



Longboat Key News

December 22, 2023 *Serving Longboat Key, St. Armands, Downtown Sarasota & Anna Maria Island* FREE

InsideLook

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Swinging for a cure at BKYC ...page 2


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Spreading Christmas Joy!

Christ Church spreads the joy of Christmas and reading.



Since 2008, Christ Church has sponsored an after-school reading remediation and enrichment program in Bradenton for at-risk children in kindergarten through grade three. Four days a week, Florida-certified teachers provide instruction in phonics, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and language arts. Every other Thursday from November through April, Christ Church volunteers work one-on-one with the Dream Center children. A highlight of the Reading Buddies program is the annual Children's Christmas Party, held at Christ Church, for the children and their families. The children read scripture, recite sacred poems, and sing (from memory) a Christmas carol. The program is a celebration of Christmas, but it is also a celebration of the progress the children are making in reading. The mission of the Reading Buddies program is "to be a light in the lives of at-risk children and to shine that light on reading."

NewsWorthy

Sales up; region remains sellers's market

The sales of existing single-family homes in the Bradenton area were up 22% in November while the median price fell 4% to \$485,861 from the same month a year ago. It was the second consecutive month that the median price dipped below \$500,000. Previously — since February 2022 — the monthly median price had been north of \$500,000. Homes went to contract in 24 days, compared to 29 days a year ago. With strong demand, the Bradenton-Sarasota area remains a seller's market. The monthly inventory of homes improved slightly to 3.4 months supply, up from three months a year ago. Traditionally, a six-month supply of homes is considered a balanced market, favoring neither buyer. The Sarasota area saw a 31% increase in single-family home sales in November with 541 units changing hands, compared to 413 a year ago. The median price was virtually unchanged: \$500,000 this November versus \$499,000 a year ago. Homes went to contract in 25 days. A year ago, it took 23 days to go to contract. The inventory of homes rose to a 4.3-month supply from 2.4 months a year ago.

Record-Breaking Sea Turtle Nesting Season

Sea turtle nesting season officially concluded on Florida's Southwest coast on Oct. 31, and Mote's Sea Turtle Conservation & Research Program (STCRP)—which patrols 35 miles of shore from Longboat Key to Venice each day of nesting season—has reported its findings. In short: 2023 was another record-breaking nesting season. Throughout the season, the STCRP recorded a total of 4,284 nests across all sea turtle species—specifically, 4,091 loggerhead turtle nests and 193 green turtle nests. The program also documented the highest numbers of sea turtle nests—and specifically, the highest number of green turtle nests—ever in Venice. The current record for overall sea turtle nests was 5,112 nests in 2019. Even though Hurricane Idalia impacted beaches towards the end of the season, its impact on nesting was low, with 75 percent of nests completing incubation prior to the storm's arrival.

Stealing Santa's Snacks



Two mischievous bunnies snuck under the tree in the Reid household and denied Santa his treat!

Raising a racket for a cure on Bird Key

Bird Key Yacht Club raises \$2,000 in the fight against breast cancer.

Over 20 members of the Bird Key Yacht Club tennis program gathered recently to have some fun while raising money in the fight against breast cancer. Thanks to their generosity over \$2,000 was raised in the 2023 Swinging for the Cure event in support of the Susan G. Komen organization. Under the leadership of Bird Key Yacht Club Tennis Director Jackie Bohannon, over \$7,600 has been raised in the fight against breast cancer since its inception in 2021. Photo by Tony Britt.



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a Merry & Bright
Holiday Season*

NEW CONSTRUCTION TO BE BUILT



WEST OF TRAIL - HIGHLY DESIRABLE LOCATION **\$8,995,000**
Waterfront location, this custom home is situated on a quiet cul-de-sac steps to Siesta Key. Offering nearly 5,350 AC/SF, with an open concept floor plan, highly desirable finishes and touches, and 4-car garage, you will be impressed. Work with builder direct to create your dream home.

GULF FRONT NEW CONSTRUCTION



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

NOW PENDING SALE



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



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EditorLetters

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

Request to Speak at Chamber Event

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider
Good morning and happy holidays! The Manatee Chamber would like to feature a “State of the Cities” address at our first Headliners luncheon of the new year on Wednesday, January 10, 2024. The luncheon will be held at IMG Academy.
Jacki Dezelski
President CEO
Manatee Chamber of Commerce

Request to Speak at Chamber Event

To: Manatee Chamber of Commerce President Jacki Dezelski
My schedule is clear for that day, so I would be happy to attend.
Ken Schneider
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Request to Speak at Chamber Event

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider
Fantastic! I will send format/logistics outline to you within the next few days. Thank you and happy holidays!
Jacki Dezelski
President CEO
Manatee Chamber of Commerce

Live Streaming

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider
Yes, we will still be live streaming. Remote attendance to meetings is still available under the emergency provision to the Town Commission and Planning & Zoning Board. We will be migrating to Microsoft Teams once we do some further testing. If the Manasota League still wishes to provide remote attendance, we can certainly open that up to Microsoft Teams.
Jason Keen
Chief Information Officer
Town of Longboat Key

