# Longboat Rey Rews

July 19, 2024

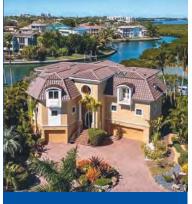
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# InsideLook



The key to net positioning ...page 15



Sale on LBK hits \$5.75 million ...page 9



Campaign 2024 turns dangerous ...page 12



Injured duck and errant fisherman ...page 10

### Doors to soon swing open at The St. Regis Longboat Key

The Town Manager is especially cognizant about the revenue the Resort will bring to Town coffers. "Since it will open this year, as of Jan. 1 the property appraiser will value them at their new level. We will see that in our tax values through the 2025-2026-budget process. It will be a boon to all local governments."



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

Three years after breaking ground, the long-anticipated, 18-acre St. Regis Longboat Key Resort is opening on Wednesday, Aug. 14. Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton says the resort already has temporary certificates of occupancy.

Tipton said the level of landscaping is lessening the impact of the buildings.

"Wait to that stuff grow in, said Tipton. "Two years and it will dramatically soften that hard structure we have all seen."

The Town Manager is especially cognizant about the revenue the Resort will bring to Town coffers.

"Since it will open this year, as of Jan. 1 the property appraiser will value them at their new level. We will see that in our tax values through the 2025-2026-budget process. It will be a boon to all local governments."

#### Public check in...

After it opens, the public can access the St. Regis spa and any one of its seven restaurants and bars. But the pools, which include a winding river, a resort swimming pool, a serenity pool and a fully stocked saltwater lagoon teeming with tropical wildlife are for members only. Access to those amenities will require a \$125,000 membership that can be purchased online, unless you're staying at the hotel.

#### An ode to Sarasota history

Designed by SB Architects, Hirsch Bedner Associates (HBA), and Dutch East Design, the new resort will be the only St. Regis to open in the U.S. this year.

The St. Regis Longboat Key Resort's reception area and the hotel's interiors, crafted by HBA, pull inspiration from the area seascape, as well as circus showman and promoter John Ringling's imprint on Sarasota's

See St. Regis, page 2

### As oceans heat and acidify, MOTE works to find solutions to save coral and marine life

Mote Marine Laboratory, in a project funded by the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA), successfully deployed a SeapHOx sensor, an instrument that monitors pH and dissolved oxygen (parameters measured for evaluation of ocean and coastal acidification), at Looe Key in the Florida Keys on Tuesday, June 11. Mote's goal is to significantly increase and improve ocean acidification monitoring with the SeapHOx deployment. In leading this groundbreaking initiative, Mote aims to fill critical gaps in ocean acidification data, enhancing scientific understanding and protection of Florida's coral reefs.

Ocean acidification occurs when carbon dioxide (CO2) from the atmosphere is absorbed into the ocean, leading to decreased pH. This change in pH adversely affects calcifying organisms like corals, shellfish, and some plankton species, which rely on calcium carbonate to form their skeletons and shells. Additionally, ocean acidification can weaken coral reefs, which both marine animals and humans rely on.

Florida's coral reefs, the third largest barrier reef system in the world, are crucial to marine ecosystems and human economies. Coral reefs provide habitat for a substantial diversity of marine life, including thousands of species of fish, invertebrates, and other organisms. In addition, they act as natural barriers and protect shorelines from erosion and storm damage. Economically, coral reefs are invaluable, attracting 16 million visitors annually and contributing \$8.5 billion to Florida's economy while supporting over 71,000 jobs.

"Deploying the SeapHOx sensor is a milestone for our efforts to preserve coral reefs," said Dr. Emily Hall, Manager of Mote's Ocean Acidification



and Chemical and Physical Ecology Research Programs. "By addressing the threats identified through this monitoring, we can help ensure that coral reefs continue to thrive and provide their essential services to marine life and human communities alike."

Mote partnered with the Southeast Ocean and Coastal Acidification Network (SOCAN) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to install SeapHOx in a Marine Protected Area (MPA) of Looe Key. Its successful

See Coral, page 2

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#### Coral,, from page 1

deployment represents a significant advancement in measuring pH and monitoring ocean acidification.

"This deployment exemplifies the critical need for partnerships and regional collaboration in addressing ocean acidification," said Dr. Janet Reimer, SOCAN Co-Coordinator and Science Program Manager at the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Acidification Network (MACAN). "The data we gather will not only benefit Florida's reefs but will also enhance our broader understanding of acidification impacts on coastal ecosystems."

#### **Key Highlights of the SeapHOx Deployment:**

Enhanced Acidification Monitoring: The SeapHOx sensor provides high-quality, continuous data on pH, salinity, temperature, and dissolved oxygen, crucial for tracking the change in ocean acidity and acidification on coral reefs.

Strategic Location: The deployment site near Looe Key MPA is critical for understanding the dynamics of ocean acidification in a region with high biodiversity and significant coral cover.

Detection and Analysis: The sensor data will be used to identify signs of stress in the reefs, track changes over time, and understand the specific conditions that lead to coral bleaching and other detrimental effects.

Long-term Data Collection: The sensor will provide continuous data, contributing to a long-term time series essential for tracking changes and informing conservation strategies.

"The high-resolution data collected will allow us to detect subtle changes in the reef environment, providing warning signs of stress conditions," said Dr. Kimberly Yates, Senior Research Oceanographer at the USGS. "This technology will allow us to continue developing proactive conservation strategies and approaches for mitigating the effects of acidification."

This project will generate critical data for modeling and predicting ocean acidification impacts across the Florida reef tract and beyond. Additionally, the data will inform policy decisions made by the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) and other regional stakeholders to protect Florida's reefs for future generations. As Mote and its partners continue to combat the challenges faced by coral reefs, such initiatives are crucial for preserving the biodiversity and economic value of coral reefs worldwide.

#### St. Regis, from page 1

performing arts culture.

Throughout the property, design elements nod to Ringling and the circus—from rope-like chandeliers to an oval-shaped ballroom that's reminiscent of a circus tent. In the St. Regis Bar, a lattice cage wraps around a mural by artist William Savarese, which pays homage to the King Cole Bar at St. Regis' iconic New York flagship.

Contemporary artwork includes a mosaic at the front entry of over 350,000 mosaic pieces, while a second on the rooftop features more than 750,000 hand-laid tiles.

The hotel has a total of 168 guestrooms, including 26 suites with terraces and a four-bedroom presidential suite.

The property boasts 800 feet of beach, a sea lagoon wildlife reserve, multiple swimming pools, cabanas. In addition, a 475-foot winding river with cascading waterfalls leads into the grotto, a private sanctuary complete with Jacuzzi jets and champagne service.

The property also houses the 20,000 square-foot St. Regis Spa.

#### On the menus...

Upon entering the lobby, the St. Regis Bar forms the resort's living room. Dining options include signature restaurant CW Prime; the Spirit Room, a private cocktail speakeasy; Riva, coastal Italian dining; Aura, an open-air pool grill; rooftop lounge Oshen; Monkey Bar, an ode to the former Colony's beloved local destination; and an all-day café — Caroline's.

