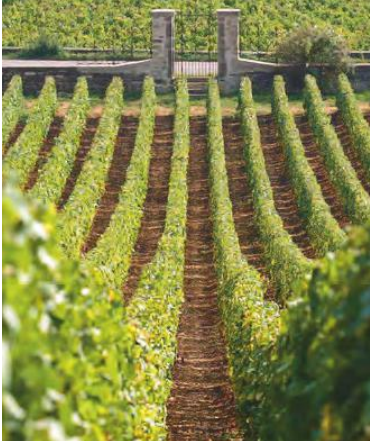




# Longboat Key News

## InsideLook



Wines of Greece  
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web revealed  
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Whitney Beach  
Plaza is busy  
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Dragged behind  
trailer on GMD  
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## Sarasota Best Place to Live in Florida, Top-5 in USA

U.S. News & World Report: ‘People who choose Sarasota as their home are generally called by its unique charm.’



Sarasota jumped to the No. 5 position on U.S. News & World Report’s Best Places to Live in the U.S. list for 2023-2024 and remains No. 1 in Florida.

In 2022, the Sarasota area ranked No. 9 on the annual list and No. 1 in Florida. The list evaluates metro areas based on quality of life, job market, value and desirability.

“People who choose Sarasota as their home are generally called by its unique charm,” the report observes. “As Americans in the workforce seek cities for the quality of life and not just job opportunities, Sarasota is becoming increasingly popular.”

“Growing up in Sarasota, then living in many different cities and returning home to Sarasota, I can confirm wholeheartedly this is one of the best areas in the U.S.,” said Mayor Kyle Battie. “This is a special place with a unique blend of world-class amenities and natural beauty that makes it very desirable. We’re working every day to make Sarasota the top place in the nation.”

Sarasota also landed on two other top-10 lists from U.S. News & World Report, ranking No. 2 among Fastest-Growing Places in the U.S and No. 7 on the list of Safest Places to Live in the U.S.

The criteria factored into the rankings were weighted in part based on a public survey of thousands of people throughout the United States to find out what qualities they consider most important in a place to live.

“Sarasota is a gem,” said City Manager Marlon Brown. “This year’s ranking by U.S. News & World Report highlights once again that we are on the right track with the City’s vision. Thank you to everyone who makes Sarasota an exceptional place.”

## Sarasota Square Mall eyed for 1,200 units

The vacant Sarasota Square Mall on the South Trail is being eyed by Torburn Partners, which own the property. The group has proposed building up to 1,200 apartments and as much as 500,000 square feet of retail stores, restaurants, and office space.

Torburn Partners said it intends to rent the apartments at market rate.

The developer recently held a virtual workshop with neighboring residents, closed to the public, to discuss the design concept and allow residents to comment.

## Two rehab turtles swim free off Lido



Two loggerhead sea turtles, nicknamed “Lilly” and “Farmer,” were released from Lido Beach on Tuesday, May 16, after recovering from red tide toxins at Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium’s Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Hospital.

“Lilly” was found floating on the south end of Naples Bay and transported to Mote’s Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Hospital on March 30.

“Farmer” was found washed ashore at Holmes Beach, Manatee

See Swim, page 2

## Sarasota Airport sets record traffic

Over 450,000 passengers traveled through the Sarasota Bradenton International Airport in April. It’s a 17% increase compared to 386,013 passengers in April 22.

SRQ officials say that the 12-month total through April 2023 is 4,113,442 passengers, up 9% from the last 12 month period. As numbers increase.

The airport is focused on completing several multimillion-dollar construction projects that include a new cell phone waiting lot, additional paved parking areas, new ground transportation pick-up area, new baggage screening system, and a new 5 gate terminal expansion. These various projects are expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

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Swim, from page 1

County and transferred to Mote’s Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Hospital on Feb. 21. Both were displaying symptoms of red tide toxicity. “Lilly” began receiving injectable antibiotics and subcutaneous fluids until symptoms improved. “Farmer” suffered from extreme lethargy and received subcutaneous fluids daily to help flush out toxins until Mote’s Sea Turtle Rehab Hospital team noticed an improvement in “Farmer’s” behavior and appetite.

Now, both “Lilly” and “Farmer” have made full recoveries thanks to Mote’s Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Hospital staff members and were cleared by wildlife officials for release.

“We are super excited to see them go,” said Lynne Byrd, Mote’s Rehabilitation and Medical Care Manager. “Without the help and intervention of a facility like Mote, these animals wouldn’t be alive and we wouldn’t be enjoying this happy experience.”

Within Sarasota or Manatee county waters, if you see a stranded or dead sea turtle, dolphin or whale, please call Mote’s Stranding Investigations Program, a 24-hour response service, at 941-988-0212.

If you see a stranded or dead manatee anywhere in state waters or a stranded or dead sea turtle, dolphin or whale outside of Sarasota or Manatee counties, please call the FWC Wildlife Alert hotline at 1 (888) 404-FWCC (3922).

### Coast Guard: Group rescued in boat collision off coast of Sarasota

The U.S. Coast Guard rescued one man and helped seven other passengers to safety after two boats collided Wednesday in Sarasota.

The crash between a 34-foot commercial fishing boat with two people aboard and a 23-foot boat with six people aboard happened at around 5:40 a.m., the Coast Guard reports.

The injured man was taken to Tampa General Hospital by a Coast Guard helicopter for a head injury.

“Through the activation of an emergency positioning indicating radio beacon, Coast Guard units were able to locate and assist the other seven people from the vessels in distress,” Kevin Coyne of Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg said in a statement. “This rescue is a testament to the teamwork it takes to save lives.”

The owners of the two boats are working with commercial salvage for the vessels. The collision remains under investigation, the Coast Guard said.



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**BIRD KEY • 217 BIRD KEY DRIVE** **\$1,999,000**  
An ideal Bird Key lifestyle awaits at this updated, contemporary garden home. Renovated by Ampersana Construction in 2014, with designs by Sawa Design Studio, the 3BR layout encompasses nearly 2,500 SF of living space. Sleek, modern finishes throughout, and private backyard w/ heated pool.

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.

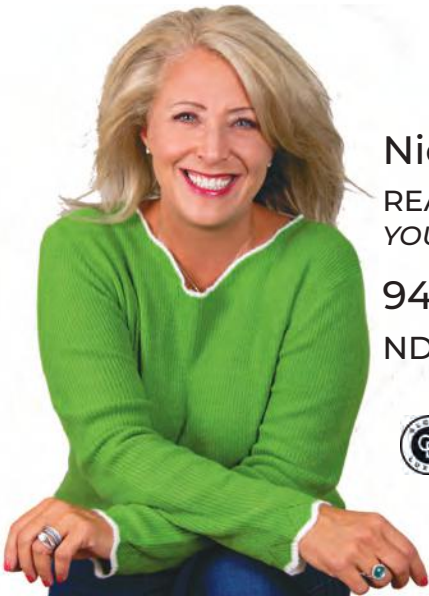


**LIDO KEY • 159 TAFT DR., #206** **\$2,699,000**  
Just listed- This coastal contemporary home offers attractive one-level-living, an abundance of natural sunlight and boasts a full array of developer upgrades. Desirable end unit with 3 BR/ 3 BA. Only 18 unique owners, perfectly situated between Sarasota Bay and the Gulf of Mexico.