Live Streaming

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider
Correct. Live-streaming will still be available and continue.
Trish Shinkle
Town Clerk
Town of Longboat Key

Live Streaming

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle
I assume residents will still be able to watch our Commission meetings remotely, despite what this message says about the Manasota League? Any changes?
Ken Schneider
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

ManaSota League meetings

To: Longboat Key Town Commission
As a reminder, attached is a meeting schedule for ManaSota League of Cities (MSLC) for year 2024. The next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., in Town of Longboat Key Commission Chamber.
Important Please Note: Beginning January 1, 2024, the Town of Longboat Key will no longer be utilizing Zoom as a means of joining meetings via internet or telephone. Our meetings will revolve back to in-person attendance.
We are fortunate to have had the opportunity since Covid began and afterward to hold meet-
See Letters, page 6

Growing in Jesus' Name



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This extraordinary riverfront property provides an idyllic setting to build your dream home. Featuring approximately 100 feet of meandering frontage on the Manatee River, this location offers seamless boat access to the Gulf of Mexico with NO FIXED BRIDGES.

The property features a BRAND-NEW dock extending 200 feet into deep water, ensuring boat access at any tide. Additionally, a 200-square-foot waterside deck is perfect for family fishing adventures or just enjoying spectacular Sunsets over the water. Encompassing nearly an acre, this expansive lot offers abundant space, allowing you the opportunity to bring your personal vision to life and construct the home of your dreams.

The building envelope, situated in an X zone, offers diverse construction possibilities.



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~Harry's Team



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6609 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

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



\$2,100,000

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

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



511 SPINNAKER LANE | LONGBOAT KEY - SOLD AT LIST PRICE

Gorgeous 4BR/5BA, canal-front home in Country Club Shores, offering expansive open spaces and seamless indoor/outdoor living. New composite dock with jet ski and 30,000 lb. lift, with direct access to the ICW. **SOLD \$3,495,000**



\$5,000,000

648 BAYVIEW DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

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



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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.

EditorLetters

Letters, from page 4

ings via Zoom. Most Boards are now requiring in-person attendance. However, our meetings will be recorded and available to listen to after the meeting is held, if requested.

Please keep in mind that MSLC has a nine (9) member Board and it is important to have a quorum of at least 5 members present in person to hold a meeting. If you cannot attend a meeting, please let us know in advance if at all possible. Wishing happy holidays to all!

Gail Loeffler
Administrative Coordinator
ManaSota League of Cities, Inc.
c/o Town of Longboat Key

Parking at Bayfront Park

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle

I rent a space for my kayak at Bayfront Park for over \$300/year. Given the number of kayak slots, it seems like the Town of Longboat Key is getting significant income from the kayakers. However, in season, there are times when the kayakers cannot find a parking space. Is it possible to add more parking or reserve a couple spaces for kayak users? Thank you.

Beth Gotthelf
Longboat Key

Parking at Bayfront Park

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Have the new parking spaces been added at Bayfront Park yet?

Debra Williams
Commission
Town of Longboat Key

Commission on ethics

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

The Florida Commission on Ethics has added a video to explain the on-line filing and Form 6 requirements. Below is a link to their website and the video if you still have questions on the process.

The Commission on Ethics also provides information on requesting exemption for certain records relating to the disclosure information. I have attached the form which you may wish to review to see if you qualify for an public records exemption. The Commission on Ethics is suggesting that an exemption request be filed prior to the filing of your Form 6 disclosures. Additional information is available on the website.

Also new to the program, all of our advisory board members will now have to fill out their Form 1 and file electronically. I am hopeful this will not reduce the number of interested volunteers we currently have and will be seeking in the future to fill vacancies.

If you have any problems accessing, please let me know and we'll get it worked out with IT's help.

Trish Shinkle
Town Clerk
Town of Longboat Key

Weather and Tides this Weekend

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

We the effected residence of the “annoying and disturbing” lights coming from the Whitney Plaza would like to be updated on the progress of the lights being surrounded with a valance similar to or better than the ones installed on the Gulf of Mexico Drive side of the fixtures.

We all “Thank you” in advance for your anticipated help in this matter. Have a great week!


Michael & Amy Drake
Ross & Val Schniederman
David & Lori Price
Charlie & Betsy Byrd
Longboat Key

Weather and Tides This Weekend

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Thanks - he sent it to me - wondering then is the two to three feet that the news is staring on top of the worst case tide or the 3.35 that he sent me the total expected ... or are we to expect to add the two to three to that making it 5.35 to 6.35?


See Letters, page 8



Public Notice

Town of Longboat Key

Due to the resignation of Commissioner Deborah Murphy, there is a vacancy on the Longboat Key Town Commission for Commission District 5. To qualify to serve, you must be a registered voter and reside in District 5.



