely available cul-de-sac end lot with a brand new 320-foot seawall located in Sleepy Lagoon, on the north end of Longboat Key. This location offers fantastic panoramic views of Bishops Bayou and the ICW. Situated on nearly a half-acre lot is a 3-bedroom, 4,157 sq. ft. home, which could be renovated or removed creating a build site for an incredible custom home.



\$1,195,000

2110 HARBOURSIDE DR., #547 | LONGBOAT KEY

Delight in captivating bay vistas in this well-maintained 2,039 sq. ft. condominium in The Atrium, situated in Fairway Bay in the gated community of Bay Isles. This 3-bedroom, 2-bath residence features many updates, and floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors to the southeast-facing terrace, showcasing gorgeous views of Sarasota Bay and the city skyline.

Editor Letters

Letters, from page 4

How would you like us to handle? I had a request from Lake that came to me and Allen.
Ken Schneider
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Contraction Media Interest

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider
Not sure if she asked the same questions to you that she did of Allen and I, but here is Allen’s response back to her:
“Mr. Parsons,
I’m a reporter writing about the Jewfish Key Homeowners Assn. de-annexation request. I have some questions:
1) Has de-annexation ever been requested before in Longboat Key? (None that I’m aware of.)
2) what will a feasibility study entail? (Per the Florida Statutes, a “Feasibility study” means an analysis conducted by qualified staff or consultants of the economic, market, technical, financial, and management feasibility of the proposed de-annexation.)
3) How many properties would be impacted by de-annexation? (22 properties.)
4) what are the short-term rental restrictions in LBK? (In general, unless a property is zoned for Tourism uses--Jewfish Key is zoned for residential uses-- minimum stays are required to be for a month or more.)
Leslie Lake
Longboat Key”
If there are other questions that may be asked, I’m happy to talk with you about it.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Ribbon cuttings

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider
No worries. I now know to connect with you personally for future LBK Chamber Ribbon Cuttings. On that note, we have another one coming up next Wednesday, March 6th at 3 pm for Longboat Lashes & Skincare. Stephanie Tonge is the owner, and her business is located here in our plaza at 5350 Gulf of Mexico Drive in Suite 204. We’d love it if you could attend.
Kim Verreault
President/CEO
Longboat Key Chamber of Commerce

Ribbon cutting

To: Longboat Key Chamber President Kim Verreault
I’m sorry I missed the opening today. When Gail wanted me to participate she would let me know and I would schedule it. I don’t usually attend Chamber events otherwise. Sorry for the misunderstanding. If you let me know in future I will make it if I can.
Ken Schneider
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 8

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MAGNIFICENT BAYFRONT SANCTUARY, SIESTA KEY | \$9,330,000

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 7

De-annexation request

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons

I'm a reporter writing about the Jewfish Key Homeowners Assn. de-annexation request. I have some questions:

- 1) Has de-annexation ever been requested before in Longboat Key?
- 2) what will a feasibility study entail?
- 3) How many properties would be impacted by de-annexation?
- 4) what are the short-term rental restrictions in Longboat Key?

Leslie Lake
AMI Sun Newspaper

The Library...

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
Thank you for reaching out. With all due respect, however, it seems like more of the same. No one has yet answered the following questions:

How many Manatee County Longboat Key residents are there, and how many of them are predicted to access digital content in the new library? I don't recall ever being asked if I would want to access digital content in the new library. I suspect that the same is true for other Manatee County LBK residents.

Exactly what does "excess subscription costs" mean and how would that be impacted by the inclusion of Manatee County Longboat Key residents? Has the Town Commission sought this information?

The LBK Town Center has potential to be a focus of activity on Longboat Key. The arbitrary fact that it happens to be located in Sarasota County should not result in the creation of "second class" LBK citizens. All Town residents should benefit equally from this development, including the library.

Charles Lynch
Longboat Key

The Library...

To: Charles Lynch
Charles: While we continue to discuss how to get full access to all Sarasota library services for LBK Manatee residents, if it proves to be impossible for downloadable content due to excess subscription costs, what we are left with is the following: Manatee residents can obtain a Sarasota card which entitles them to all resources of the Sarasota system including everything available in the new physical library at the Town Center, with the exception of downloads. Manatee residents can also obtain a Manatee library card entitling them to all Manatee materials, including downloads. As downloads are available from home, it should make little difference which county provides them. Finally, it's possible that we could request an outlet for the Manatee library be included in the County's new space in Whitney Plaza, where physical materials could be picked up as well. We're doing the best we can, so please watch this space.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

The Library...