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](mailto:letters@lbknews.com) or mail to PO Box 8001, Longboat Key, FL 34228. We also print letters sent to Town Hall that address Longboat Key issues. We reserve the right to edit.*

## St. Regis Parking Garage

To: Longboat Key Commission

As a resident of Bay Isles I am expressing my opposition to the three story parking garage proposal which has been recommended for approval by the Planning & Zoning Board on April 18th.

The unique difference between Longboat Key and Sarasota is that on LBK we do not have structures built that are close to GMD. We have lush greenery surrounding every building. I love returning from Sarasota where the buildings are right next to the roads and being surrounded by the beautifully landscaped and spacious environment that has been created on our Island.

The reasons given by the St. Regis Developer to justify a three story garage very close to GMD do not, in my opinion, have sufficient merit. I do not want LBK to resemble the development that is taking place in downtown Sarasota - ugly structures close to the street which ruin the aesthetic of the GMD

Karen Gary  
Longboat Key

## St. Regis parking garage

To: Longboat Key Commission

Commissioners, there is another very important point regarding the St Regis project expansion proposal that has not been addressed in letters to you, for your consideration:

As you know, each year, for many years, the Town conducts surveys asking residents for their vision and ideas for improvement of LBK for planning. We respectfully urge you to review the summaries of those survey results before the June 5th hearing as a reminder of your constituent's vision for LBK.

It is an important argument that residents Do Not ask for more development on the island, just the opposite. That is why it was so hard for the St. Regis developer and the Town Planners / Commission to finally arrive at the approved plan and one that, without question, will be a big asset for LBK.

Your constituent survey comments consistently say, in essence, that they want to keep the island's pristine ambiance and specialness. We all know in our heart and gut what "Keep Longboat, Longboat" really means and it is a good summation of the survey opinions, year after year, from the people you represent and the results are published in the Observer and Longboat Key News annually.

This points to the fact that this is not just about residents of south Bay Isles being very concerned about having a multi-level garage across the street on Gulf of Mexico Drive. It is about a major Deviation from LBK resident's vision articulated in years of Town resident surveys.

Unfortunately, many island residents have been focused on living their lives, many preparing their homes to leave for up North, or have left and are not focused on current Town issues.

It is also disconcerting to see the recent memo from the Town Attorney to you regarding court opinions on Quasi-Judicial Hearings, basically calling to your attention on how to weigh opinions from “unsworn resident testimony and opinions that are unsubstantiated by facts and who cannot be cross-examined”.

“Lay witness testimony.....is not competent , substantial evidence” etc.

In other words, listen to the expert developer not laypeople so much.

Our “fact based opinion and observation” is that the developer is asking to expand the St. Regis development project adding a commercial multi- level garage right on GMD including additional parking spaces and right across the street from single family residential. We, along with many residents on the island, do not want that anywhere on the island. This is a “fact based” argument founded on years of resident surveys that should be considered and given more than equal weight.

We of course are operating in a democracy and representative government. What is the constituency in favor of the garage? (We know that the condo next door is in support but we will not go there in this writing.)

You will not find any Town survey feed back from residents supporting building a commercial multi-level parking garage on Longboat Key, anywhere.

Based on the annual resident survey results the Commission should not approve the proposed garage and should support the years of resident surveys basically saying “Keep Longboat, Longboat”.

The Commission has already approved a great Resort plan. Of course, the developer has many “good “ reasons to expand the development now, the Marriott operator wants more.

However, again, the essence and spirit of the Town resident surveys for years and the published letters you have received recently, indicate LBK residents do not want this St. Regis project garage addition, the Resort isn't even open for operation yet. Just proceed as approved and the excellent operator will adjust as necessary.

Thank you for your diligent service and representation of the residents of Longboat Key.

Bob and Shannon Gault

## Longboat Key

## St. Regis Garage Proposal

To: Longboat Key Commission

I am a full-time resident of Longboat Key, with a home in Bay Isles Harbor. We love the Key and all it offers. Thank you for your service to our town and helping to keep Longboat the very special place it is.

I also am the President of Bay Isles Harbor Association, which represents 67 single family homeowners in a beautiful community directly across from the St. Regis Hotel and Residences. Our homes collectively contribute hundreds of millions of dollars in property value to the Town and County.

Our homeowners are united in opposition to the construction of the proposed St. Regis parking garage, recently recommended for approval by the Planning & Zoning Board on April 18th.

Please understand that we are not against development, or the St Regis project, in particular. New developments on Longboat, in general and within limits, are welcome insofar as they upgrade our infrastructure, renew the building stock, increase amenities, and add to the beauty

**See Letters, page 5**

## GULF VIEWS

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# EditorLetters



Letters, from page 4

of the island. The addition of a free-standing 3-level garage 20 yards from Gulf of Mexico Drive would detract from not only the island’s many attractive developments, but the St Regis itself. No similar structure exists on GMD, for good reason, and this one should not either. It would be a utilitarian structure and an eyesore to all residents and tourists driving by, and continuously visible by many of our Harbor residents, who live on Harbor Sound Drive. These residents are not looking forward to the viewing the garage and the flickering of headlights moving around its upper level.

The developer promises to hide the structure, thus admitting its appearance is not worthy of being seen. The ability to screen such a building with landscaping is challenging and particularly the upper level on which parked cars will be seen above the exterior wall. At the P&Z meeting, the screening was said to “eventually” hide the building as it will depend in part on the maturation of several canopy trees. We are thus assured of several years to a decade or more of incomplete screening.

In the original approved and permitted project, other approaches to expand parking were carefully considered and approved. But now the Developer, under pressure from Marriott to “ensure a 5-star experience” wants to add the garage to shave a few minutes off the time to return a valeted car. That should not be considered a sufficient reason to accept this blot on Gulf of Mexico Drive. The management of the complex is clearly (or should be) able to manage this aspect of their operation within the current plan.

Let there be no misunderstanding. Approving this garage would be a major and permanent change in the stewardship of the island and mar its unique aesthetic for decades.

We respectfully ask the Town Commission to reject the proposal and tell the Developer and Marriott to find other solutions to their 5-star problem.