Manatee County
Longboat Key
District 5

Michael Bennett
Supervisor of Elections

Interested District 5 electors are encouraged to send a resume and letter of intent to Trish Shinkle, Town Clerk, at the address below. The deadline to submit your resume and letter of intent is 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Friday, January 12, 2024.

The Town Commission will hold a Special Meeting on **January 22, 2024, at 11:30 a.m.** at Town Hall, 501 Bay Isles Road, to appoint a qualified District 5 elector to fill the vacancy. The individual appointed will be sworn in at the January 22, 2024, Special Meeting. This position will be filled by the person appointed by the Commission to serve until the March 2025 General Municipal Election, in accordance with Article II, Section 8, of the Town Charter.

Documents should be sent to the attention of Town Clerk Trish Shinkle, 501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, FL 34228, or can be e-mailed to tshinkle@longboatkey.org.

Trish Shinkle, Town Clerk
Published: 12-08-2023, 12-15-2023, 12-22-2023, 12-29-2023

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While at the show be sure to visit the Youth Art Competition for Grades K-8 or Ages 5-13!



Editor Letters



Letters, from page 7

Chris Udermann
Longboat Key

Weather and Tides This Weekend

To: Longboat Key Commission

For your information, the Town of Longboat Key is monitoring a low pressure system that will be moving into our area with wind, rain, and high tides. The rain is forecasted to be in the 2-3 inch range, winds sustained in the high teens/low twenty miles per hour with higher gusts, and high tides early Saturday evening and early morning hours of Sunday.

The high tides are forecasted to be in a reasonable worst case scenario: Saturday at 1700 hours – 2.1 feet and Sunday at 2:25 hours – 3.35 feet. To put this in perspective, we see king tides from 2.9 feet to 3.1 feet. Hurricane Idalia which passed by our island back in August brought surges over 5 feet.

Based on information we have received about weather and tide conditions over the weekend, here is information on support:

High Water signs have been pre-positioned in our typical lower roadway elevation areas. If areas do flood, LBK police will put up the signs.

Sand bags are available at Public Works (600 General Harris Street) until 4:00 pm today and sand is available at the Broadway beach access overflow parking area.

Public Works personnel will be on the island Saturday and Sunday to survey any areas of concern and will communicate any further required action.

The Town will continue to monitor any information that may come from the Sarasota or Manatee County EOCs regarding any changes to the forecast.

We are asking our residents and visitors to monitor the weather throughout the weekend.

This information has been pushed out on social media. Thank you and stay safe (and dry)! Howard N. Tipton

Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Weather Update

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Just wanted to provide you a quick update from the operation this morning. I was alerted to an increase of call volume at 0100 hours this morning and decided to head to LBK.

The fire department was receiving calls for structure fires, mainly in the northern section of LBK. When crews arrived it was determined to be electrical in nature.

Due to the nature of the calls being received I asked the Dispatch Center to contact FPL and have them shut the grid off in the Village area. This was done because fire crews reported underground transformers were “smoking” as well as the number of calls for electrical type fires. Once the grid was shut down we did not experience any fire calls.

The island streets were checked for flooding and the following areas were found to be under water:

Trailer Parks

Buttonwood
Streets north of Firehouse 91 up to Spanish Main
Streets off General Harris
Many of the streets of the Village

Flooding on Longboat Key

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

We immediately deployed the high-water vehicle which was used on many of the calls. We also asked for mutual aid from Sarasota County who provided a high-water vehicle but needed to pull it back due to mechanical problems. Our high-water vehicle responded to Anna Maria on two structure fires before returning to LBK.

I spoke with the FPL lineman who agreed with shutting down the grid. He found that the transformer at Lewis and

Broadway to be underwater. Once the water began to recede the power was requested to be put back on (8 a.m.).

The FPL lineman indicated that this will be a regular occurrence with shutting down the power when the transformer box is underwater.

I met with the PW Team while they were hooking up the portable generators at the pump stations. I should have made contact with them when the grid was shut down so they all knew what to expect. This will be done in the future.

I was informed by Deputy Chief Rubino that the Ringling Bridge west bound was closed because of the flooding on St. Armands. I confirmed this through Dispatch.

I went to St. Armands to double check as we use that route for patient transport. It was indeed flooded. I returned two

See Letters, page 11



JEFF RHINELANDER
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Longboat Key News
Sarasota City News

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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
3520 MISTLETOE LN	3,717	\$3,400,000	5	4	0	27	\$3,000,000
6957 LONGBOAT DR S	2,499	\$2,575,000	3	3	1	12	\$2,575,000
455 LONGBOAT CLUB RD Unit#807	2,410	\$1,995,000	3	3	0	66	\$1,750,000
6701 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#331	1,449	\$1,150,000	2	2	0	270	\$1,062,500
7155 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#21	1,170	\$1,100,000	2	2	0	12	\$1,035,000
619 JUNGLE QUEEN WAY	1,356	\$899,000	3	2	0	2	\$875,000
4234 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#T1	1,248	\$749,000	2	2	0	12	\$735,000
608 BAYPORT WAY Unit#608 B	1,260	\$625,000	2	2	0	3	\$600,000
2089 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#G1-305	1,257	\$499,999	2	2	0	42	\$485,000
565 SPANISH DR N	1,427	\$415,000	2	2	0	75	\$381,500



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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.