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#### **COUNTRY CLUB SHORES**

\$4,699,999 - 610 Yardarm Lane 4 Beds 5 Baths 4,138 Sq. Ft. Canal Front with Bay Views



#### **ANNA MARIA ISLAND**

\$3,600,000 - 405 28th Street 5 Beds 4 Baths 3,735 Sq. Ft. 80' of Waterfront



#### **BIRD KEY**

\$11,750,000 - 109 N Warbler Lane Under Construction 4 Beds 5 Baths 5,292 Sq. Ft. Oversized Deep Water Bayfront Lot



#### **WEST OF TRAIL**

\$9,750,000 - 3621 San Remo Terrace Under Construction 5 Beds 7 Baths 5,328 Sq. Ft. 400' Wide Bay Inlet



#### **LIDO SHORES**

\$6,995,000 - 1212 Center Place New Construction 5 Beds 6 Baths 4,750 Sq. Ft. Rooftop Terrace and Private Beach



#### **LONGBOAT KEY**

\$16,995,000 - 6489 Gulfside Road Under Construction 4 Beds 5 Baths 6,614 Sq. Ft. 100' of Beachfront

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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.

#### **Underground project**

To: Longboat Key Town Commission

The Underground project remains on schedule to complete conversions within the month of October. No unforeseen circumstances have arisen nor storms developed that would impact the schedule at this point. FPL is meeting their commitment of streamlined, dedicated switch order processing, and Wilco is delivering on progression of work. Below is a more detailed summary of activity from June 5, 2024 through July 15, 2024:

Phase 2 (North End - Dream Island Road to Longboat Pass Bridge)

All of Phase 2 is operating on the underground system. Seven (7) large concrete poles remain along GMD and ten (10) smaller wooden service poles remain on Dream Island Road. The seven (7) large GMD poles are planned to be removed within the next week. The poles along Dream Island Road transition between project Phases 2 and 4 and will be removed as soon as Comcast cable is down.

Phase 3 (Country Club Shores to County line):

Work completed between 6/5/24 - 7/15/24

Transformers: 70 of 70 energized 100% complete

Service Conversions: 63 remaining to convert, 220 of 283 complete, 78% complete

Switching Orders: 91 of 95 orders complete 96%

27 completed last month:

Loop Orders 24

Renumbering Orders 1

Numbering Orders 1

Reclosure Controls (Safety Shut Off Devices) 1

The only remaining orders are to finish the tie points between phases 1 and 4.

Phase 4 (County line to Dream Island Road)

Work completed between 6/5/24 - 7/15/24

Feeder: 100% energized

Feeder Switch Cabinets: 17 of 17 energized 100% complete

Transformers: 47 of 76 energized 62% complete.

Service Conversions: 0 of 252 0% complete. Transformer energizing to be completed first.

Switching Orders: 20 completed of an estimated 115 orders 17%:

Feeder Orders 2

Loop Orders 9

Renumbering Orders 5

TX Changeout Orders 1

Reclosure Controls (Safety Shut Off Devices) 3

Our next update will be mid-August barring any circumstances that would necessitate an earlier update.

Isaac Brownman

Director Public Works Town of Longboat Key

#### Underground project

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman Thanks for this great update, Isaac! Wonderful progress.

Sarah Karon

#### Growing in Jesus' Name



#### Worship With Us at Our Church

Sunday Service 10:00 AM

#### Dr. Julia Wharff Piermont, Pastor

Men's Bible Study: Monday @ 9:00 Women's Bible Study: Wednesday @ 10:00

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Commissioner

Town of Longboat Key

#### Underground project

To: Longboat Key Public Works and Town Manager Howard Tipton

Congratulations on what should be the final page in this remarkable project to totally reimagine our Longboat Key Comprehensive Plan. Well planned and well executed, this was an enormous effort and a great service to the Town.

Ken Schneier

Mayor

Town of Longboat Key

#### **DEO Response Letter**

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Thank you Mayor. In addition to the outstanding work of Allen and his staff in keeping us track, credit here belongs to Chair David Green for his perseverance and leadership in getting us through this massive project. I do not have his personal email or I would forward the letter to him. If it hasn't already been done, I hope that someone will do so.

David Lapovsky

Longboat Key

#### **Longboat OnDemand Slides**

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

It was great talking with you today. Please see the attached slides of the data I shared. Let me know if you have any questions.

Jane H. Grogg

Director

Sarasota County Breeze Transit

#### **Breeze OnDemand**

To: Longboat Key Commission

Good morning. Received an update from Sarasota County yesterday on the on-demand transit they've been providing since late January. Overall, the Director was pleased with the progress and looking forward to additional promotion in the fall and as we move into next season. The Town will continue to coordinate promotional information about the on-demand system through our channels as well.

Howard N. Tipton

Town Manager

Town of Longboat Key

#### **Breeze OnDemand**

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Thank you for sharing the Breeze OnDemand report. This is a great start. I expect these numbers will continue to rise as more people discover how easy, economical and efficient it is to use the service.

Penny Gold

Commissioner

See Letters, page 6

## follow the locals to... our newly renovated dining room



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### YOUR LUXURY PROPERTY SPECIALISTS



#### 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



#### 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. Watch the video of the first phase of demolition. Removing the 1970s home to make way for the buyer's dream home. Call Walter Group Real Estate for help connecting with developer/architect/builders to make your dreams



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#### **STEVE WALTER**

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#### **JANET WALTER**

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Michael Saunders & Company,

Walter Group, Longboat locals and connected to the real estate market for over 20 years. Call us for more information on off-market and pre-market homes and condos that cannot be advertised.



#### 5930 EMERALD HARBOR DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY Exquisitely remodeled 3BR/3.5BA pool home situated on a .27 acre waterfront lot. The property sits on one of the key's widest canals and boasts a new 72-foot seawall and dock with boat lift.

Enjoy community beach access only two blocks away.



#### 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. The spacious condominium features soaring ceilings, great room with gas fireplace, and private gated courtyard. All bedrooms are ensuite. Sliding glass doors in the primary suite and great room open to a terrace. An additional westfacing terrace boasts stunning sunset views.



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.



2185 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #212 | LONGBOAT KEY Villa Di Lancia, one of Longboat Key's premier communities. This corner residence boasts 3 bathrooms, and epitomizes tropical Gulf-front living. The covered terrace, connected to the living room provides a spacious year-round haven to immerse yourself in the stunning surroundings. A spiral staircase offers easy access to resort amenities and the beach just outside. Includes 2 parking spaces.



775 LONGBOAT CLUB RD., #308 | LONGBOAT KEY Three bedroom, three bath Gulf front, coastal oasis that is rarely offered. Savor expansive beach views and breathtaking sunsets from the glass sliders, windows and spacious terrace. This secondfloor end unit unfolds across 2,122 sq ft of well-planned space. Enjoy a life of ease at Beaches on Longboat Key!



#### 525 NORTON STREET | LONGBOAT KEY

Magnificent Key West-inspired waterfront home with expansive canal views. This exquisite 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath residence boasts luxurious features, including roofed decks on all levels. The screened patio area features a heated pool and waterfall spa. Enjoy adventurous excursions from your boat dock offering easy and open access to the Gulf and the Bay.

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### Editor Letters



#### Letters, from page 4

Town of Longboat Key

#### Longboat faces \$27 million debt vs. County Library

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

How about using Sarasota County money and Manatee County to help with these important major infrastructure projects instead of building an unnecessary County Library on Longboat, for example.