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra Williams
I am not sure but I venture to say that most Manatee County residents of Longboat Key are not members of the Manatee County library system. Just driving to Bradenton from Longboat Key can take more than an hour due to heavy traffic. The idea of building a modern library on Longboat Key is to provide easy access to library services for all Longboat Key residents. To require some but not all LBK residents to first enroll in the Manatee County library system in order to take full advantage of the full library services to be provided by the Longboat Key library is unfair and unreasonable. The Town Commission needs to figure this out so that all Longboat Key residents share equally in the benefits a new library has to offer.

Charles Lynch
Anna Maria Island

The Library...

To: Pete Rowan
Can you help me to understand what the request is? All Longboat Key residents will have access to the proposed new library facilities on Longboat Key - meeting space, print materials, classes, etc. The same is true for the center at Whitney Plaza. All residents, whether in Sarasota or Manatee County, have access to the digital libraries in the respective county where they reside. This is true now, and is independent of the new center at Whitney Plaza or the new library at the Town center.

If you read a bit about how libraries are charged for digital materials, it becomes a bit clearer why they cannot open the digital collections up to out of county cardholders:
Behind E-Books, Libraries Find Restrictions and High Costs (govtech.com)
Debra Williams
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

The Library...

To: Pete Rowan
Reasonable minds ought to be able to find a solution. It just takes the will to do it. Again, how many Manatee County Longboat Key residents are there? How many would want to access digital content? Has anyone asked these questions?
Charlie Lynch
Anna Maria Island

The Library...

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
Perhaps a special arrangement, formal or informal, could be reached where Manatee County residents have full use of the town center library and Sarasota residents have full use
See Letters, page 11

LONGBOAT KEY CLUB

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LONGBOAT•KEY•CLUB

SARASOTA, FLORIDA

KeyRealEstate

Bird Key, Lido Key, Longboat Key latest sales

Address	Sq. Ft.	List Price	Bed/Bath/Half Bath			Days On Market	Sale Price
245 BIRD KEY DR	2,515	\$2,250,000	3	3	0	58	\$2,125,000
500 S WASHINGTON DR Unit#17A	770	\$549,000	1	1	0	10	\$530,000
876 TARAWITT DR	3,040	\$5,850,000	4	3	0	307	\$5,000,000
3572 FAIR OAKS WAY	3,052	\$3,999,000	3	4	1	7	\$3,900,000
455 LONGBOAT CLUB RD Unit#801	2,780	\$2,250,000	3	3	1	14	\$2,150,000
545 SANCTUARY DR Unit#B206	2,375	\$1,950,000	3	3	0	268	\$1,710,000
1135 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#303	1,392	\$1,499,000	2	2	0	52	\$1,399,000
1105 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#404	1,819	\$1,299,000	3	2	0	165	\$1,150,000
1932 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#256	1,270	\$849,000	2	2	0	5	\$865,000
4325 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#205	1,336	\$900,000	2	2	0	147	\$845,000
2020 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#412	1,192	\$799,000	2	2	0	14	\$810,000
2045 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#M1-507	1,076	\$708,750	2	2	0	130	\$675,000
3465 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#105	336	\$525,000	1	1	0	21	\$475,000
3710 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#G1	880	\$340,000	2	2	0	1	\$345,000
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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.

Feb. 22 Suspicious vehicle

3:05 a.m.
Sgt. Montfort while on patrol in the area of North Shore Road, observed a red Toyota SUV with its rear hatch open. Sgt. Montfort approached the vehicle and observed an array of different items. Moreover, Sgt. Montfort looked through the front window to see no items had been disturbed. Additionally, Sgt. Montfort checked numerous other vehicles in the area which all appeared secured. Sgt. Montfort returned to the vehicle and subsequently secured the rear hatch. Officer Ferrigine arrived and they conducted an area canvass of Greer Island with negative results. It appeared the owner of the vehicle may have forgotten to secure the rear hatch. A business card was placed under the windshield wiper requesting a call back. Case clear.



Vehicle check

9:58 p.m.
Officer Ferrigine while on patrol, observed a white four door vehicle traveling southbound from the 1200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive with a front driver side head light out. Officer Ferrigine conducted a vehicle stop in the 1000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in his marked patrol vehicle. Officer Ferrigine made contact with the driver who produced a Mexico passport and stated she did not have a valid driver's license. The driver was issued a notice to appear for no driver's license and was advised to have someone with a valid driver's license to take control of the vehicle. The woman advised she did not have a driver's license.