Dec. 14 Citizen assist

11:20 a.m.
Officer Maple was dispatched to the 5400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a citizen assist. Upon his arrival, Officer Maple met with the complainant who reported that the previous night he was driving home from Publix at approximately 8:45 p.m. when a dark grey SUV started following him very closely. He noticed the vehicle after passing the 2400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive headed southbound toward his residence at the 300 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on Longboat Key. The complainant said he was traveling at a speed of about 46 miles per hour and slowed to the 45 mph limit which seemed to irritate the aggressive driver. When reaching the 35 mph zone he slowed to the speed limit and the driver of the SUV closed the gap even closer to his vehicle. When arriving at the entrance to his community, he slowed down even further to make a safe turn and indicated his intentions to conduct a left turn off of Gulf of Mexico Drive by utilizing his left turn indicator. The complainant stated that the driver then got extremely close and swerved into the turn lane and passed his vehicle before he could safely turn off the main street. The SUV with unknown occupants continued south for approximately .25 miles before making a u-turn and returning to the entrance of the condominium. Upon arrival, the security gates had closed and the SUV departed. The complainant was unable to get a better description of the vehicle. Case clear.



Officer Maple was dispatched to Jungle Queen Way for a citizen's assist call regarding a jet ski. The jet ski had fallen from its suspended lift during a period of turbulent weather and was adrift but remained seaworthy. Prior to Officer Maple's arrival, neighbors had secured jet ski to dock next to the lift and notified the owner of the situation. There was no police involvement required. Case clear.

Signal 94

11:15 a.m.
Sgt. Smith while on patrol observed a vehicle stopped in the middle of the southbound traffic lane of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Sgt. Smith made contact with the driver and he indicated he had gone through high water on Russell Street, and the vehicle just stopped. Sgt. Smith requested a rotation wrecker and the towing company responded and removed the vehicle. The driver was given a copy of the tow sheet to relay the information to the rental car company. Case clear.

Boat on seawall

12:12 p.m.
Officer Maple was dispatched to Norton Street for a found property case. Upon his arrival, Officer Maple met with the complaining who said he noticed a 24-foot Boston Whaler caught up on a seawall with no one onboard. The complainant removed the boat which had apparently floated off a local boat lift during recent inclement weather situation and secured it to his dock. Officer Maple ran the boat identification and found the owner's name. Officer Maple contacted the owner who confirmed that it was his boat and it had indeed floated from his lift. The owner contacted the complainant to make arrangements for his property. Case clear.

Dec. 19 Pool water draining

10:49 a.m.
Officer Ferrigine responded to Norton Street for a report of a pool worker draining pool water into the canal. Upon Officer Ferrigine's arrival, he met with the pool worker who was draining the pool water in the canal into the backyard of Norton Street. The man was issued a town ordinance violation for draining pool water into the canal and was advised to not drain any more water into the canal. Case clear.

Damaged property

6:30 p.m.
Officer Mathis was dispatched to St. Judes Drive in reference to property damage. Upon his arrival, Officer Mathis met with the homeowner. The homeowner advised that about a month ago a concrete truck came through the neighborhood and ran into a boulder on her property and pushed it into a boat that is a yard ornament. The homeowner explained that the boat is around \$1,000 and just wanted documentation. Case clear.

Citizen assist

7:16 p.m.
Officer Mathis was dispatched to Jungle Queen Way in reference to a citizen assist. Upon his arrival, he spoke with the homeowner via telephone. The homeowner explained he was out of state and was given unfortunate news of the recent storm surge. Officer Mathis walked around the residence and sent him texted photos of the exterior of his property. Case clear.

Disturbance

7:18 p.m.
Officer Mathis was dispatched to the 400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference disturbance. Prior to Officer Mathis's arrival the unknown male subjects left the property. Upon his arrival to the incident location and Officer Mathis met with the complainant who advised that two men were attempting to fish from the docks at the location when he confronted them and a verbal altercation began. The complainant explained that the two men were verbally abusive and advised they were on public property and did not have to leave. The complainant advised the two men were unknown men driving a blue Chevy Colorado with a black toolbox. The complainant said he was never in fear of any physical harm, he just wanted the incident documented and did not want the subjects located. Case clear.

Dec. 15 Cat in distress

4:08 p.m.
Officer Smith was dispatched to the 1400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of a possible cat in distress. Sgt. Smith arrived and called the complainant, he said he observed a cat near a drainage pipe and feared with the upcoming storm the cat might have offspring in the drain. The complainant explained the drain pipe was between one condominium and another condominium on the east side of the road. Sgt. Smith located the drain pipe and was able to see in and observed no animals in distress. Case clear.