Necessities before amenities.

Also, how about looking into getting a relative minuscule contribution from the already approved \$1.5 trillion in Infra- structure Federal funding?

Longboat Key taxpayers send these Counties and Federal Government a fortune every year. Let's get some of our tax money back to pay for our important Infrastructure needs and not take on debt and raise Longboat Key taxes.

Bob Gault

Longboat Key

#### Longboat faces \$27 million debt vs. County Library

To: Bob Gault

Thanks for your timely note regarding our upcoming capital expenses and their potential effect on our Town taxes. A few thoughts as we complete the budget process: 1. As far as Longboat Key taxes go, we reduced our millage rate last year and held it steady this year, despite an increase in operating expenses, especially for labor. We continue to have the lowest millage rate of any community in the region. 2. As for the subaqueous pipe and asbestos pipe replacement projects, we have been aware of them and have planned for their financing for years. The Town's share of these costs is borne by the Town's water and wastewater enterprise fund, which is financed through water rates and, when necessary, through tax exempt loans and/or bonds that are also paid for through water rates. Detailed plans have been implemented to ensure that all necessary funding is in place from this source for these projects. 3. One of our few new hires last year was a highly experienced individual to help the Town apply for and manage all available grants from all available sources, governmental and otherwise. Benefits of this hire have already been realized, for the water projects and others. 4. Much as we might like, we have no control over the amount of tax we on Longboat pay to Sarasota and Manatee Counties or how they allocate those funds. Over the past few years, we have taken extra measures to broaden and strengthen our relationships with both counties, in part to ensure we can receive as much of our fair share of county resources (our taxes) as possible. These efforts have also borne fruit

and should continue to do so.

As to all matters within our control, the Longboat Key Commission and staff run a very tight ship. Transparency is also very important to us, so we respect comments from our neighbors on the process.

Ken Schneier

Mayor

Town of Longboat Key

#### Suncoast Waterkeeper Sampling Results for the 7.8.24

Sarasota, Florida, July 16, 2024 -

On July 2nd, the enterococci survey was carried out during an incoming tide. The data for this survey was collected in the intertidal zone, where salinity levels ranged between 30 and 40 parts per thousand (ppt), and moderate signs of decaying plant matter were observed. In general, the results indicated less than favorable enterococci levels. Results for sites sampled in Sarasota are as follows:

Town of Longboat Key Boat Ramp (Undetected #/mL)

Bridge Street Pier (359 #mL)

Palma Sola Causeway North (256 #mL)

Robinson Preserve N (62 #/mL)

Emerson Point (323 #/mL)

Please note that any count exceeding 71 is a failure, indicating a potential health concern.

We are dedicated to bringing these critical issues to your attention. Enclosed are the official reports for this week's sampling activities, courtesy of Benchmark Enviroanalytical. Additionally, we have provided a link to our website, where you can access more information about our ongoing water quality sampling program. Please direct all questions, suggestions for additional analysis, and feedback to Abbey Tyrna at Executivedirector@suncoastwaterkeeper.

Abbey Tyrna Executive Director Suncoast Waterkeeper

#### **Building codes enforced**

To: Longboat Key Commission

This is a reply to an email below, sent by an individual to over 80 persons in Country Club Shores, it is completely inaccurate, seriously misinformative and prejudicial. The response

See Letters, page 8



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### **KeyOpinion**

### Triumph and teetering on the campaign trail

Former President Trump's reaction on stage following the assassination attempt is indelibly imprinted in Americans minds and hearts. Bloodied, yet resolute, Trump's raised fist yelling the word, "fight," demonstrated American grit, courage, and tenacity.

**GREGORY RUSOVICH Guest Writer** rusovich@lbknews.com

We are living in a period of significant political turmoil. Just in a matter of weeks, we've witnessed an utterly inept debate performance by a visibly failing president; a political party

in disarray over whether to dump its presumptive nominee; legal cases against a former president collapse; and an assassination attempt on a former president which led to one of the most powerful and iconic moments in recent American history.

Former President Trump's reaction on stage following the assassination attempt is indelibly imprinted in Americans minds and hearts. Bloodied, yet resolute, Trump's raised fist yelling the word, "fight," demonstrated American grit, courage, and tenacity. As Teamsters President Sean O'Brien stated during his Republican National Convention speech, "Trump has proven to be one tough SOB." And the former president's gut reaction showed a man who has an uncanny sense of the RUSOVICH moment.



While Trump survived the shooting, fireman Corey Comperatore died while shielding his wife and kids from the bullets. Two other people were also seriously injured. The abysmal failure by the Secret Service had deadly consequences, and those responsible must be held accountable.

Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle has been less than forthcoming concerning the blunder. She has indicated that the roof in which the shooter climbed and fired from was too steep for her agents to position themselves, yet the same perch was left open and accessible to the shooter. She has wavered over how much additional protection Trump received—even following known threats from the mullahs in Iran. She also has snubbed the public and has yet to offer a clear explanation. There are countless unanswered questions and the Biden Administration owes the public transparency and accountability.

Nonetheless, her boss, Homeland Secretary, Alejandro Mayorkas, stated his unwavering support, "I have 100% confidence" in Director Cheatle. Mayorkas has overseen the worst border crisis in American history so success is not something familiar to the Secretary. Following one of the worst security failures in U.S. history, Cheatle, should be offered two choices: resign or be fired. And Congress must ensure that no stone is left unturned in getting to the truth and taking immediate corrective action.

The tragic incident is having profound political consequences. Clearly much of the public now has a different view of Trump. It's hard to peddle the ridiculous and dangerous narrative that Trump is an "existential threat to democracy" while he is shot during a fun spirited rally seeking votes in the upcoming election. The former president's somber tone and unifying message at the Republican National Convention also damaged the Democrats scare tactic strategy. Watching Trump's grand-daughter, Kai, talk lovingly about "Grandpa" certainly sent the Democrats scrambling for a new issue to pitch.

Biden's sad debate performance proved to the mainstream media that the sitting president is incapable of serving in the Oval Office— or any public office. The public has long recognized his growing senility as large majorities believed Biden was too old to serve another term well over a year ago. The credible media which covered the president honestly was accused by the White House and its media friends of using "cheap fakes," despite countless valid videos showing a doddering, wandering elderly man. The presidential debate laid bare the lie, and it is legitimate to wonder who has actually been running the country for the last year?

Biden's Covid diagnosis has further increased pressure on the president from the Democratic Party hierarchy to pass the torch. Time is running out for the Democratic establishment to ditch Biden. So much for sympathy for a Covid patient.

Finally, the law cases against Trump are largely falling apart. Each of the four cases have been either dismissed or delayed.

History is transpiring in its usual unpredictable ways. The 2024 presidential election story





has not yet been completed but we are approaching the final chapters. Let's hope and pray for no more political violence, and for a focus on the most meaningful issues to all Americans-peace and prosperity.