Dog on beach

12:54 p.m.
Officer Miklos was dispatched to North Shore Road in reference to a dog on the beach near the beach access near Palmetto Avenue. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos observed a medium sized black dog playing fetch with a group on vacation. Officer Miklos advised the owner that dogs were not allowed on the beach and the dog needed to be on a leash. The woman advised she was unaware and would leave the beach without incident. Case clear.

Feb. 24 Citizen assist

10:27 a.m.
Officer Martinson was dispatched to the 1600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on a call of a citizen assist. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson was met by the complainant outside in front of the construction site but his parked vehicle was blocked in by other vehicles and construction equipment. Officer Martinson spoke with the on sit superintendent for the construction company who said he needed a few minutes to finish up some other work related matters but would then assist in getting the other vehicles moved so the complainant could leave. Case clear.

Object in roadway

5:28 p.m.
Officer Miklos observed a broken chair blocking the south lane of the 3100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Miklos removed the beach chair and disposed of it in the dumpster at the police department. Case clear.

Feb. 25 Lock in

9:01 a.m.
Officer Martinson was dispatched to the 300 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on a call of a citizen assist for a lock in. Upon arrival, the homeowner stated the door handle to the baby's room broke off they were unable to get inside. Longboat Key Fire Department was able to use a ladder to climb up to the balcony and enter the bedroom through the sliding glass door. Longboat Key Fire was then able to open the door from the inside. The baby was okay. Case clear.

Feb. 26 Missing person

8:34 p.m.
Officer Mathis was dispatched to Harbourside Drive in reference to a possible missing person. Upon his arrival, to the incident location, Officer Mathis met with the complainant who advised that her husband was going shopping but hasn't returned home. Officer Mathis then spoke with the husband via telephone who advised that he was fine and his wife was overreacting to the situation. Case clear.

Feb. 27 Vehicle in bike lane

5:65 p.m.
Officer Ramsaier was dispatched to the 5800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a vehicle blocking the bike lane and part of the southbound lane. Upon arrival, Officer Ramsaier observed a cement mixing truck blocking the bike lane in front of 5800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Ramsaier made contact with the driver who was the operator of Manatee Mobile Concrete. Officer Ramsaier was able to redirect truck off of Gulf of Mexico Drive and driver was issued a uniformed traffic citation for Florida State Statute, Stand Park prohibited in bike lane. Case clear.

Feb. 28 Dog on the loose

6:00 p.m.
Officer Nazareno was dispatched to Birdie Lane for an animal complaint call regarding a loose Doberman biting other dogs. Sgt. Puccio also requested Sarasota Animal Control Services to respond due to the nature of the call. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno met with the complainant who advised that at approximately 6 p.m. he was riding his bicycle at the area of the 1000 block of Bogey Lane when he saw a black Doberman running around without a leash. The complainant stated that he was concerned that the Doberman would bite other dogs in the neighborhood. Preliminary investigation revealed that no one was bitten or attacked by the dog. Officer Nazareno canvassed the area and made contact with the owner of the Doberman. The complainant advised that his dog accidentally got out of the harness attached to the leash and was running around for a few minutes when his dog encountered a man riding a bike who felt threatened by his dog. He also stated that his dog did not attack any person or other dogs during the incident. Sarasota County Animal Control that responded on scene was advised that no dog bite occurred. Case clear.

Welfare check

7:33 p.m.
Officer Nazareno was dispatched to Bayou Road for a welfare check call. The caller advised that there was a significant amount of water dripping from the garage area and was not certain if the resident at Bayou Road was in distress. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno made contact with the complainant who advised that the pipe for his hot water heater broke. Officer Maple shut the water main valve to prevent further flooding and water damage. The complainant advised that he contacted a plumber and was told that the soonest he can respond was Thursday morning. The caller did not wish to be seen or contacted. Case clear.

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 8

of the planned community center (aka Learning Center) at Whitney Plaza.
Pete Rowan
Longboat Key

The Library...