Michael D. Taylor  
President  
Bay Isles Harbor Association, Inc.

St. Regis parking garage

To: Longboat Key Commission

I am a semi-retired full-time resident of Longboat Key in the Harbor Section of Bay Isles. I came from a mom with a third-grade education and a dad with an eighth grade education and grew up in a tough part of town in Worcester MA. I was the first one in my family to graduate high school and college. I worked 5 jobs, 42 hours a week, to get myself through college. I started with a scooter for a vehicle and living with 6 other guys after college driving a beer truck as my first job. I worked very hard starting with nothing throughout my life to get to the great success I now enjoy. I tell you this because I could have chosen anywhere in the world to retire and I chose Longboat Key for a whole lot of reasons. To me it checks all the boxes and this is where I plan to live the rest of my life. Prior to moving to paradise I was a former Alderman in a small town (Geneva IL) of about 22,000 people about 40 miles due west of downtown Chicago. It is a great little town that has been recognized as one of the top 15 towns to live in America. It was also designated one year as Best Town In America. It achieved this notoriety thru very diligent efforts to balance citizen interests, good of the community and setting a precedence. There were many times when our Planning & Zoning Commission, Historical Preservation Commission, etc. delivered to the City Council a unanimous vote or a majority vote in favor of a project where we the Aldermen/Alderwomen overturned those decisions because the citizens interests far outweighed the good of the community or would set a precedence for the future (you cannot unwring the bell). I believe that approving the St. Regis development meets the criteria for the good of the community and if I were in your shoes I would have supported this development for Longboat Key. On the other hand, this proposed parking garage does not support the good of the community and would set a precedence for the future. A pathway that I do not believe Longboat Key wants to travel in the future. These are the questions I would be asking myself if I were on the dais, as you are:

- If this garage were so critical why was it not included in the original plans?
  - What problem is the garage solving?
  - What problem is the garage creating?
  - Without the garage can the St. Regis function as originally planned? If not, why not? If not, why was it not included in the original plans?
  - Can the garage be added at a later date once the St. Regis is in full operation?
  - Is the proposed garage a solution looking for a problem?
- From all that I have read, reviewed and discussed with subject matter experts, if I were in your shoes I would reject this proposal for a period of time, say two years and allow the developers to re-visit with the Commission/City of Longboat with actual facts why they would need to construct the garage based on existing operations. This position would allow the Commission to satisfy the interests of the Citizens, the good of the Community and eliminate, or at the very least defer any Precedence for future stand alone garages that close to Old Mexico Road.
- Lastly, being on the dais as an Alderman, there were many times where this was a typical plan for developers that did not want to jeopardize the majority of a development with a questionable portion of the plan. So they get approval on the majority part of the plan knowing full well once in development come back for another bite of the apple. I am not saying that these developers fall into that category I am just saying I have been seen it done in person and experienced it as an Alderman.
- I leave you with this, my dad always used to tell me the softest pillow is a clear conscience. If

it were me I would sleep a lot easier rejecting this proposal than supporting it.

Thank you for the work you do as an elected official. I know firsthand how sometimes thankless a job it is.

Tom Simonian  
Longboat Key

Jewfish Key Sandbar Noise.

To: Longboat Key Commissioner George Turner

We seem to be doomed here. The huge accumulation of boats and their incessant blaring noise with the literally earth trembling thumping base are as usual an affront to an our beautiful neighborhoods here on the far north end of LBK. No amount of calling accomplishes one thing, I thought some headway had occurred. Obviously not, it’s gotten worse. This is Sat. Can’t wait till tomorrow. Is there not a State noise ordinance that we could tap into? I just heard there is one and police are using that in Sarasota for car boom boxes. There has to be an answer. This is not fair.

Ann Roth  
Longboat Key

Jewfish Key Sandbar Noise.

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

We have to get this under control.

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

See Letters, page 8



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# KeyOpinion

## A disturbing web laid bare

*Welcome to the world of global corruption. Nefarious global players identify soft targets in the West to curry favors and gain high-level access.*

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

The initial findings in a 36-page report released by House Republicans last week laid out a disturbing web of global payments made to multiple members of President Biden’s family. Foreign entities funneled over \$10 million through nearly 20 shell corporations to nine Biden family members shortly before or during his vice presidency. His son, Hunter Biden, spearheaded the family business, directing goodies to siblings, wives, ex-wives and children or grandchildren. But what services were provided to earn these payments? How did family members (including children and/or grandchildren) provide value to overseas funders? Who were these funders, and why would they pay money to numerous Biden family members?

As no evidence exists of any actual goods or services being provided to these foreign entities in exchange for considerable payments, it appears to be good old-fashioned influence peddling, or worse.

The titillating tale begins with Chinese national Ye Jianming, shown to be a major Biden family funder. Ye had a background in Chinese military intelligence and used his company, CEFC, to promote Chinese President Xi Jinping’s agenda globally. The effort to peddle Chinese influence led Ye to meet privately with Hunter Biden in a Miami hotel room in May 2017, according to The New York Times. Around the same time, Ye’s emissary to the U.S., Gongwen Dong, established a corporate entity with Hunter each with 50% ownership. Over 14 months, the entity dispersed more than \$4 million to Hunter-related companies and another \$75,000 to companies linked to the President Biden’s brother, James Biden. Also in 2017, at least another \$1 million was dispatched in 16 separate payments over three months to five different bank accounts all related to the Biden clan. From 2017-2018, the Bidens received more than \$6 million from the Chinese conglomerates. The Chinese later apprehended Mr. Ye for suspicious activity; he has not been seen publicly since.

Hunter and his associates were also hard at work on the other side of the world. Gabriel Popoviciu, a businessman convicted of bribery in his native Romania in 2016, poured \$1,038,627.08 through his company, Bladon Enterprises, into bank accounts belonging to Hunter Biden, first daughter-in-law Hallie Biden, and an unnamed Biden family member. Hallie Biden, a school counselor, is the widow of the president’s late son, Beau, and a later paramour of Hunter.

Again, what were the assets or services being furnished to Ye and Popoviciu and their conglomerates by Hunter and the extended Biden family? Did Hallie provide school counseling to Chinese and Romanian students? President Biden’s brother James received a significant portion



RUSOVICH

of the millions in payments; his stellar resume lists varied pursuits, from nightclub owner to insurance broker to fundraiser to startup investor. Did James open a nightclub in Shanghai or Bucharest? Was he the insurance agent for Ye or Popoviciu? And what value did Hunter’s ex-wife (Kathleen Buhle), his current wife (Melissa Cohen), and three children or grandchildren of Joe or James provide to these unsavory global businessmen? And what value did the ringleader Hunter himself provide?