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### Editor Letters



#### Letters, from page 6

below hopes to set the record straight. Bobby Halliday Longboat Key

#### **Building codes enforced**

To: Lynn Larson

This morning I received this email via a neighbour

""...... I would like to urge each of you to write, call or email the Planning, Zoning and Planning director Allen Parsons (941 316-1999 x2510) and the town commission requesting that building codes be enforced. There is a seawall on Ranger Lane in Unit 4 that has failed inspection and severely violates town code. It not only juts into the canal approximately 27.5 inches, more than double the permit standard of 12 inches, but also encroaches on the neighboring property. Construction reportedly continued even after the seawall failed inspection. It appears the homeowner has hired a consultant and lawyer to force the town to let it stand. A similar non-conforming seawall was recently built on the same canal in spite of complaints and has been allowed to stand. These encroachments narrow the width of our canals and are out of compliance. Let's speak up in defense of our community and in time to protect our canal widths.

Thank you. Lynn Cook..."

Six of them to be honest (who are aware of the correct position here) and your comments noted therein on said email are incorrect and lack truth.

To all copied in on this email. (I am sorry to be so blunt as its not in my nature – but I really have to set the record straight and not leave your comments to conjecture).

These are the facts outlined in a letter to the HOA, sent 14th May.

#### **Building codes enforced**

To: Longboat Key Commission

As you know we live in Scotland and are UK residents.

I cannot apologise enough for this situation. Since I received the email regarding the stop notice, my wife and I have hardly slept. We have booked flights for this Friday 17th to fly over. we do not know if things will be resolved by then, but we will be happy to meet with any party to help resolve. During the two instances (small remodel and new seawall) we have attempted to improve our property, we took advice from the architect and contractors as to providing information to the plans review committee. In this latter project the contractor intimated that during the permit application procedure they did just that.

The permits were applied for months ago and the project, supposed to commence last year was delayed by the contractor due to their workload. This did assist us in that we were able to save more money towards a replacement deck surface (material still to be decided).

I have been consistently told that the work carried out so far does comply with the approved plans – the integral note on the plans is stated as 12" from the existing pin piles to the external face of the new plastic piles. Taken vertically up the plans show a size of 36" of a concrete cap - the landward face of this is flush with the landward face of the existing seawall. No inspection was made prior to commencement of work to establish the locations of the existing pin piles, although the contractor has photographs of these locations prior to the concrete pour. Longboat Key planning and permitting have a letter from the engineer to explain why these pin piles could not be removed and all was approved and permitted months ago. These are the important facts, to reiterate, the original set of plans were stamped approved and permitted. When work commenced, it was noted by the engineers that the pin piles could not be removed. If they were, the seawall would slip into the canal causing immense damage and contamination. New plans were prepared to leave the pin piles in place, thus installing the new wall a further 12 inches out. These new plans were stamped and approved by the town. Plans were advertised in the newspaper. These plans were also explained to both neighbours. The westward neighbour repeatedly asked and requested that the new seawall butted against his existing wall as he felt that, when it was replaced by the previous owner - it was not installed by the neighbour (I have photos of this) it was installed short of his legal boundary. I confirmed with him and the contractor this would be done. Over years this section has been a point of subsidence from water runoff from this garden, hence the request for this connection. This part of the new wall was not installed without his approval You state the canal width has been reduced considerably and yet all boat lifts and personal docks of varying sizes protrude extensively into the canal. Our boat lift and dock do not change.

Since this debacle started, my wife and I toured all the canals in CCS and there are many which exceed this 12", we can supply photographs of these along with a copy of the stamped approved plans showing the second extension of 12" into the canal.

If workers are continuing to work here I can assure you that this is not at my request. I have no control over work stages or timings. We left the house on January 8th, the contractors started immediately they had a gap in their schedule. All neighbours, east, west, south ( the infamous lift tower house) sent" hooray " photos of the barge arriving and were happy to see work commence as we had waited so long to start. Work did not continue in the face of the stop notice, all contractors have to make their works safe. It took the next day to carry out these preparations.

I have explained we are not wealthy people. I have just reached semi retiral and have long intimated to street acquaintances of our intention to spend more time at our vacation home.

See Letters, page 13



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### KeyRealEstate

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

Address	Sq. Ft.	<b>List Price</b>	Bed/B	ath/	Half Bath	Days On Market	Sale Price
225 BIRD KEY DR	3,140	\$1,875,000	4	3	1	45	\$1,415,000
551 PUTTER LN	5,300	\$6,199,500	4	5	1	100	\$5,750,000
1918 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#901	2,135	\$1,400,000	3	2	1	225	\$1,300,000
602 BUTTONWOOD DR	2,107	\$1,275,000	3	3	0	27	\$1,237,500
7095 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#14	1,170	\$1,199,000	2	2	0	34	\$1,165,000
5635 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#105	1,786	\$1,200,000	2	2	0	37	\$1,100,000
2016 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#327	1,532	\$899,000	2	2	0	106	\$862,500
3500 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#301	1,486	\$825,000	3	2	0	171	\$825,000
605 SUTTON PL Unit#201A	1,148	\$675,000	2	2	0	12	\$600,000
2125 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#904	1,906	\$620,000	3	2	0	129	\$550,000



551 PUTTER LN



### JEFF RH<u>INELANDER</u>

941-685-3590

Jeff@jeffrhinelander.com





### COURTNEY TARANTINO

941-893-7203

courtney.tarantino@floridamoves.com

443F John Ringling Blvd. • Sarasota, FL 34236



COUNTRY CLUB SHORES
585 GUNWALE LANE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL
\$6,490,000

Indulge in the ultimate waterfront lifestyle with this extraordinary end-lot property. Beyond just a residence, it promises an unparalleled experience. Imagine waking up to awe-inspiring panoramic vistas of the Bay, city skyline, and the iconic Ringling Bridge, all greeting you from every window! With an impressive 243 feet of waterfront, including 118 feet directly on the open Bay and an additional 125 feet along the canal, this home offers unparalleled access to waterfront living. Strategically positioned on the canal side, the boat mooring, lift, and dock ensure the safety of your watercraft while preserving the unobstructed bay views that define this



BIRD KEY
328 BOB WHITE WAY | SARASOTA, FL
\$2,195,000

Welcome to this impeccably renovated home, fully prepared for you to move right in. With fresh paint, designer wall treatments, and breathtaking new lighting, every detail has been carefully curated to perfection. Inside, the open floor plan allows natural light to pour into the spacious rooms, creating an inviting ambiance throughout. The heart of the home lies in the dreamy white kitchen, boasting quartz countertops, new appliances, and an exquisitely designed island that seamlessly connects to the tile-accented family room. Step outside to discover your own private oasis—the resort-worthy pool area awaits, promising endless relaxation and blissful moments.



SARASOTA HARBOR
765 JOHN RINGLING BLVD. #5 | SARASOTA, FL
\$599,000

Experience breathtaking waterfront vistas from this exquisitely remodeled, light-filled condominium. Situated on the ground floor, this 2-bedroom, 1-bathroom residence offers a welcoming atmosphere from the moment you arrive. Upon entry, you'll be greeted by a well-appointed kitchen and living space bathed in natural light, seamlessly connected to a dining area and a spacious living room boasting stunning Bay views. Meticulously renovated, this unit features brand-new tile flooring throughout, updated kitchen cabinetry and appliances, and a contemporary bathroom vanity. Located in the vibrant 55+ maintenance-free Sarasota Harbor community, residents can enjoy sweeping panoramas of Sarasota Bay.

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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.

#### July 12 Traffic citation

9:58 a.m.