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider
Thank you for reaching out. With all due respect, however, it seems like more of the same. No one has yet answered the following questions:
How many Manatee County LBK residents are there, and how many of them are predicted to access digital content in the new library? I don't recall ever being asked if I would want to access digital content in the new library. I suspect that the same is true for other Manatee County LBK residents.
Exactly what does "excess subscription costs" mean and how would that be impacted by the inclusion of Manatee County LBK residents? Has the Town Commission sought this information?
The LBK Town Center has potential to be a focus of activity on Longboat Key. The arbitrary fact that it happens to be located in Sarasota County should not result in the creation of "second class" LBK citizens. All Town residents should benefit equally from this development, including the library.
Charles Lynch
Longboat Key

The Library...

To: Charles Lynch
While we continue to discuss how to get full access to all Sarasota library services for LBK Manatee residents, if it proves to be impossible for downloadable content due to excess subscription costs, what we are left with is the following: Manatee residents can obtain a Sarasota card which entitles them to all resources of the Sarasota system including everything available in the new physical library at the Town Center, with the exception of downloads. Manatee residents can also obtain a Manatee library card entitling them to all Manatee materials, including downloads. As downloads are available from home, it should make little difference which county provides them. Finally, it's possible that we could request an outlet for the Manatee library be included in the County's new space in Whitney Plaza, where physical materials could be picked up as well. We're doing the best we can, so please watch this space.
Ken Schneider
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

The Library...

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra Williams
I am not sure but I venture to say that most Manatee County residents of LBK are not members of the Manatee County library system. Just driving to Bradenton from LBK

can take more than an hour due to heavy traffic. The idea of building a modern library on Longboat Key is to provide easy access to library services for all LBK residents. To require some but not all LBK residents to first enroll in the Manatee County library system in order to take full advantage of the full library services to be provided by the Longboat Key library is unfair and unreasonable. The Town Commission needs to figure this out so that all Longboat Key residents share equally in the benefits a new library has to offer.
Charles Lynch
Town of Longboat Key

The Library...

To: Pete Rowan, Charles Lynch
Can you help me to understand what the request is? All Longboat Key residents will have access to the proposed new library facilities on Longboat Key - meeting space, print materials, classes, etc. The same is true for the center at Whitney Plaza. All residents, whether in Sarasota or Manatee County, have access to the digital libraries in the respective county where they reside. This is true now, and is independent of the new center at Whitney Plaza or the new library at the Town center.
If you read a bit about how libraries are charged for digital materials, it becomes a bit clearer why they cannot open the digital collections up to out of county cardholders:
Behind E-Books, Libraries Find Restrictions and High Costs (govtech.com)

Debra Williams
Commissioner
Longboat Key

Longboat Key Library

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Manatee County library cardholders can already access a good selection of ebooks available on line through the Manatee County library system. Ebooks do not require a physical structure such as a library.
I do not recommend that the barely funded LBK library get into the ebook business.
Given the median income of LBK, I wonder about having a discussion about ebook availability, when Amazon can fill in the gaps for those who feel deprived.
Gene Jaleski
Longboat Key

Algal blooms

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission
There is a widespread consensus in Florida and across the country about the impacts of nutrient enrichment on algal blooms, water quality and ecosystem health. It should be noted that nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus are essential for supporting coastal ecosystems. It is also abundantly clear that we have increased the flux of nutrients to those same coastal ecosystems, with estimates that we've

See Letters, page 15

Longboat Key News

Sarasota City News

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Harry's, from page 1

it's takeout. My customers could savor a gourmet dinner without leaving the comfort of their homes."

By 1982, the Christensens had proof that their gourmet takeout was an idea whose time had come. Growing pains pushed them to the current location a few blocks north on St. Jukes Drive. By now, the Christensens were realizing they had a talent for catering as well as takeout.

One would think all of this would be enough work for anyone, but something was missing. "Harry always longed for his own restaurant," says Lynn, "a dining room where he could see people enjoy his food. We decided to make his dream come true."

In 1985, the Christensens added the wonderful restaurant we all know and love... Harry's. In 1998, Harry and Lynn added a full bar to the restaurant.

"Every year, we kept investing in ourselves," Lynn explains. "We kept on going without looking back."

Today, Harry's serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner in their garden-style dining room and on the tropical outside patio.

Harry's has been a family-run business from the beginning. In fact, both of the Christensens' sons grew up in the restaurant. Now, eldest son, Hal, and Harry are certified sommeliers creating an exceptional wine selection that complements the diversified



menu. Hal's wine programs include wine tastings, wine dinners, and tremendous value on retail wines in the deli.