No stated or conceivable services or assets surface as a logical explanation. Welcome to the world of global corruption. Nefarious global players identify soft targets in the West to curry favors and gain high-level access. Both Ye and Popoviciu embody corrupt foreigners as funding sources.

But what were the foreign crooks attempting to gain from the Bidens in exchange for oodles of cash? Hunter’s former business partner, Tony Bobulinski, released emails and text messages in 2020 which shed further light on the question. During negotiations in a separate deal with CEFC, Hunter demanded a better deal from the Chinese because they are “coming to be MY partner to be partners with the Bidens,” and noted that “I’m the only one putting an entire family legacy on the line.”

President Biden has repeatedly said, “I have never spoken to my son about his overseas business dealings.” However, multiple news sources have reported that Joe Biden, while serving as vice president, met with more than a dozen of Hunter’s business associates. And some of those associates visited the Obama White House more than 90 times. Secret Service records revealed that Hunter took at least 23 flights through Joint Base Andrews, home of Air Force One and Two. Father and son frequently have traveled together on official business, most recently exemplified by the Ireland family trip. And a May 2017 email sent to Hunter outlined a “provisional agreement” that included 10% equity in an energy company for “the big guy” later identified as Joe Biden.

It’s quite a stretch to believe that the Biden family jackpot was an innocent, ethical affair, and that the patriarch had no knowledge of any of the shady dealings.

We should demand more of our political leadership. Questionable matters require full transparency. Blaming “MAGA Republicans” for shedding light on a first family’s dubious global dealings is not a sufficient response. And bank records don’t lie. Honesty and integrity matter. The Biden family owes us a full explanation.

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# KeyRealEstate

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

Address	Sq. Ft.	List Price	Bed/Bath/Half Bath			Days On Market	Sale Price
4651 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#PH3	3,900	\$5,900,000	4	4	1	0	\$5,962,100
4651 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#202	3,900	\$4,850,000	4	4	1	25	\$4,506,900
700 OLD COMPASS	2,982	\$2,300,000	4	3	1	0	\$2,250,000
700 OLD COMPASS RD	2,982	\$2,300,000	4	3	0	6	\$2,250,000
2067 HARBOUR LINKS DR Unit#4	2,643	\$1,599,000	3	3	1	13	\$1,550,000
775 LONGBOAT CLUB RD Unit#505	1,602	\$1,495,000	2	2	0	5	\$1,495,000
2362 HARBOUR OAKS DR	2,409	\$1,395,000	3	2	1	20	\$1,367,000
2425 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#2E	1,470	\$1,395,000	2	2	0	46	\$1,300,000
762 JUNGLE QUEEN WAY	1,714	\$1,395,000	3	2	0	22	\$1,250,000
3444 WINDING OAKS DR Unit#42	2,189	\$1,225,000	3	2	0	26	\$1,162,000
3080 GRAND BAY BLVD Unit#541	1,380	\$1,095,000	2	2	0	40	\$1,040,000
2016 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#347	1,532	\$1,025,000	2	2	0	48	\$995,000
4810 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#Villa #9	1,422	\$839,900	3	2	0	17	\$839,900
100 SANDS POINT RD Unit#220	1,492	\$750,000	2	1	1	5	\$760,000
600 SUTTON PL Unit#103B	1,132	\$659,899	2	2	0	139	\$640,000
3320 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#104-C	1,080	\$465,000	2	2	0	76	\$455,000
526 BIRD KEY DR	2,451	\$2,295,000	3	2	1	119	\$2,225,000
517 MADISON DR	1,951	\$2,000,000	4	3	0	2	\$2,000,000



4651 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#PH3



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SIESTA KEY  
651 AVENIDA DEL NORTE  
ACTIVE LISTING \$2,595,000



LAKEWOOD RANCH  
5527 PALMER CIRCLE, #206  
ACITVE LISTING \$515,000



BIRD KEY  
449 E ROYAL FLAMINGO DRIVE  
SOLD \$5,600,000



BAY POINT DRIVE  
1507 BAY POINT DRIVE  
SOLD \$6,350,000



LONGBOAT KEY  
2525 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #4E  
SOLD \$1,600,000



FOX TRACE  
2547 FIREFLAG LANE  
PENDING \$520,000



BIRD KEY  
314 BIRD KEY DRIVE  
SOLD \$4,600,000



# EditorLetters



Letters, from page 5

Jewfish Key Sandbar Noise

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
Thank you Commissioner. Josh will be out on the water again today. Chief Turner will also be out on the water for a period of time this afternoon to get a firsthand account.  
Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

Undergrounding Project

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
Tip: As a follow-up to our conversation at the Manatee COGS, I spoke yesterday to Devoney Iglesias, regional director for FPL. I asked for her views on our project progress and whether she thought we could achieve polls-and-wires-down by hurricane season. She was cautiously optimistic about finishing Phase 2 by August, but thought equipment delivery issues might make completion of Phases 3 and 4 problematic in that time frame.  
Devoney strongly recommended that we invite project manager Hau Tran to our next project update, which I hope will take place before the Summer break. Thanks.  
Ken Schneider  
Mayor  
Longboat Key

The former Ben Price Parking Lot

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
The property on the corner of Triton Bend and Gulf of Mexico Drive, formerly known as Ben Price’s parkland (i.e., extra parking for social events at his home) is slated for development. The property has been handled administratively to this point, but the Town promised the residents who live directly behind the property that they would ensure that the drainage plan for this development is reviewed with the homeowners before any building permit is approved.  
The homes on Triton Bend that were built in the past were built significantly higher than the existing homes on Buttonwood. This has led to extensive flooding. A few weeks ago I

sent you photos of a storm drain installed in the yards of those Buttonwood homes that had not been dealt with for some time.  
The homeowners at 602 have now spent considerable time and money creating a swale to help mitigate the water issues in their yard, but we must insure that no more water from Triton and Gulf of Mexico continues to be allowed to move in their direction.  
Please have Allen and Isaac contact Bob & Carol Erker when plans are submitted for these new homes. I would also like to review them as I have watched this situation for a number of years.  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

Airport Comments at Workshop Meeting

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
Thanks for passing this along. I remember the commission having a discussion in 2021 about increased airport traffic and increased aircraft noise after receiving emails from LBK residents.  
One of the major points I am trying to raise is the environmental impact that increased aircraft traffic has on our air quality. Many of our residents deal with significant airborne black particulate matter that settles on our outdoor spaces - balconies, furniture, air conditioners, generators, cars, and roofs. The airport traffic maps from 2021 illustrate just how many SRQ originating flights fly straight over Longboat Key. To my knowledge no air testing has been done, but this particulate matter has to be coming from somewhere, and it would be nice to know what it is and where it’s from.  
Bad air quality affects everyone - not just those directly under the flight path. Can we start a conversation with the SRQ airport director about air quality, and the significant environmental impact that airplane exhaust has?  
Debra Williams  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