Officer Nazareno while on patrol, observed a red Nissan pickup truck traveling northbound, fail to yield to a pedestrian in the crosswalk with lights activated at the 5700 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Nazareno then conducted a vehicle stop at the 5800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive and made contact with the registered owner/driver and advised him for the reason of the stop. The complainant presented the officer with a state ID card, registration and proof of insurance. He further advised that he is in the process of



getting his Florida Driver's License. FCIC/NCIC check for wants and warrants were negative. FCIC records showed that the driver from the location. Uniform traffic citation was issued for violating a driver's license suspended, cancelled or revoked with knowledge with a court date. A written warning was issued for violating a failure to yield right of way to a pedestrian at a crosswalk with signage. The man said he was in the process of getting his Florida Driver's license and presented an ID card. Case clear.

#### July 13 Construction

1:54 p.m.

Officer Nazareno was dispatched to the 1600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a citizen assist call regarding woodchips left by the pier area by the seawall company. The caller was concerned that the seabirds would eat the wood chips. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno made contact with the superintendent who advised he had instructed the seawall employees to rake the wood chips the previous day at the site. The supervisor also checked the area to make sure that no wood chips were left in the pier area. The caller did not want to be seen or contacted. Case clear.

#### July 14 Boat

2:45 p.m.

Officer Barrett while on marine patrol, observed a man operating his pontoon boat with a sign on the side of the vessel, 'JJ Coasters Hot Dogs.' The man was selling hot dogs and other food items. Officer Barrett asked him for the boat registration and his business license. The man did not have any form of licensing for operating a business or selling food products. The man said he would take the sign off his vessel immediately and stop operating his business. The man was advised that this stop would be documented and warned that doing business without the proper licensing could result in future civil and criminal violations. Case clear.

#### July 15 Driver's license

9:30 a.m.

Officer Butler received an alert for a vehicle with a suspended license. An FCIC/NCIC query was performed and the registered owner was suspended and had a warrant. The vehicle was observed traveling northbound and turned east onto Bay Isles Parkway which in turn triggered a second alert at 9:35 a.m. Officer Butler observed the vehicle parked at the Publix shopping center. Officer Butler canvassed the parking lot and inside of Publix but did not locate the owner. A short time later, the man was seen walking to the vehicle. He entered the vehicle and drove to Bay Isles Parkway when the vehicle abruptly turned into another parking spot. Officer Butler approached the driver and advised him who he was and the reason for the stop. He acknowledged that his license was suspended and stated he was driving to get to work. Moreover, Officer Butler requested Officer Ramsaier to respond to the scene due to the warrant. Officer Ramsaier arrived on scene, the warrant was confirmed as being active and the driver was taken into custody for the Manatee County warrant. The man was transported to Sarasota County Jail and issued a criminal citation for driving with suspended license with knowledge. Case clear.





1:45 p.m.

Officer Ramsaier was dispatched to the 400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for an animal problem. The complainant said he struck a duck on Gulf of Mexico Drive while driving and pulled over and then was standing by the injured animal. The Sarasota Cunty Animal Control Officer dispatched and was on scene. The duck was removed and taken to Mote Marine SOS. Case clear.

#### Cat in ceiling

11:21 p.m.

Officer Maple, Officer Mathis and Sgt. Montfort were dispatched to Russell Street for a cat stuck. Upon the officers' arrival, he met with the daughter of the complainant who stated her cat was stuck in the newly constructed ceiling of their back porch. Officers located the cat in a small crack in the ceiling with a paw sticking out trying to free itself. With permission of parents on phone, Officer Maple removed a small section of the overhead ceiling and freed cat. Case clear.

#### July 16 Automobile

8:52 a.m.

Officer Pescuma was dispatched to St. Judes Drive South in reference to a broken water line. Upon arriving on scene, Officer Pescuma met with the complainant who said that comcast was about one week ago and installed equipment in the ground. The man said that comcast allegedly struck a waterline. Additionally, the man said that the waterline is not owned by the town of Longboat Key and the HOA President had sent an email to Comcast advising of the alleged property damage. No further action.

#### **Boat**

12:22 p.m

Officer Ramsaier was dispatched to Yawl Lane for a citizen's assist. The complainant stated her neighbor docked their boat too close to her property lane. Officer Ramsaier made contact with the neighbor who said that they would move the boat back from the property line. Case clear

#### Shark

1:14 p.m.

Officer Ramsaier responded to the 100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a call of an animal assist. More Marine requested the police and marine patrol for a dead bull shark that had washed ashore. Upon arrival, Officer Ramsaier met with Mote Marine personnel. Longboat Key Marine patrol arrived shortly after, and shark was removed from the area and brought back out to the Gulf of Mexico by Longboat Key Marine patrol, who towed the dead shark. The shark was found with a hook in its mouth and is believed to have been caught and the line cut by the fisherman.

#### July 17 Boat on beach

2:11 p.m.

Officer Miklos responded to the 6600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a boat stuck on the beach. While en route, Officer Miklos made contact with the caller who advised his boat was stuck on the beach and he needed assistance. Officer Mathis was on scene and advised that the Police Department was not going to be able to assist him due to the water level. Officer Mathis referred the man to a call of a marine towing company. Case clear.

#### July 18 Fishing

10:49 a.m

Officer Nazareno was dispatched to the 4800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a citizen assist call. The caller said that he was concerned that a man was fishing at the beach near the swimmers. The caller was advised that fishing is permitted on public beaches in the State of Florida. Case clear.

#### Fraud

2:06 p.m.

Officer Miklos was dispatched to the 2000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a possible text message scam. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos came into contact with the complainant who advised she received a message from an unknown number. The message advised that her USPS package had arrived at the warehouse and could not be delivered. The message provided a link for the complainant to click on to proceed. The woman said she did not click on the link or provide anyone of her private information. At this time, Officer Miklos advised her that he had also received that message on his cell phone on numerous occasions and that she should just delete the message. Case clear.

#### 8:08 p.m.

Officer Smith was dispatched to Longboat Club Road for a report of a woman and four children using beach chairs that belong to a condominium and they were not residents. Upon arrival, the complainant yelled down to Officer Smith and pointed to the subjects out on the beach. Officer Smith made contact with the woman and as he was gathering her information, a resident from another unit approached the officer and indicated that she lives in a unit at the condominium and that the children and woman were her guests. Officer Smith informed the caller of the information received. Case clear.

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### WineTimes



### Five Ways to Enjoy Cheap White Wine

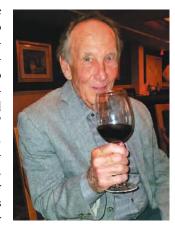
Mixing spirits in wine combines the clean, crisp taste of a white wine and a little kick of, say, vodka or white rum.

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

We have found a cheap but good white wine, a 2022 Guardiano Vivace Pinot Grigio del Venezie (\$6) from Italy.

How do we serve it?

A bargain white wine could be the ideal wine to serve to family or guests during a porch or backyard gathering during the summer. No need to apologize for an inexpensive wine. Serve it well chilled wirh crudités (https:// www.themediterraneandish. com/simple-crudites-platter/), crackers and cheese, and if the occasion calls for them, appetizers such as gazpacho, a fruit plate, or steamed shrimp.