Dec. 16 Dogs on the beach

Sgt. Smith received a call of a subject walking two dogs on the beach. Sgt. Smith responded and was unable to locate the dog. Sgt. Smith received a second call approximately an hour later and was able to locate the person in the 4300 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Sgt. Smith made contact with the complainant and she indicated she had just moved to Longboat Key and was not aware the dogs were not allowed on the beach. Sgt. Smith explained the ordinance and she said she would utilize the sidewalk and the dog park. Case clear.

Suspicious incident

8:29 p.m.
Officer Puccio and Officer Miklos were dispatched to a suspicious incident call by a caller who did not want to meet with police but stated they thought someone was yelling for help in the area located behind their residence. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos made a canvass of the area indicated which met with negative results but was informed by the caller's husband that what his wife heard was the next door neighbor out looking and calling for their dog which they finally located. Case clear.

Dec. 18 Citizen's assist 2:01 p.m.

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 8

hours later to find that the Circle was receding, but the side roads continued to be flooded. I returned to Firehouse 91 for a conference call in with Manatee County.

Paul B. Dezzi
Fire Chief
Town of Longboat

Flooding on Longboat Key

To: Longboat Key Commission
This is the latest from Chief Dezzi. He also provided a summary of the nights activities which I'll forward next. We will be talking with FPL on Monday about the transformer issues.
Howard Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Weather Operation Update

To: Town of Longboat Key Department Heads
Much of the water has receded but we still have some roads that caution needs to be taken when operating. Power was restored just after 8 a.m. We have another high tide a little after 4 p.m. Manatee County has taken the lead on providing us a briefing on the forecast later this morning. There is no state or county emergency declaration so currently if a resident has damage they will need to self-report it. Manatee County will be forwarding this information to the PIO's for distribution. At this time, everyone is updated.
Paul B. Dezzi
Fire Chief
Town of Longboat Key

Weather Operation Update

To: Town of Longboat Key Department Heads
Water levels were high and are going down now. FPL is on scene in the Village and indicated they would turn power back on shortly. We'll have a more comprehensive update in a few hours.
Howard Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Weather Operation Update

To: Town of Longboat Key Department Heads
Beginning approximately 1:30 a.m. the fire department began to respond to calls due to the weather. We had several structure fire calls that were not damaging in nature. We had calls for a few homes that were flooded, one where a family was removed. We shut down the grid to the Village due to the underground electric boxes smoking. We are currently monitoring the tides as we have several streets that are flooded and are unable to enter. Ringling Bridge is closed west bound as Saint Armand's is flooded. I have driven the island and we continue to have flooded streets. I'll provide an update later. Thanks for sharing your experience. I know that they appreciated the opportunity to share all that they've been working on.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Beach tour

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
I would like to mention how helpful Isaac, and Charlie were this morning, in explaining in understandable details and on site, how what I've been hearing about for 20 years actually applies to our beach front. Again, it's comforting to know how confident our staff is and the pride they take in their work.
Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Longboat Key Transit

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
I will look into it. Thanks for the heads up.
Kevin Van Ostenbridge
Commissioner
Manatee County

Longboat Key Transit

To: Manatee County Commissioner Kevin Van Ostenbridge
I learned at yesterday's Sarasota County COGS meeting that there may be an issue on our uniform island transit plan which we understood was slated for approval at your January 9, 2024 Commission meeting. While the plan had always been for a simple, single-issue MOU between Sarasota and

Manatee, I've been told that someone from Manatee is now asking that the plan be addressed as an amendment to an unrelated mass transit MOU between the counties. I just hope this issue, if it is one, doesn't further delay introduction of the on-demand program as we approach the holidays and the busy Season. Thanks for all your continued help on this.
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Transformer

To: Longboat Key Director of Public Works
The transformer which will provide power to our house flooded to a depth of 13 inches in the Saturday night storm Dec. 16. In flood prone areas transformers must be elevated or we face repeated outages when transformers are activated. The transformer which will provide power to our house flooded to a depth of 13 inches in the Saturday night storm Dec. 16. In flood prone areas transformers must be elevated or we face repeated outages when transformers are activated. I await your response.
Paul King
Longboat Key

Transformer

To: Paul King
I spoke to our project manager, and I believe he may have spoken to you as well. My understanding is that that par-

ticular transformer has been energized for 2-weeks and stayed energized through the storm and flooding. Your house is also being converted to that transformer today.
Isaac Brownman
Director Public Works
Town of Longboat Key

Accessory Dwelling Unit ordinance

To: Sarasota City Attorney Robert Fournier
I'm reaching out in my capacity as a board member of the Laurel Park Neighborhood Association ("LPNA").
While our engaged residents did follow the commission's adoption of the new ordinance pertaining to Accessory Dwelling Units ("ADU"), until recently, we were unaware that the new ordinance would be implemented by revising an existing section, VII-602(cc), of the zoning code.
While that section did not pertain to most of the city, it was implemented by the RSM-9 zone. The entire neighborhood of Laurel Park falls under that zone. So while the new ordinance was additive to most of the city, it did reduce the property rights of all the property owners within Laurel Park.
The LPNA is trying to determine the scope of our diminished rights and responses to the following questions would greatly help resolve some of the ambiguities we have:
The additional restrictions specify that an affordable housing rental affidavit is required for a building permit, does that

See Letters, page 12

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 11

mean that any existing ADU is except from the affordable rental requirement?