Rabbits

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
I want to ask for help on an issue that you must already be aware of. There is a rabbit infestation on Longboat Key that has occurred since the coyotes left. They are eating the lawns and many low plants at our condominiums and homes, causing very unsightly landscaping and costing associations a great deal of money to restore and replace what they damage, only to have it eaten again in a few days.  
The pest control companies use deterrents that are costly, barely work and, at best, simply drive the rabbits to neighboring properties. An island-wide solution is needed and only the Town can implement that.  
I would ask that the Town investigate a solution. I am sure that the condo associations and homeowners would be willing to contribute to the cost since we will be spending the money one way or another and would rather spend it on something that works. Thank you for your consideration.  
Gabe Rosica, Pres. Fairway Bay III  
Longboat Key

Rabbits

To: Gabe Rosica  
Thank you for your email. Although I walk parts of the Town quite often, I can honestly say that I hadn’t noticed the rabbit concentrations that you are referencing. In my past days in another part of the state, I would notice it due to rabbits being hit by vehicles and we’d be out picking up the carcasses. Again, not much clean up activity around Town in that regard. Not saying there aren’t rabbits running wild, just haven’t seen it personally to the degree you’re indicating.  
I’ve copied our Public Works Director Isaac Brownman on this and I’ll speak with him about what options the Town might consider. However to be honest, I’m not sure of how the logistics of something like that might work island wide nor do I see it as a priority for our scarce resources at the moment. I would suggest if you haven’t already done so to reach out to the University of Florida/IFAS (both counties house them and they’re also known as Extension offices) and see what they might recommend as it is a subject right up their alley. They may also have suggestions on plants that the rabbits do not enjoy as much.  
Thanks again for sharing your concern. If after we investigate and there is an option that the Town can move on, we’ll be back in touch.  
Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

Rabbits

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
I can tell you it is a real problem in Fairway Bay. If we use aggressive repellants it will drive the rabbits to other areas on LBK if they are not already there. I will take your suggestion of contacting the University of Florida/FAS to see what they might suggest. Thank you for your prompt response.  
Gabe Rosica  
Longboat Key



## WM Valued Customer

There will be **NO GARBAGE** or **RECYCLING** collection service on Longboat Key on **MONDAY, MAY 29** in observance of the **Memorial Day Holiday**.

Residents and Businesses regularly serviced on Monday will be **served on Tuesday**.



Questions, please call  
**WM at (941) 753-7591.**



See Letters, page 9



The advertisement for La Villa Mexican Grill is set against a solid orange background. At the top center is a colorful logo featuring a stylized sombrero with green, red, and blue sections, and a row of houses in similar colors. Below the logo, the word 'LAVILLA' is written in large, bold, black letters with a white outline, and 'MEXICAN GRILL' is written in smaller, white letters with a black outline. Underneath this, the text 'AUTHENTIC MEXICAN FOOD' is in large, bold, black letters, followed by 'A FIESTA FOR YOUR TASTEBUDS!' in a smaller, italicized, black font. In the center is a photograph of a dining table with a vibrant, multi-colored striped tablecloth. On the table is a large plate of Mexican food, a glass of orange juice with a lime wedge, a Coca-Cola bottle, a Modelo beer bottle, and several small bowls of condiments. Below the photo, the address '5610 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #5, LONGBOAT KEY' is written in bold black letters, followed by the phone number '941.383.8033' in a larger, bold black font. At the bottom left is a Facebook icon, and to its right is the website address 'LAVILLALONGBOATKEY • LAVILLAMEXFOODLBK.COM' in black text.



# OnPatrol

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

## May 12 Citizen assist

11:11 a.m.  
Officer Montfort while on patrol in the 800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive, observed a Hyatt Surveying vehicle parked in the right of way. The surveying vehicle had a trailer in tow and was about to pull onto Gulf of Mexico Drive from the right of way. The operator had set up a large antenna and surveying equipment on the right of way. While the operator was pulling out into traffic, it appeared a wire had caught onto the surveying equipment causing it to topple over and was being dragged behind the trailer onto the surveying equipment causing it to topple over and was being dragged behind the trailer onto Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Montfort assisted the operator with his equipment and he set up once again. Case clear.



that dogs were not allowed on the beach and the dogs were put back on the nearby pontoon boat. Approximately five minutes later, Officer Connors returned to the location only to observe the dogs still on the beach. Officer Connors beached the police boat and requested the owner of the dog’s identification. Officer Connors advised him that he was receiving a civil citation for dogs at large on the beach. He advised that there were no signs and that he did not know the officer had previously warned him. The owner of the dog signed the citation. Case clear.

## May 15 Damaged property

9:22 a.m.  
Officer Ferrigine responded to the 4000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of a delivery truck that struck the cable lines to the hardware store. Upon arrival, Officer Ferrigine met with the driver of the tractor trailer. The truck driver said he did not see the lines and the top of his truck hit the lines knocking them off the pole. The hardware manager stated he will call the cable company to come out and replace them. There was no signs of injury and both parties will settle the incident privately. Case clear.

## Suspicious incident

3:22 p.m.  
Officer Martinez was dispatched to the 5500 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in regards to a suspicious incident. Officer Martinez was notified that Toyota Safety Connect Crystal advised a white Toyota 4 Runner hit the S.O.S. button, and no response was received from the driver at the address. Upon arrival, Officer Martinez observed the car and driver in the parking lot. Upon contact with the driver, he said that he was attempting to operate the sunroof in the vehicle and accidentally activated the S.O.S. button. The driver did not report any injuries, no sign of criminal activity, case clear.

## Traffic hazard

10:20 p.m.  
Officer Miklos while on patrol traveling southbound on Gulf of Mexico Drive approaching Longboat Club Road and observed a white Jeep in the right turn lane with its emergency flashing lights activated. Officer Miklos initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle and met with the driver. The listed driver advised she had stopped to secure the removable roof to her Jeep. The driver did not need any assistance and left the scene without incident. Case clear.

## May 13 Boat

3:08 p.m.  
Officer Connors was dispatched to Greer Island for a report of approximately five personal watercrafts operating erratically, close to shore, in a slow speed minimum wake zone. Upon arrival, Officer Connors observed no violations but spoke to numerous operators of the personal watercrafts who were in the area and educated them on the boating regulations. Case clear.