Pouring the wine over fresh blackberries, raspberries, white grapes, sliced strawberries, or peach, nectarine, or apricot slices, perhaps topped with Topo Chico or another sparkling water, adds a healthy dose of fresh fruit to a glass of wine. The white wine draws out the fruit flavors.

Adding fresh fruit juice to the glass of the white wine and sliced fruits makes it a White Sangria. Mango, peach, or nectarine puree make a Sangria sweeter than one with both fresh lemon and lime slices and a splash of citrus juice. Agave nectar adds a touch of sweetness to an overly tangy mixture. Garnishing with fresh mint or basil leaves gives White Sangria another taste dimension.

Mixing spirits in wine combines the clean, crisp taste of a white wine and a little kick of, say, vodka or white rum. A simple cocktail may have one-half ounce of Triple Sec, an ounce of white rum, and an ounce of fresh lime juice shaken with ice and a few ounces of white wine. Garnish with a slice

The white wine you serve may have a complementary role in salad dressings, sauces, and glazes. Add a splash of the white wine you plan to serve to a vinaigrette dressing. The wine will magically pair well with the salad. Infuse honey into white wine when preparing a sauce for delicate fish or grilled chicken and pork loin. Honey and white wine blend smoothly before being added to Dijon mustard, olive oil, or other bases for sauces. White wine will help thin a honey glaze to make it easier to baste a chicken breast or a fresh ham.

Beyond these five ways to enjoy a still white wine, the classic recipes for a Mimosa (fresh orange juice poured over a sparkling win) or a Bellini (peach puree poured over sparkling white wine) develop unique tastes as ascending bubbles blend into fresh juice. A bargain Cava from the Catalonia region of Spain always seems a good choice for a Mimosa or

Bellini. The Freixenet Cordon Negro Brut (\$12 750ml) should be easy to find in most wine shops in standard and smaller sizes. We have also recommended the Campo Viejo Brut Reserve (\$10).

We have suggested five ways to serve a basic white wine. Different white wines



may favor only a few of these and perhaps many alternatives. These wines will help us through a hot summer.

As the struggles in Ukraine continue, we recommend another vintage of the Moldovian homage to Ukraine and it local allies, the 2020 Chateau Purcari Freedom Blend Tribute Edition (\$22). This lovely red wine pays tribute to the countries that are opposing the efforts of the inheritors of the old Soviet Union to regain control of what once was the Russian Empire. SS. W. Hermansen has used his expertise in econometrics, data science and epidemiology to help develop research databases for the Pentagon, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Agriculture, and Health Resources and Services. He has visited premier vineyards and taste wines



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

Rich Hermansen selected has 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.

### Longboat Rey News Sarasota City News

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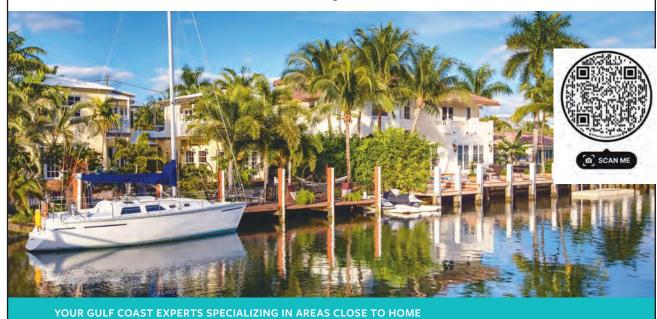
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### KeyHealth

### Timing your life

We are built to live in the daytime and sleep in the night. We just don't live that way.

#### MATHEW EDLUND Contributing Columnist edlund@lbknews.com

Time rules life, how it's lived and performed. Time and our inner clocks make most of our lives possible.

Consider the monarch butterflies that unerringly cross Canada, the United States, and as good citizens of these NAFTA states, direct themselves to the same valley in central Mexico. How do they do navigate so brilliantly?

They use inner time. The look at the sun, and time its flight.

Now a group believes it has figured out how the monarchs actually do it. They use one set of nerves cells in the eyes that correctly positions the azimuth of the sun, and a second set in the brain which tells them very precisely where they are in the 24 hour day. Using a relatively simple model which mathematically connects the two inputs, they were able to demonstrate how closely the monarchs can follow a simulated flight path in a lab. Small insects routinely fly thousands of miles to the correct spot, constantly corrected by their inner sense of time.



MATTHEW EDLUND

People are capable of similar fates. It's better if we use our extraordinary abilities.

#### **Human Performance**

There is a hundred years of research on body clocks and human performance. That's how we know why sports records are set inordinately commonly at 5 or 6 PM; that football and baseball team victories are affected by who's flying across time zones; that people are often most creative in the late morning and early evening. Those things happen because biologically we're built that way.

Fewer people recognize that their ability to put a piece of bread in the toaster, run up the stairs, or more miraculously, walk a tightrope strung across Niagara Falls, depends on the same inner timing mechanisms.

Of which there are myriad. Every human cell in the human body has its own 24 hour clocks. The bacteria in our gut adjust to our times. Plus there are cycles of thirty and ninety minutes, monthly cycles, yearly cycles, and posited cycles of thousandths of a second. Together they time the enzymatic reactions and protein interactions that make our lives work. There are a billion protein interactions per second per cell. Time them right and we live; time them wrong and something breaks loose to harm us.

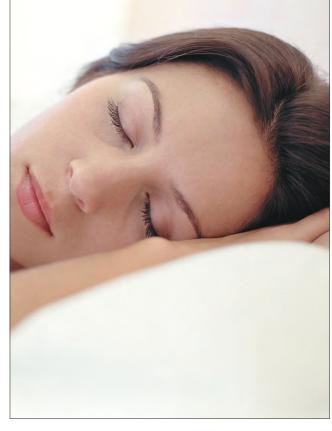
#### **Derangements in Time**

We are built to live in the daytime and sleep in the night. We just don't live that way. If you take animals and shift their normal activities from night to day and back, you quickly see increased weight, increased inflammation, diabetes, sluggishness, and a decreased capac-

ity for performance in arenas from immunity to running. Are humans different? Only to

Place Your Be ONE EYED JACKS POKER ROOM OTVS - SIMULCASTI Watch and wager on thoroughbred & greyhound LIVE ACTION CASH GAMES racks from across the country TEXAS HOLD 'EM 7 CARD STUD - OMAHA DAILY & MONTHLY TOURNAMENTS **VEGAS STYLE GAMES** ULITIMATE TEXAS HOLD 'EM HIGH HAND WILD STUD 3-CARD FACE UP PAI-GOW PAYOUT SPECIALS **DINING AVAILABLE - ENTREES, HANDHELDS, PIZZAS, SALADS SUNDAY: NOON - MIDNIGHT** WWW.SKCPOKER.COM 4404 BEE RIDGE RD SARASOTA, FL 34233 MON-SAT: 10:00AM - 2:00AM 941-355-7744 EXT 1001 a degree. Fouled up clocks make for sicker, unhappier, and less productive people. The five fold increase in cardiac deaths on Monday morning – related to going to bed later on Friday and Saturday – is just the harbinger of the innumerable, often critical physiological changes that occur when clocks are shifted.