"We have seen generations of families come through Harry's. We've catered their christenings, weddings, reunions, and now our next generation of Christensens gets to experience the same for generations to come," says Harry.

Harry and the business have won many restaurant and wine awards over the past 45 years. His cooking has earned him a spot among Florida Trend's top 500 restaurants, and, thanks to his knowledge of wine, he's received the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence since 1979, amongst others.

Harry also has a passion for giving back. He has mentored many young chefs and sent them on their way to further their own careers. Harry believes his early training with European chefs gave him a solid background in classical cooking, which is part of every new and creative dish he and his staff create.

His love of Longboat Key, where he has lived for 50 years, has prompted him to be



involved in many community services, from sponsoring and coaching Little League and other children's sports to serving on board and committees, including Longboat Key Mediation Committee, Commercial Zoning Committee, Longboat Key Communication Committee, Longboat Key Community Center Board, Longboat Key Historical Society Board, and Public Interest Committee Board.

"It's been a roller coaster, but it's been a good roller coaster," Harry says of their 45 years in business.

Come join them all year long as and check out their website and follow them on Facebook as they have many things planned to celebrate this milestone.

Longer-term, watch for an expansion and renovations of the restaurant.

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WineTimes

Wine Tasting Tips

Your neighbor has already paid for the wine and is looking for affirmation, not critique.

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

Wine tastings can be intimidating. Say a neighbor invites you over to taste a wine that he has bought by the case: say Chateau Clos de Blah du Blah. If a white wine, you rave about its floral nose, refreshing acidity, and interesting finish. A red wine has to have stone fruit tastes, tannins that will soften with age in the bottle, and notes of chocolate, tobacco, and leather. Your neighbor has already paid for the wine and is looking for affirmation, not critique. It may take years to deplete his inventory. Just remember to have other commitments when invited by him to a dinner party.

Large wine tasting events present special challenges. Perhaps you agree to attend a wine tasting event with a friend who frequents these events. You don't want to appear clueless. Expect to see tables set up for wine-makers, importers, distributors, and sales persons. They have selections of their wines on their table. Clusters of wine tasters holding their glasses out front move from table to table and at each ask for small pours of one or more of the wines on display. You may have been given a list of table numbers and the wines being poured at each when you pick up your wine glass.

Do check table numbers on your list and decide on wines to sample before approaching a table. Ask to taste each wine that you decide to try. Quickly ask about basic attributes of a wine if you don't know it; for instance, Is the wine sweet or dry (not sweet), light or robust, hot (high alcohol)? If people are crowding behind you, step back to taste a wine. Try one or more wines at a table and move on to other tables.

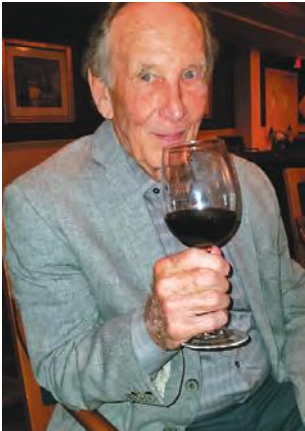
Don't occupy a person pouring wine for more than a minute when others are waiting to taste wines at the table. Don't ask for more than one pour of any one wine. You are sampling the wine, not drinking a glass of it.

Which brings us to the etiquette of dumping and spitting.... Initially take a small taste of a wine. At a tasting, the persons pouring wine usually try to pour only an ounce of each wine. If a small sip of the wine tells you all that you need to know about it, or you find that it does not suit your tastes, locate a dump bucket on the table or nearby and empty your glass in it. Usually you do not need to wash out your glass between pours. We prefer to use white wine for rinsing when shifting from red to a white pour; the chlorine in tap water affects the taste of a wine. Veteran wine tasters take larger sips of wine and swirl the wine inside the mouth. They have become adept at spitting out a wine after tasting it. (Drinking samples of many wines in one day will inebriate veteran and novice wine tasters alike.) If you take a small sip of each wine and dump the rest, you can avoid spitting altogether and still stay sober. Those pouring wines expect dumping part of a pour and do not see it as a negative reaction..Take advantage of bread, cheese, and other light fare at a tasting to avoid tasting on an empty stomach.

Wine tasting at a winery, at a seated lunch or dinner, or in a home typically offers larger pours of a smaller selection of wines. Most pair wines with food and pour appropriate amounts of wine for each food pairing. If you have strong preferences, such as an aversion to red wine or low tolerance for alcohol, inform your host in advance.