Would any of the new restrictions apply to an existing ADU if renovations / improvements are made to that ADU?

If a property is sold that contains an existing (grand-fathered) ADU, would the new owners be under the purview of the prior code or would they have to comply with the new restrictions, meaning they would have to sign an affordable housing rental affidavit for the ADU?

If the affordable housing rental affidavit only applies to new ADUs, can a newly-built ADU be used by a family member (such as a parent, aka: “family sharing”) or must the ADU be affordably rented?

For your convenience I’ve attached a comparison of section VII-602(cc) before and after the change for the ordinance.

Ron Kashden
Laurel Park Neighborhood Association
Sarasota

Accessory Dwelling Unit ordinance

To: Sarasota City Commission, City Attorney Robert Fournier

I am unfortunately reaching out again, two years later, to share that our development rights in Laurel Park (RSM-9) have again been diminished by revisions to the zoning code pertaining to Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs).

As reminder, we purchased the property at 300/310 S Osprey Ave in August 2020. The property included 2 underlying platted lots and 2 historic homes (310 designated, 300 contributing). The homes were in desperate need of restoration and, after doing our due diligence on the zoning and allowances, we embarked on a plan to restore the homes on both parcels and “carry” the cost with additional living space via detached garages with ADUs behind each. We broke the project down to 3 permitted phases (living on-site throughout):

- 1) restore the historically designated Frederickson House at 310
- 2) build new detached garage with ADU behind Frederickson House at 310
- 3) repeat process at 300 but permit new garage/ADU and restore historic home at same time.

At the start of step 2, almost exactly 2 years ago, we were made aware of changes to the zoning code that diminished our development rights for building ADUs (email string below). We brought this issue to the Commission where it was discussed at the meetings on Jan 3, 2022 and Feb 22, 2022. At that time, we were only made aware of zoning language changes requiring ADUs be rented as affordable housing. Fortunately the Commissioners and Mr. Fournier recognized it was not the intent to diminish the previously existing rights of RSM9 neighborhoods with grandfathered ADU rights, and a zoning text amendment was adopted to resolve. Or so we believed.

We recently submitted the permit application for all the work at 300. To save time and expense and prevent avoidable delays (and because we think 310 turned out beautifully), we submitted the same ADU plan as 310. It is essentially a mirror image of the ADU at 310, to be located in east/west alignment on 300 for viewshed from Morrill.

We were informed a few weeks ago that this ADU cannot be permitted as submitted due to a change in the zoning code. It has been explained to us that the definition of what is allowed in the 650 sq ft has changed from what we were permitted in 2022, effectively reducing the allowable footprint of the structure.

So I am writing again to ask for your help. It was my understanding that the new zoning code for ADUs that was adopted to expand rights to other neighborhoods was never intended to diminish the rights of RSM9 neighborhoods. And yet, it has, again.

Would the commissioners consider revisiting this issue, and request staff present all aspects of the code that have changed? If RSM9 neighborhoods with historic ADU allowances had development rights unintentionally reduced, can those previous rights be restored/grandfathered?

I will be honest that there is some urgency. Stephanie Prince at the City has been wonderful, visiting the property twice and working hard to advise us, but it seems there is zoning text that effectively ties zoning’s hands and so we felt we needed to reach out directly to the Commission and Mr. Fournier. We did not anticipate bumping up against this issue again, or the associated delays and expense.

As before, we welcome you to visit the property, see what we have completed at 310 S Osprey Ave, and understand the plans we have for 300. Thank you in advance for considering our situation and I look forward to your response.

Michelle & Paul van Deventer
Sarasota

Accessory Dwelling Unit ordinance

To: Sarasota City Commission

I am trying to be sure that I understand what section of the Code specifically has resulted in

See Letters, page 15

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Bubbly New Year

A happy new year celebration does not require a grand cru vintage Champagne. Enjoy a toast to the new year in your style and everyone will share your joy.

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

Wine retailers' reports show that on New Year's Eve sparkling wines account for a 60% or greater share of the sales of all wines that day. These numbers add to sparkling wines' continuing increases in market shares during recent years.

Wine buyers favor sparkling wines by any of their trademarked names: Champagne or Crémant in France; Prosecco, Franciacorta, or Lambrusco in Italy; Cava in Spain; Sekt Riesling in Germany; Brit Fizz in Great Britain; and, clones of French Champagnes grown and produced in America by established French Champagne houses. Putting little bubbles in wines has become a technique (actually more than one) that winemakers across the globe have applied to the juice of many different varieties of wine grapes.