Changes already historically occurred with gas and electric lights. Now add on cell phones. Today life is 24/7 – and so is light. In many cases, the body just no longer knows what the inner time is anymore, creating episodes that resemble cascading jet lag. Melatonin production, the hormone of night, can be blasted away by a 30 second email message. One of the main fallouts is on sleep.



#### **Insomnia and Clocks**

Just what does make peo-

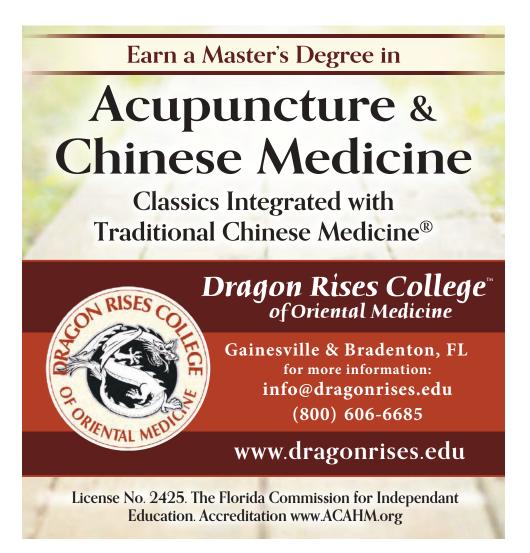
ple fall asleep? The general sentiment is a combination of what sleep researchers call Process S and Process C. In rough terms, Process S is how long you've been kept awake; Process C is the circadian system: the power of clocks, particularly 24 hour ones.

But light, physical activity, cell phones and computer monitors change Process S by arousing and alerting people beyond the times they would normally fall asleep and rest; coffee and energy drinks do the same. And then people do not get up at the same times each day, as 24/7 work schedules disrupt the normal patterns of work, schooling, and social life. The result is a wave of rolling insomnia that hits much of the population, at virtually any age.

It does not have to be that way. The most prominent way to get 24 hour clocks to work in your favor is to get up at the same time every day. Here the cell phone that keeps people up can be used to reset their inner time with a simple alarm, and make it possible to keep those timing mechanisms current. A recurrent bed time, combined with light in the morning, also helps get everything humming again.

The bottom line is that internal clocks powerfully affect much of life. We can live with the precision and power seen even in "simple" animals like monarchs, making our everydays more effective days.

We just have to get the timing right.



### Editor Letters



#### Letters, from page 9

As you note Mrs. Larson, we have been in the area a long time (there hasn't been a single year where we have not had some sort of noisy and dusty construction work around us) and we are now looking forward to future times. If the wall has to be removed we will not be able to afford this, similar with any possible court action.

We look forward tentatively to your reply and hopefully a way forward in this debacle.

The above email was sent to all members of the HOA a few weeks ago. they have a record of this and the facts. I asked for help as long standing home owner -to which I received this reply from a Mr. Jack Brill...."you have made you bed and now you can sleep in it"......really ..? is this response I get when we have done nothing wrong.

Bobby Halliday Longboat Key

#### **Strategic Planning Workshop**

To: Longboat Key Commission

Please find attached the materials in preparation for our Strategic Planning Workshop on Thursday. We will meet at 8am at Gold Coast Eagle Distributing (7051 Wireless Ct., Sarasota, FL 34240). There has been an immense amount of preparation leading up to this workshop. I really appreciate the Task Force's engagement since December and everyone who participated in other ways.

Attached are a few documents, which I will outline below. First, is a letter from Brett Henson, who has taken an exciting position in Tampa and has resigned from our Board of Directors. We have a lot of gratitude for Brett and his years of service to the EDC. We wish him the very best on this next chapter of his life.

- 1. Letter from Brett
- 2. Workshop agenda
- 3. Strategic Planning Task Force report: Strategic Planning Framework
- 4. Draft Strategic Plan Pillars and Objectives
- 5. Two Strategic Plan examples that the Task Force identified Pasco County EDC and Tampa Bay EDC

If you have any questions or comments leading up to the workshop, feel free to reach out to me. Otherwise, I look forward to seeing you all on Thursday for an engaging meeting.

Erin Silk, CEcD President & CEO

Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County

#### Report

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

A Focus on Presenting Florida's Cultural Coast

Here at Visit Sarasota County (VSC), we hear time and again from visitors and residents alike that a hallmark of Sarasota County's charm is its thriving arts and culture scene. So much so that back in 1996 we started using a phrase to help reflect the great abundance of our arts community. In 2000, we registered that saying as our trademark – Florida's Cultural Coast – to ensure this identity is promoted and celebrated all year long.

The show doesn't start or stop at that catchy three-word phrase, however. Each year, we leverage tourist development tax funding granted to us by the Board of County Commissioners to position Sarasota County as the place to travel for museums, galleries, performing arts venues and so many more cultural treasures. This is an effort we take great care to strengthen and steward, continuously learning and innovating to enrich our destination for the benefit of all who cherish it.

A few years ago, we heard from many leaders in the community that other destinations around Florida were heavily promoting their areas as havens for arts and cultural enthusiasts. These communities with bigger marketing budgets were outspending us with their messaging. We at VSC had been successfully targeting this same market but had been doing so via lower funnel strategies, mostly in the digital space. We heard the outcry for our community to be reaching out to this market with higher funnel strategies, like full page print ads, billboards and other brand building awareness strategies.

With this in mind, VSC asked the Board of County Commissioners for \$350,000 in special funding from the tourist development tax to do a higher funnel advertising campaign focusing on Florida's Cultural Coast messaging and targeting. This investment was in addition to our annual plans and set the stage for new opportunities to spotlight our arts and culture amenities not only in the Sunshine State but also globally.

This journey began, as all good ones do, with listening. In partnership with the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County, we brought more than 30 creative minds together representing an array of local organizations for a series of forums. These conversations were essential in gathering the feedback necessary to craft our strategic approach – and significantly, they gave our partners a say in how Florida's Cultural Coast comes to life across media and geographies.

With a plan in place, VSC got to work – especially in building relationships across the pond. In late 2023, we hosted a group of writers and journalists from the United Kingdom and gave them a front-row seat to a handful of our world-class institutions. Then, just last month, our very own Sarasota Ballet rekindled those connections during a performance at The Royal Opera House in London. There, we held an activation with over 25 tour operators and media, giving our partners – like Brian Hersh, CEO of the Arts and Cultural Alliance, and Jason Ettore, General Manager of the Sarasota Ballet – a chance to share why Sarasota County is such a special place to visit.

This is a story we've also been putting front and center to prospective visitors right here in Florida, too, with eye-catching digital billboards and content placements in other arts-centric

communities like Tampa, Orlando and Miami. Through streaming platforms, playbills and beyond, we're gaining such momentum in attracting visitors who are educated, enthusiastic and eager to experience our local culture.

In the next year, we hope to unlock even more possibilities and replicate our successes outside of Florida. We realize tourism is only Act One, and then, if a visitor falls in love with our destination as so many before them have, relocation becomes Act Two. In other words, our identity as Florida's Cultural Coast® fosters lifelong residents and even philanthropists, whose generosity powers so many of our community's artistic pursuits.

All of us at VSC truly take a bow to these groups who continue to enrich our lives and the experiences of travelers year-round. We give our thanks to those artistic leaders who aided in bringing this programming to life with brilliant ideas and the Board of County Commissioners without whom we would not have had the funding to achieve those dreams. If all the world's a stage, our arts and culture organizations deserve a standing ovation. We hope you'll join the applause.