Relax and enjoy the opportunity to taste a variety of wines and find new taste sensations. Many wine tastings have wines for sale at the events. Some of the wines that you taste may prove difficult to find in your area. Write down the names of the wines that you enjoy and buy them at the wine tasting event or later at a wine retailer. Remember to record the name of the wine, the producer, and the vintage of the wine to make sure that you will be able to select the wine brand and vintage that you like.

S. W. Hermansen has used his expertise in econometrics, data science and epidemiology to help develop research databases for the Pentagon, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Agriculture, and Health Resources and Services. He has visited premier vineyards and taste wines



from major appellations in California, Oregon, New York State, and internationally from Tuscany and the Piedmont in Italy, the Ribera del Duero in Spain, the Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale in Australia, and the Otago Valley in New Zealand. Currently he splits time between residences in Chevy Chase, Maryland and St. Armand's Circle in Florida.

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



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Letters, from page 11

approximately doubled the rates of nitrogen loads to our local waters compared to pre-development conditions. That means, not only are we allowing for more phytoplankton in the water, which reduces water clarity, and more macroalgae on the bay bottom, we are also making red tides more intense, longer lasting and larger - Nitrogen-enriched discharges from a highly managed watershed intensify red tide (*Karenia brevis*) blooms in southwest Florida (nxedge.io).

The good news is that locally, our bay's inorganic nutrient load reduction goal, set in 2021, appears to have been already met, which is why our bay no longer is considered to be "impaired" for nutrients by FDER. The ramifications of that improvement are clear to anyone who spends a lot of time on the bay – our water clarity is very good right now, and just this morning airplanes are flying over the bay to obtain the photography that will be used to create our seagrass maps for 2024 – thanks to the SWFWMD's efforts (special shout out to Chris Anastasiou).

But there's not as much consensus on the impacts of humans on topics such as sea level rise, in part because the views of those on opposite sides of this issue are not as well-informed as they could be. On one extreme, we have folks talking about sea level rise as if sea level has been stable over most of our planet's history and is only now rising due to human activities. On the other extreme, we have folks who seem to dismiss concerns over recent trends in sea level rise as no big deal. As in many topics, the reality is somewhere in between these two extremes.

First off, sea level has changed by huge amounts over the period of time that humans have lived on this planet. For example, sea level was hundreds of feet lower about 20,000 years ago, during the peak of the last glacial maximum. This was a time of much lower sea levels (because water was locked up in massive glaciers) which exposed the Bering Land Bridge that allowed humans to migrate from northeastern Asia into North America. Both Long Island and Cape Cod are remnants of the terminal moraines of ancient glaciers that came as far south as today's New York City. Between 19,000 and 6,000 years ago, global sea level rose by about 120 meters (about 400 feet). That is a huge change in sea level during a period of time when humans were not only on this planet, but actually in North America as well. The average rate of sea level rise (SLR) after the end of this last Ice Age was approximately 1 meter per century for most of that time, which is about 4 inches per decade - Global sea-level rise at the end of the last Ice Age | National Oceanography Centre (noc.ac.uk). Notice that this rate estimate does not include the last 6,000 years, because the rate of SLR had slowed dramatically by then, a finding originally pointed out over 30 years ago in the SBEP's 1992 document "A Framework for Action". This reduced rate of sea level rise over the past few thousand years allowed for the formation of Sarasota Bay - 1992-SBNEP_Framework_for_Action-sm.pdf (nxedge.io)

That rate of sea level rise that occurred at the end of the last Ice Age slowed down considerably over the past 5,000 years – as indicated by this graph (below) from a paper published in 2019 -Jones et al 2019 mangroves and SLR in Florida.pdf.

On this graph, a rate of SLR of just under 1 mm/yr (the lower gray line) equates to a SLR rate of less than half an inch a decade. That is roughly the rate of SLR that existed for most of the past 5,000 years – the same period of time during which "civilization" has existed. The oldest written language, Cuneiform (developed by the Sumerians in Mesopotamia) is only about 5,000 years old, for example. Which means, most of our civilizations have existed during a time of SLR that was much more modest than the 4 inches

Bird Key Yacht Club Honors International Womens' Day



In honor of International Women's Day, the Bird Key Yacht Club salutes the Club's female operational leaders. General Manager and Chief Operating Officer Tammy Hackney and her dynamic team manage the day to day operations of the Club. Pictured Left to Right: Jessie Eifert, Tammy Hackney, Dannielle Miller, Sylvie Saint-Cyr, Alyssa LeDonne, Kylah Pokorny, Jessica Lutz, Mar Sanchez. Not pictured: Jackie Bohannon, Brittney Szegal, Sofia Sterling

per decade average that occurred after the last Ice Age ended.