The Méthode Champenoise, the traditional technique refined in the Champagne region, induces a second fermentation of a still wine in the bottle. This multistage and time-consuming method costs more than other methods but if done correctly produces a premier sparkling wine. All Champagnes and most of the fine sparkling wines from around the world use this method. An alternative, the Tank Method induces a secondary fermentation of still wine in a pressurized tank. Makers of Prosecco and Lambrusco sparkling wines use the Tank Method.

A cheap shortcut, the Carbonation Method, injects carbon dioxide directly into a still wine. Imagine a hard seltzer made with wine instead of water. Carbonation adds some tickle to the nose and may expedite alcohol through the digestive system on its way to the brain. We, along with many millions of others judging from sales records, prefer another effervescent alcoholic beverage, Modelo Especial.

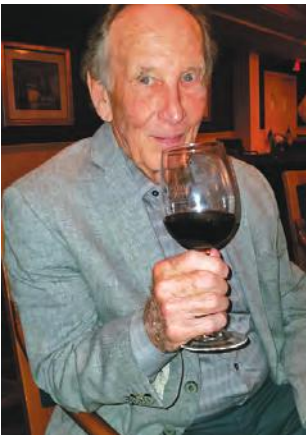
The next rung up in the quality rankings of sparkling wines has a number of worthy contenders for best choice under \$20 a 750ml bottle, less than twice the price of a six-pack of imported beer. For under \$15 per bottle, look to Spanish Cava. The prices of Méthode Champenoise Cava have remained low in the USA. The colorful bottle of Vilarnau Organic Reserva Brut NV should not distract from its contents. Its warm toast aromas and stone fruit tastes exceed what we would expect in a \$15 wine. The "California Champagnes" have popped up before in our reviews. The American versions of Domaine Chandon, Gruet (actually from New Mexico), Roederer Estate, and Mumm Napa use the same methods as their Champagne parents. The higher rungs of sparkling wine rankings add a touch of elegance to quite acceptable sparkling wines.

The premier and grand cru vineyards in the Champagne region of France have ideal soils and slopes for growing the Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes found in most bottles of Champagne. The time-honored methods and quality control in the making of non-vintage (NV) Champagne creates tiny bubbles that endure long after being poured into a glass and bring a succession of delicate flavors to the tongue and mouth. Smaller Champagne cru vineyards produce exceptional wines, such as the NV Alexandre Penet Champagne Grand Cru Brut Nature (\$80). This Champagne emerged from 80% Pinot Noir grapes and 20% Chardonnay grapes. It has aromas of red berries and brioche on the nose, and a zesty finish. The "Nature" in the name means that the winemaker added no sugar to the wine.

The next rung up on the sparkling wine quality rankings may seem a matter of indulgence. The Moët & Chandon Dom Perignon and the Roderer Estate Cristal Champagnes qualify for the top rung not only because they have their roots in a grand cru vineyard, but also because the vineyards have selected the harvest as superior and too good to blend with other vintages. These vintage champagnes age in the barrel and bottle for an extended period of years.

A happy new year celebration does not require a grand cru vintage Champagne. Enjoy a toast to the new year in your style and everyone will share your joy.

For a guide to methods of producing sparkling wine, see this article on the web. <https://winefolly.com/deep-dive/how-sparkling-wine-is-made/>



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 situation described below. At first I thought that it was the ADU exceeded the maximum size limitation of Section VII-602(cc)(3)c.3. But then reading the email a second time, it says, the definition “of what is allowed within” the 650 square feet has changed. I’m not altogether sure what this means. Whenever you get a chance, could you send me an email and indicate the specific Code section that is relevant to the situation described. I’m assuming that its somewhere in Section VII-602(cc), but I’ll wait to see what you say. Thanks, much.

Robert M. Fournier
City Attorney
City of Sarasota

Accessory Dwelling Unit ordinance

To: Sarasota City Attorney Robert Fournier
Thank you for your response... please keep me copied on this and update me when you can.
Jen Ahearn-Koch
Vice Mayor
City of Sarasota

Hit and Run accident yesterday

To: Sarasota Police Department
I trust this message finds you well. My name is Clara Deboosere, and I am reaching out to you as a young intern from France currently stationed in Sarasota. I am facing a challenging situation and urgently seek your assistance.
Recently, I was involved in a hit & run that has left me in a precarious position. A white Nissan NV200 collided with my parked Alfa Romeo Giulia (2017) at a high speed on East Ave (between Adams Ln and Ringling Blvd, right by the police Station, see screenshot attached showing location of the accident). Police was called and a report was filed under Case #23-060669. As a student intern with limited financial resources, I am struggling to overcome this significant hurdle.
The essence of the issue lies in identifying the other party involved in the incident. The incident site is known to have surveillance cameras, and I am earnestly requesting your assistance in accessing any available footage that could aid in identifying the responsible individual. This information is critical for insurance purposes, and without it, I face dire consequences.
I would like to provide additional details that may assist in the investigation. The white van, which hit my parked car at high speed while traveling Northbound on East Ave, is believed to have come from either the Payne Park parking lot or Adams Lane. The van then fled the scene doing a right turn onto Ringling Blvd, right turn on S School Ave and right turn to go back to the Payne Park Parking lot where witnesses saw the driver (female) trying to pull away her damaged front bumper and other damaged parts. The witnesses recorded the video attached where we can see the Nissan NV200. As you will notice, the van has a roof rack and a logo on the passenger front door (could be CD, GS or a butterfly design according to witnesses). One of the officers on the scene took immediate action and attempted to pursue the white van. An officer informed us that the van managed to evade pursuit and was last seen heading towards