Erin Duggan is the president & CEO of Visit Sarasota County. She can be reached at (941) 955-0991 ext. 108 or eduggan@visitsarasota.org.

Erin Duggan

Director

Visit Sarasota County

#### **Smart City Update - Implementation of Connected Automated Vehicle (CAV) Technology**

To: Sarasota City Public Works Director Douglas Jeffcoat

As part of our ongoing Smart City initiative, the City of Sarasota has successfully implemented CAV technology at 16 key intersections during June 2024. This development underscores our commitment to enhancing traffic management, improving road safety, and creating a more efficient transportation network for our community.

The CAV technology includes the integration of Roadside Units (RSUs) and Onboard Units (OBUs) to facilitate real-time communication between vehicles and traffic infrastructure. This advanced system will collect and analyze critical data, including vehicle and Vulnerable Road User (VRU) counts, turning movements, and vehicle classifications. The primary benefits of this implementation include optimized traffic signal operations, reduced congestion, and enhanced road safety.

Key benefits of the project include:

Enhanced Traffic Management: Real-time data collection and analysis will optimize signal timing and operations, reducing congestion and improving traffic flow.

Improved Safety: The system will detect and provide insights into safety issues such as illegal crossings, pedestrian signal violations, wrong-way drivers, red light runners, and near-miss incidents. This proactive approach will help prevent accidents and ensure the safety of all road users.

Multimodal Integration: The technology supports various modes of transportation, including vehicles, bikes, scooters, and pedestrians, promoting a more integrated and efficient transportation network.

Advanced Applications: Features such as pedestrian and bike smartphone safety apps, real-time AI processing of camera feeds to predict pedestrian and VRU intents, and connected vehicle alerts will further enhance the functionality and safety of our intersections.

Please review the presentation for a comprehensive overview of how this technology functions and its benefits. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or need more details.

Nik Patel

City Engineer

City of Sarasota

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Sherry 'Nef' Price is a USPTR certified professional. She played at IMG and Division 1 College.
Call Payne Park Tennis center at 941-263-6641 to schedule.
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### **BreakPoints**

### The key to net positioning

If my partner is at the net, should I also move up? And if so, when?

#### **JACKIE BOHANNON Guest Columunist** tennis@lbknews.com

It depends upon many factors such as your mobility and your volleying skills, your opponents' groundstrokes and their ability to lob, your positioning on the court, your partner and

their skills, and the overall develop-

ment of the point.

In most cases, blindly running to the net or charging the net regardless of consideration of the shot you have hit is a bad idea.

If you are serving, mixing in some serving and volleying can be a good strategy on a first serve. I highly suggest never serving and volley on a second serve. Don't serve and volley every point as you don't want to be predictable.



**BOHANNON** 

You should join your partner at the net when you are being offensive. Look for signs of weakness from your opponent: are they far back behind the baseline, really wide and pulled off the court, or are they stretching to reach the ball? When you see these opportunities you should charge the net. Run to the net, do not walk!

One of the number-1 problems recreational players have when charging the net is they forget to charge. They walk and then get stuck at or behind the service line. Run to the net and split step when your opponent hits or you get half way in the service box, whichever happens first. Also, look for opportunities to take high balls out of the air. The swinging volley is a great offensive shot to hit and transition to the net.

Another time you both could end up at the net is if your opponent draws you into the net. For example, if they drop shot you or hit a short angle. Sometimes you are forced to play both up even though you are not attacking. When this happens it is important to stagger so one player is closer to the net and one is a little deeper (around the service line) to protect against the lob.

If you and your partner like playing both of you at the net, you have to have a game plan for who is going to cover the lobs. The best players learn to cover their own lobs. I highly suggest trying to cover your own lob by hitting an overhead out of the air. Once you let the ball bounce you are again in a defensive position.

Playing both players at the net can be one of the most aggressive strategies when utilized at the right time. Make sure you are invited in to maximize your success.

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

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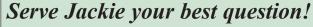
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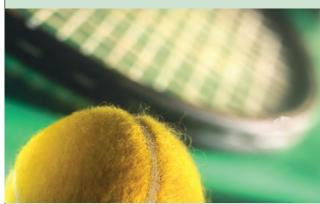
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Tennis pro and America's Top Coach Jackie Bohannon will answer any question on tennis. Please email question you have on strategy, technique, mental game, fitness, equipment, etc., to: tennis@lbknews.com

### **KeyCrossword**

#### Talk Like a Pirate

- I. Nephew of Aunt Bee
- 5. Deputy exec.
- 10. Blocking numbers
- 14. Treat hair for long and
- 15. Came to
- 16. Something to do in a hammock
- 17. Desert-bred horse
- 18. She played June in "Walk the Line"
- 19. Where a pirate waits out the storm
- 20. Moon Buggy
- 22. Practiced with cutlasses
- 23. One who leaves the sinking ship
- 24. What the captain's table sometimes does
- 26. Bonnie wench
- 29. Fails to follow through
- 32. Pretentious
- The Flying Dutchman e.g.
- 35. Enjoy salt pork and hardtack
- 36. Beefeater, abbr.
- 37. Sanctuary separator
- 40. Lode stone
- 41. Machu Picchu builders
- 43. Longboat propellers
- 44. Words before and after "to be"
- 46. Occupies
- 48. Home of the Forestiere Underground Gardens
- 49. Mass belief?
- 50. Skin: prefix
- 51. Pirate in a Disney film 53. Constant for springs and
- , poor Yorick!
- 58. Newton or Asimov, e.g.
- 60. Part of an ancient treasure, perhaps

- 63
- 61. Velvet Underground vocalist
- 62. Megagram
- 63. Diner sign
- 64. Place for a haul?
- 65. Curse like a sailor
- 66. Pirate in a Disney film

#### Down

- 1. Firey gemstone
- 2. Land of La Libertad
- 3. Shah's state
- 4. Turn red
- 5. Efts, e.g.
- 6. Chick's chirp 7. Suffix with church or
- 8. Assents
- 9. Victory sign

- 10. Responded to a fresh man?
- 11. Antarctica and Greenland, e.g.
- 12. Turn tail
- 13. Place for runners in winter
- 21. Indian language (relative of Bengali)
- 22. Mother's offspring
- 24. León ladies, abbr.
- 25. Utah city
- 26. " on the line"
- 27. Play ground
- 28. The Daytona 500, for
- 30. Infamous bankruptcy filer of 2001
- 31. Look after
- 33. Philippine volcano

- 34. Piratical sound of agreement
- 38. Roisterous
- 39. Mr. Moto portrayer
- 42. Spray propellant 45. Ties another knot?
- 47. Stitch together
- 48. Sabre wielder
- 50. William and Harry's
- 51. Scuttled
- 52. Balletic bend
- 53. Word with sea or memory
- 54. Primal predecessor
- 55. Lug
- 56. Otherwise
- 58. Part of T.G.I.F.
- 59. Sty mom

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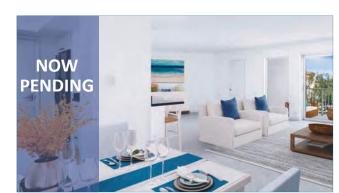
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