Next up, a story about ancient cities, my hometown, and how that fits into the historical reconstruction of rates of SLR.

I was born overseas – in the Middle East – but was raised in Alexandria, VA, as my parents worked in the Pentagon and another DC-based Federal Agency. Alexandria, VA is named after Alexandria, Egypt, which is itself named after Alexander the Great. Alexander the Great “conquered” Egypt (they were happy to be freed from the Persian Empire under King Darius). After conquering Egypt, Alexander the Great founded the city of Alexandria in his own honor (he thought he was the son of Zeus, after all). But why did he create a NEW port city at the delta of the Nile River? Because the older port city of Heracleion (aka Thonis) located further west on the delta, had been submerged by rising waters of the Mediterranean. The city of Heracleion first started to slip below the sea around 101 BC, and now lies about 20 feet underwater - Heracleion - Wikipedia. So... an important port city that existed for several centuries, but which was mostly abandoned 2,000 years ago is now under about 20 feet of water. That rate of SLR, over the last 2,000 years or so, averages just over 1 inch per decade – which is a bit higher than the half an inch per decade estimate from the mangrove accretion rate study summarized above.

But generally, the 4 inches per decade rate of SLR during the recovery period from the last Ice Age tapered back to about ½ to 1 inch per decade for most of the last 5,000 years, it appears.

Now, notice the far-left side of the mangrove accretion rate graph – it shows recent values of about 6 and even 8 mm/yr, which equates to about 2 ¼ to 3 inches per decade – higher rates of SLR than most of the prior 5,000 years shown, and a higher rate than what appears to have occurred during the past 2,000 years at Heracleion.

Our closest long-term gauge is in St. Petersburg, and its long-term trend is listed by NOAA at about 3 to 4 mm/yr – equivalent to about 1 to 1 ½ inches per decade –New NOAA Sea Level Rise Estimate for

St Petersburg, Florida - Ocean Weather ServicesOcean Weather Services .But that's the long-term average, and NOAA has noted that the rate appears to be trending upwards at a higher rate the last 20 years or so.

We've taken the raw data from monthly average tide levels at that same gage and created the graph below – which shows a rate of SLR of six inches over the past 20 years, or 3 inches / decade, which matches up very well to the 8 mm/yr estimates on the far left side of the mangrove sediment accretion rate graph.

We ran this estimate of 3"/decade by our TAC and found it to be roughly equal to the average of NOAA's Intermediate and Intermediate-Low estimates of the rate of future SLR. Since our average tidal range is about 18 inches, this would mean that in the year 2050, the average sea level in our region would approximate what today's average high tide is, and the average high tide would be about 9 inches stacked on top of that.

The issue of SLR should more appropriately be considered to be concern over the recent evidence of an accelerated rate of SLR. Humans have lived on this planet for hundreds of thousands of years, including times when global sea level was about 400 feet lower than it is now. So “sea level rise” is not a new phenomenon.

However...most of the time that human civilization has existed on this planet, we've experienced a rate of sea level rise that was about 1 inch per decade or lower. In contrast, our last 20 years have experienced rates that are about 3 inches per decade – closer to the higher rates that existed when we exited from the last Ice Age. While that is not a value that should terrify people, it is a rate that is more than what we've experienced over the period of time during which humans have created and lived in the cities of London and Mumbai and New York City and Miami and Bradenton and Sarasota.

It's not that SLR has never occurred before, it's more that the rate of SLR appears to be trending upwards to rates that we've not experienced during the period of time over which human civilization has existed. Will it continue to increase? Will it decline in the

future? Well, we don't know yet – but we seem to be running a planet-wide experiment, and we'll see how that turns out, I guess.

Locally, what our shoreline has looked like the last 30 years is not likely what it will look like 30 years from now. We can anticipate that, and become more resilient (Florida does have a Chief Resiliency Officer, for example) or we can believe that nothing is changing, and the status quo approach to living along our coast is just fine. It's our choice to make.