## Dog on beach

3:25 p.m.  
Officer Connors while on marine patrol in the area of Greer Island, just west of Longboat Pass Bridge, observed two golden retriever dogs running on the beach. From a short distance away, Officer Connors advised over the PA system in the direction of the dog’s owner, that dogs were not allowed on the beach. As Officer Connors approached closer, he told the owner

## May 16 Dog in car

2:00 p.m.  
Officer Nazareno was dispatched to the Publix parking lot for a dog inside a Lexus SUV with the windows closed and the engine off. It was also unknown how long the dog was in the parked vehicle. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno made contact with the caller who pointed out the vehicle to the officers on scene. The dog was barking when officers approached the vehicle, which was locked and secured. The dog did not appear to be in distress. At approximately 2:45 p.m., Officer Ferrigine made contact with the owner of the dog and the vehicle who stated he was in the store for less than 15 minutes and that his dog was used to the heat. When he opened the vehicle the dog appeared to be in good health and did not show any signs of duress. The dashboard and the interior of the vehicle were not hot to the touch. The owner was advised not to leave his dog unattended for extended period of time. No signs of animal abuse or neglect were observed. Case clear.

## May 17 Suspicious person

8:42 p.m.  
Officer Butler was dispatched to a suspicious person at Gulfside Drive. The caller stated that there was a drone flying over the water dropping bait while multiple people were in the water. The caller did not want to meet. Upon arrival, a canvas was performed and no incident fitting the description of the person was found. Case clear.

## May 18

Abandoned vehicle  
11:00 a.m.  
Officer Martinez was dispatched to Bay Isles Parkway in regard to a report of two abandoned vehicles. Upon arrival, Officer Martinez met with the complainant who is a manager at the business. The complainant stated that two vehicles had been parked in the Publix parking lot stated for several days unattended. The complainant stated that he needed to place the construction equipment in the area but could not because of the vehicles blocking the parking space. After conducting the FCIC/NCIC inquiry, both vehicles were not reported stolen. Officer Martinez advised the complainant that due to vehicles being parked on the private property, the Police Department can’t tow the vehicles and advised him to remove the vehicles on his behalf. Case clear.

## Citizen assist

11:40 a.m.  
Officer Martinez while on patrol, observed a vehicle parked on the southbound lane shoulder of the 5000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Upon contact with the vehicle, he observed the owner changing a flat rear right tire. Officer Martinez asked the owner if he had any injuries to which he said, “no my tire just went flat.” The owner stated a relative he called was bringing a spare tire for him to fit on a vehicle. Case clear.

## May 19 Citizen assist

3:12 a.m.  
Officer Tillman responded to a citizen call from the beach resort and they said they were locked out of their room. Security advised that they were assisting with the guest

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# Adventuring at Longboat’s Whitney Beach Plaza

*I found myself busy all day long and didn’t even leave Whitney Beach Plaza, much less the island.*

**TRYLA LARSON**  
Guest Writer  
tryla@lbknews.com

I have heard people say that they don’t want to live on Longboat Key because it takes too long to get off the island to do anything. Well, I have to disagree. There is plenty to do right here on the island. As a matter of fact, I found myself busy all day long and didn’t even leave Whitney Beach Plaza, much less the island.

I started my day getting coffee and a Danish at SIPS. Justina always has a smile and knows just how I like my coffee, regular with room for almond milk and stevia. Then I proceeded with my day by getting my hair done at Design 2000.

I am getting to that age where I have to have touch ups to cover up those inevitable greys. Sandy does a great job of making me look younger than I am. After getting a fresh new do, I checked in at the Happy Paddler to make sure our kayak tour is set up for when my kids come down to visit. After that, I popped into the marine store to buy a life vest. We need an extra one for our boat.

By now it’s lunchtime, so I head over to the Longboat Beach Café for some french fries and a diet soda. I met up with a friend and we probably sat there talking way longer than we should have. Once we realized how long we had occupied our booth, we paid our bill, tipped our server and made our way outside.

We strolled over to Driftwood so I could buy a closing gift for my client. I love that store! They have such unique items that you won’t find elsewhere. While we were in there, we also signed up for a cooking class that is going to be held behind the store in the flower and herb garden. After I make that perfect purchase for my client, we walked across the parking lot to Performance Pilate’s. My husband always works out at Beach Fitness, the gym that is in Whitney Beach Plaza. I however, love doing Pilates and have been going to Performance Pilates since the day after they opened over a year ago. The

owners, Mike and Emily, really know their stuff. We were a few minutes early so we socialize and talk to the other people in the studio while we waited for the previous class to end.

Once it was time for our class, we each found our reformers and began our hour-long Pilates class. Before we knew it, the class was done and we were in the dressing room freshening up. I said goodbye to my friend as she headed home and then made my way over to LBK Liquors. I picked up a couple bottles of wine to take home for later. While heading to my car to drop off my things, I saw a sign on a window and a man standing in the door of a vacant shop there in the plaza. Being the inquisitive person that I am, I walked over to the gentleman and ask if they were opening up a new store. He replied yes and said that they would be opening up a cheesecake store. I instantly smiled forgetting about all the calories it might have and only think about how good it will taste and how I can’t wait for them to open. The man went on to tell me about the other things they will offer, like ice cream! Yum! This guy’s story just keeps getting better and better. I realized what time it was and remembered that I told my husband that I would meet him at Ventura for an early dinner. I politely excused myself from my conversation with the gentleman and told him that I can’t wait for their store to open. I then headed over to Ventura. My husband was already there waiting for me.



LARSON



All I can say about Ventura is that the food was absolutely delicious. I had the Chicken Parmesan. The chicken was juicy and the sauce was tangy, just how it should be. We have also ordered pizza from Ventura and have never been disappointed.

After dinner we skipped dessert and headed over to Chubby’s Lounge for an after-dinner drink. While there, we indulged ourselves in a game of pool. My husband won, of course. He always wins. I will admit that I did have to take about 12 real estate related phone calls and pull my lap top out of my purse a couple of times to do home searches and contract revisions. There was also a little bit of contract negotiations at one point. All of that is to be expected though. That is simply the life of a realtor. However, the point I am getting at is I had a very full day and didn’t even leave the Plaza, much less the island.

I will admit that there are some things you probably have to go on the mainland to do, but Longboat Key has tons to offer. You just have to get out and see all that is here.

*Tryla Brown Larson is a realtor for Michael Saunders. Tryla lives and works on Longboat Key. When she is not busy selling real estate, she is living the island life to the fullest.*



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Letters, from page 11

director Abbey Tyrna (copied) worked at Sarasota County and knows the program well. Reach out to her, she would be the most knowledgeable one to answer the questions. Sorry about the delay I'm going to call Maureen now.

Rusty Chinnis  
Longboat Key

Growth of mangroves

To: Paul Hylbert

Thanks for sharing. I have asked Howard Tipton to provide us the key talking points to highlight for the joint meeting of the Manatee Commission and LBK Commission next Thursday. The discussion of managing the growth of the mangroves and enforcing violations can and should be included as part of the community advocacy discussion.