Fruitville Rd. Considering the amount of police cars parked on Adams Ln at the time of the hit and run (precisely between 6:40PM and 6:42PM on 12/14/23), I was hoping that one of your police cars with its dash cams may have a recording of the license plate. The area also has multiple cameras between the Police Station, DMV, County Public Garage, Payne Park, Department of Health, Sheriff’s Office. The Police Station also has a camera right on the NE corner of its building (in the back alley where the Hummer and SWAT vehicles are parked). This dome camera is perfectly facing the location of the hit and run.
Your assistance could be pivotal in resolving this matter and enabling me to continue my internship in Sarasota. The potential financial implications and disruption to my academic and professional aspirations are substantial without a resolution.
I understand the demands on your department, and I sincerely appreciate any support you can provide in this matter. Your prompt attention to this request is invaluable.
Thank you for your time and consideration. I remain hopeful for a positive response and am available for any further information or clarification you may require.
Clara Deboosere
Sarasota

Hit and Run accident yesterday

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jean Ahearn-Koch, Town Manager Marlon Brown
I hope this message finds you well. I apologize for any inconvenience, and I sincerely hope you can assist me. Time is of the essence, and I find myself in need of your help. I understand your schedule may be busy, but if you could spare a moment to address this matter, I would greatly appreciate it. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.
Clara Deboosere
Sarasota

Hit and Run accident yesterday

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jean Ahearn-Koch
This is already being addressed by the police department. The complaint sent myself and the chief an email two days ago. It’s already been assigned for follow up.
Patrick Robinson
Deputy City Manager
City of Sarasota

Hit and Run accident yesterday

To: Sarasota City Deputy Manager Pat Robinson
Sgt. Luciano made contact with Ms. Deboosere yesterday and we are actively following up on the hit and run.
Rex Troche
Police Chief
City of Sarasota



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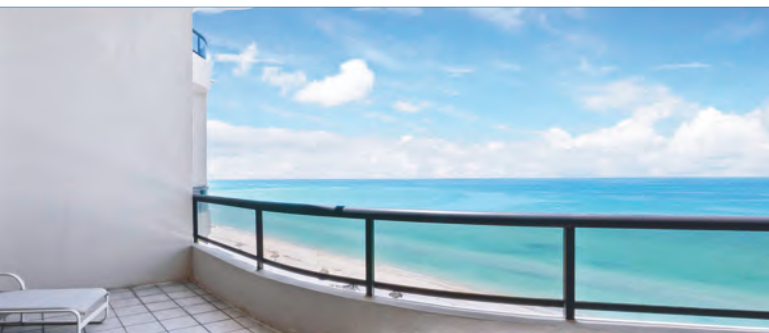
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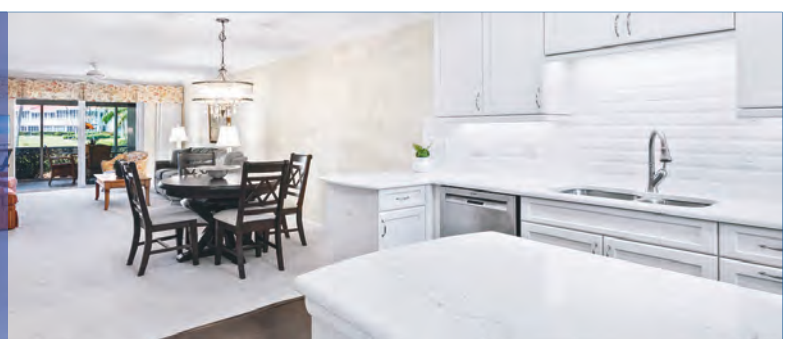
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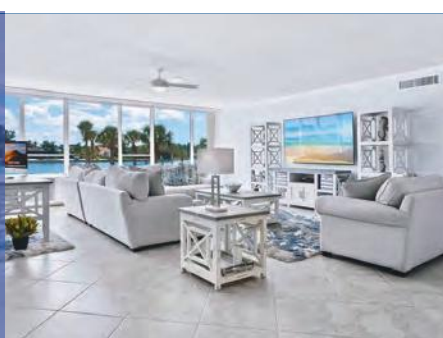
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