Dave Tomasko
Executive Director
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

Longboat Key: Waste Management follow up
To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman

This is residential tons for 4 different months. It shows total tons on Monday's collection and Thursday's collection for the entire month. I want some months in season and some out. Let me know if you need anything else. Jason

This is residential tons for 4 different months. It shows total tons on Monday's collection and Thursday's collection for the entire month. I want some months in season and some out.

Let me know if you need anything else.
Jason White
Sr. District Manager
WM of Manatee & WM of Sarasota

Longboat Key: Waste Management follow up
To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Regarding the question about solid waste tonnage differences between Mondays and Thursdays, please see a sampling of four months of residential below.

Isaac Brownman
Director Public Works
Town of Longboat Key

REAL ESTATE BY REAL EXPERTS

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2BR/2BA • 1,601 SF • Private setting • Open floor plan • Steps to the beach



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NEW PRICE



5757 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #102 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$995,000
2BR/2BA • 1,561 SF • First level • Two pets 100 lb. each • Steps to the beach



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551 PUTTER LANE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$ 6,995,000
4BR+DEN+OFFICE/5.5BA • 5,300 SF • Full Bay view • 2 Primary suites • 6-Car garage



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2016 HARBOURSIDE DR., #327 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$ 1,025,000
2BR/2BA • 1,442 SF • Corner residence • Direct Bay front • Covered parking



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2110 HARBOURSIDE DR., #514 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$1,375,000
2BR+DEN/2BA • 2,031 SF • Walk-down to Bay • Covered parking space



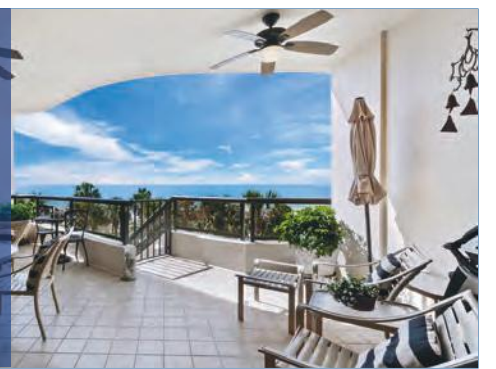
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486 E. ROYAL FLAMINGO DRIVE • SARASOTA, FL • \$3,995,000
3BR+DEN/3BA • 3,854 SF • 3-Car Garage • Built in 2014



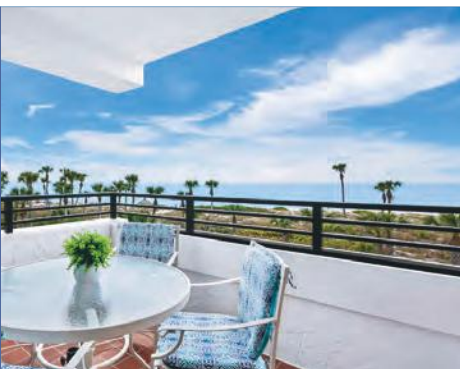
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415 L'AMBIANCE DR., #D206 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$2,995,000
3BR/3.5BA • 2,820 SF • Gulf & Bay views • Walkdown to beachfront



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1485 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #209 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$1,625,000
Direct Gulf front • Furnished corner residence • 2BR/2.5BA • 1,839 SF



SCAN FOR MORE



1065 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #10-402 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$949,000
2BR/2BA • 1,392 SF • Updated • Furnished • Covered parking space



SCAN FOR MORE



3060 GRAND BAY BLVD., #153 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$1,799,000
3BR/3.5BA • 2,550 SF • Full floor • Direct Bay views



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540 BIRD KEY DRIVE • SARASOTA, FL • \$1,695,000
3BR.2BA • 1,924 SF • Best value on Bird Key



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700 HIDEAWAY BAY LANE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$3,295,000
3BR/3.5BA • 3,306 SF • Waterfront • Easy access to bay



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3080 GRAND BAY BLVD., #532 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$849,000
2BR/2BA • Golf course, and Sarasota Bay views



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LIDO SHORES • 1130 CENTER PLACE • SARASOTA, FL • \$1,999,000
13,000 SQ. FT. +/- Lot • In the iconic Sarasota school of architecture enclave



SCAN FOR MORE



3460 MISTLETOE LANE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$2,225,000
3BR+DEN+OFFICE/3.5BA • 2,831 SF • Direct Bayfront



SCAN FOR MORE



3520 FAIR OAKS LANE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$1,995,000
3BR+DEN/3BA • 2,902 SF • Separate casita for guests

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