I will be reaching out to the Whitney Plaza landlord to inquire about a walk-through of the commercial space available to lease for the proposed "Multi-Purpose" use by Manatee County and LBK. Do you have any interest in touring the property with me?

Look forward to our collaboration,

Debbie Murphy  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

Growth of mangroves

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

What is happening with FDEP re the mangrove cutting that initiated these discussions?

Ken Schneider  
Mayor  
Longboat Key

Growth of mangroves

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman

I believe they're referring to unpermitted mangrove trimming at 5320 GMD. FDEP has investigated & is working with the property owner on a Consent Order to resolve noncompliance issues. A copy of FDEP's Compliance Assistance Offer is attached.

Allen Parsons  
Planning and Zoning Director  
Town of Longboat Key

Growth of mangroves

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Thanks for this. It seems to be a quick and thorough job by FDEP. If it is characteristic of their efforts, and if there is follow up to resolution, it would clearly be beyond the scope of the Town to intervene and, maybe, unnecessary to ask Manatee County to assume the responsibility. Thoughts? In any event, let's follow what happens with this violation.

Ken Schneider  
Mayor  
Longboat Key

Loud music

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown

It can get frustrating for all of us when the methods we have for controlling excessive noise are ineffective and/or unusable. Individual concerned citizens have taken upon themselves to make sure we don't abandon the effort.

Today, I am specifically addressing concerns raised by Ronnique Hawkins. Ronnique's primary concerns are with cars that idle on MLK Blvd between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. with "music" blasting, and with cars blasting music as they circulate through the Newtown neighborhood between 1 a.m. and 3 a.m.

See Letters, page 14

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

Great wines have deep roots in their locales and strong ties to the people living there. The islands of Greece figure large in Western civilization. Greek wines have emerged on these islands and find their finest expressions in their birthplaces.

Relatively few wine drinkers recognize names of Greek wine grapes or wines made from them. Pity, for cultivation of wine grapes began in Greece 6,500 years ago. Dionysus, the god of wine harvests, winemaking, fertility, and religious fervor, had a major place in the pantheon of Greek divinities. In the time of the Roman Empire, wine exports from multiple locations in Greece reached the major population centers of the Western world. During the 400 years of Ottoman Empire rule of Greece, winemaking largely disappeared; revival of the wine industry did not commence until the 1970's. Greece currently ranks 25th among wine exporting countries, trailing Latvia. Part of the reason for modest exports of Greek wines: winemakers focus on a small number of the hundreds of varieties of wine grapes indigenous to Greece and developed to meld with local foods. The grape varieties better known internationally, comprise small proportions of Greek wine exports relative to proportions of Cabernet Sauvignon exports from the USA or Chile, Syrah and Grenache from Australia, Sauvignon Blanc from New Zealand, or Malbec from Argentina. This basic guide to Greek wines highlights regions where different varieties come from and vineyards that make one or more of three of the more popular and prestigious indigenous Greek varieties.

The Greek Assyrtiko grape from Oia on the island of Santorini has both a spectacular setting and a long tradition of winemaking. Long a top destination for tourists, villages along the Aegean coastline cling to steep inclines and bask in brilliant sunshine. Walls painted gleaming white reflect sunlight and keep the interiors of residences cool; bright blue trim and tops of domes match the blue Aegean Sea. Walls weave together in seemingly organic mazes. On the island of Santorini, the region of Imerovigli features soils rich in volcanic ash, black lava, and pumice. This setting, its terroir, produces Assyrtiko grapes with enough acidity to make wine with age-worthy structure and body. The 2018 Domaine Sigalas Assyrtiko Santorini has pale yellow and green hues. Citrus fruit tastes and aromas appear at first sip. The acidic structure of the wine fills the mouth. At 14.5% ABV, the wine mellows a bit with age. Similar to Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon White Bordeaux or Riesling from the Alsace and Germany, petrol notes and honey-suckle appear in aged Assyrtikos. Price per 750ml bottle range from \$40 to close to \$100 for scarcer vintages. Other top quality producers include Hatzidakis Assyrtiko Santorini and Argyros Assyrtiko Santorini. These wines pair ideally with shellfish and lean fish dishes typical of the cuisine of this maritime region. As an interesting aside, winemakers train the Assyrtiko vines to grow in clumps shaped like baskets, and, unrelated, the vines of Santorini have not been infected by the root disease phylloxera that devastated vineyards on the Continent.

The deep purple Naoussa Xinomavro grape has elements in common with Pinot Noir from Burgundy and Nebbiolo (Barola and Barbaresco wines) from the Piedmonte in northern Italy. The grape thrives around Naoussa, in the Macedonia region close to the site of a school established by Aristotle and attended by Alexander the Great, on the island of Paros. Full strength Xinomavro needs a couple years minimum of aging in the barrel and bottle to soften its harsh tannins. It develops into a complex wine with tastes of sour cherries up front and a firm acidic backbone. Ideal when served with grilled lamb, beef, or pork, Xinomavro enhances red meat and other savory dishes. The 2019 Alpha Estate Xinomavro Single Vineyard "Hedgehog" (\$24) has a 90 point rating and a Decanter World Wine Award. Other top producers include Tsantalia and Kir-Yianni.

The red wine grape Agiorgitiko claims its birthright on the island of Neméa off the Peloponnese peninsula, the grape's homeland. Stony soils, semi-mountainous terrain, cold, wet winters and cool summers suit this grape perfectly. Often compared with French Beaujolais Nouveau, Agiorgitiko wines have more structure and longevity. The wine generally has less acidity and a lower ABV than Assyrtiko. The 2018 Greek Wine Cellars Flowers Agiorgitiko (\$11!) offers tastes of tart cherries with complexity in aftertastes of chocolate, savories, and pepper. This wine pairs well with red meat, poultry, and game. A pleasant sipping wine...

Read more on Greek wines next week...

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 12

The problem seems to be attributable to a limited number of individuals who seem to be aware that their behavior is illegal.

Ronnique has compiled a list of incidents and many of the license plates are listed multiple times (Ronnique also has video recordings. She wonders if her lists and/or videos can be used by SPD in any way).

Idling cars turn the volume down when they spot a police car, and crank up the volume again after it's out of range.

Ronnique believes that community policing and use of unmarked cars in the MLK corridor will make a difference.

I am under the impression that some communities are concerned that enforcement of FS 316.3045 will result in discriminatory policing. I believe that some police departments have worked with their communities to address the concerns. Perhaps a summit between SPD and Newtown leaders would be useful.

As you know, excessive noise (especially at night) is a health hazard. Cars blasting music on the MLK corridor also is detrimental to efforts to revitalize it as a business district. What actions will the City commit to address this noise problem? How can I help?

Debbie Trice  
Commissioner, City of Sarasota

Questions that Sarasota homeowners have mentioned to me

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch  
We are excited that you and Nik Patel are the first Sarasota City official to make any presentation to our homeowners at our building. Yesterday and this morning I received questions that homeowners request you address in your presentation in addition to your update. I submit them to you for your consideration with full assurance that I will limit any questions that you do not want to address or any other matter as you deem unsuitable for discussion. I will provide you as much time as you want to respond to these queries beyond the allotted 10 minutes, if you so desire. Here are the questions:

- 1. Briefly, explain the process used by the City of Sarasota to approve requests or plans for construction from developers?
  - 2. What are the functions of the DRC, the Planning Board, the professional staff, and the City Commissioners in this process?
  - 3. What is "administrative review," and how is it different from any other means of review?
  - 4. Can Condo owners really make a difference in this process? If so, what can they do?
- Do not hesitate to call if you have any questions for me.  
Victor McTeer  
Sarasota

Questions that Sarasota homeowners have mentioned to me

To: Victor McTeer

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Thank you! I will be prepared to answer these questions to my best ability and will be happy to address any other concerns or questions.  
Jen Ahearn-Koch  
City Commissioner, City of Sarasota

Ringling Boulevard Redesign is causing problems with Bus Stops

To: Sarasota City Commission  
My main reason for writing is to ask that something be done to improve the bus lanes that are on the Downtown portion of Ringling Blvd. (west of Tuttle Ave). The bulb-out Bus Receiving Lanes seem not to be designed with enough width to allow the Bus to Get out of the moving traffic lane while they pull over for riders to get on and off. the buses are literally stopping while still half in the Traffic Lane, and brings all traffic behind it to a stop as well. this is not safe, as many times, the oncoming traffic is stopping so far from the bus that they are still in the crosswalks or the intersections - I have had the experience of both these issues happening.

This is not an acceptable way to run traffic through our Downtown Corridor. It is dangerous and frustrating and does not make for a pleasant experience - for either the local or the tourist.

Please advise what can be done to rework the disaster that Ringling Blvd has become since it was narrowed from 2 lanes of traffic to only the One Lane.

This Road is a daily nightmare to drive at both morning and evening Rush hours. Traffic is constantly gridlocked with too

many cars on too little roadway.  
If you look at any Traffic Reporting web app, Ringling Blvd is consistently marked in RED as moving at a snail's pace. This road was supposed to supplement Fruitville Road as an evacuation Route, and used to function perfectly in all respects.  
Two Specific spots of concern are:  
Heading west, at Ringling and Indian Place, before the Post Office.  
Heading west, at Ringling and North School Ave.  
Please direct one of our City Departments to have something done to get the Buses completely out of the traffic lane as they make their pullovers. If there is another Dept I should be working directly with, kindly let me know how to contact them. Thank you for your time and assistance  
Katherine Orenic  
Sarasota

Ringling Boulevard Re-design is causing problems with Bus Stops

To: Katherine Orenic  
Thank you for the email concerning Ringling. I've copied the City Manager on this email to forward to the appropriate department and respond accordingly.  
Jen Ahearn-Koch  
City Commissioner  
City of Sarasota

KeyCrossword

Color Captions

ACROSS

1

Fragrance base

6

Aegean isle

11

"Shane" star

15

Benevolent brother

18

Insect stage

19

Actress Leachman

21

Israeli port

22

Easy as \_\_\_\_

23

Aristocratic intellectual

27

Inflames

28

Green

29

Jalopies

30

Kindled

31

Mister, in Mainz

32

"The \_\_\_\_ Love"

33

Office worker's wear

39

Mil. school

41

Gallant musketeer

45

Assistant

46

Bahrain export

47

Family outcast

49

Slammin' Sam

51

\_\_\_\_ Pasha: Egyptian viceroy 1863-79

53

Frenzy

54

"Do \_\_\_\_ say..."

55

Kite's org.

56

\_\_\_\_-Tin-Tin

58

European capital

59

Ind. mediator

60

Kill or joy lead-in

61

Anti-union canine?

64

James \_\_\_\_: philanthropist

66

Fred's dancing sister

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Billed and cooed

69

Sugar pill

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Paisley people

75

Sailing

77

Goof off

81

Crones

82

Tom Hanks film

84

\_\_\_\_ Rabbit

86

Confusion

87

Demure

88

Augment

89

Auction

90

Public house

92

Castor and Pollux

94

Tenderfeet

97

Environment: comb. form

98

Pot starter

99

Intuit

100

Brandy gr.

101

Lunch toter

105

Singer from Nigeria

107

Nashville music hall

109

Wilder's " \_\_\_\_ Town"

110

Singer Neil

113

Tibet's locale

114

Lured

120

Influential senior

123

Seadog

124

\_\_\_\_ out: endured

125

Panic

126

Burma's neighbor

127

Fr. holy woman

128

Winter weather word

129

Prepared

130

Jones or Stengel

DOWN

1

Between B.C. and Sask.

2

Soft mineral

3

\_\_\_\_-blue: faithful

4

State

5

Hoi polloi

6

Diva Renata

7

Healing plant

8

London teenagers

9

Sphere

10

Scout's stablemate

11

Bringing up the rear

12

Perform

13

Overwhelm

14

Take away

15

Majestic

16

Cuff connection

17

Hogsheads

20

Litigant

24

Secular

25

Flynn, of films

26

Actor Brian or David

31

Legendary Bears' coach

32

Statuette for Streep

33

Short-tempered

34

Depend on

35

Perfect

36

Kind of party

37

\_\_\_\_ Gatos: health resort

38

French porcelain

40

Water buffalo

42

Toss

43

Estonian island, German style

44

Steeple

47

Short single

48

Soviet police

50

Fumbles

51

\_\_\_\_-Chinese

52

Feeling poorly

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\_\_\_\_ Jima

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Repute

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WWII vessels

63

Wild asses

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"Toledo" painter

66

Head monk

68

Notes outstanding

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71

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72

Fetches

73

Core group

74

Poet Nash

76

Macaw

78

Baker's topping

79

French tale

80

Bandleader Kay

82

Humbug!

83

" \_\_\_\_ a Parade"

85

Each and \_\_\_\_: all

89

Court wear

91

Hassle

93

Droll one

95

Attempt

96

"Marriage is a \_\_\_\_": Cervantes

101

Stiff drink

102

Public officer

103

Totally defeat

104

Semetic language

106

Pythias's pal

108

1/8th gallon

110

NCOs

111

Part of QED

112

Defy danger

113

Over again

114

Indian tourist town

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Walked on

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Last Supper depiction

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Little ones

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Buffalo's waterfront

119

6/6/44

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Wedding words

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Before poetically



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