

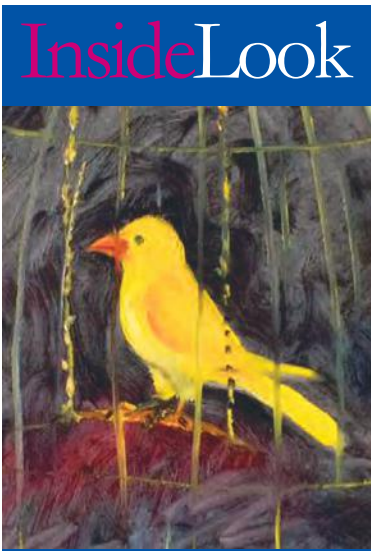


Longboat Key News

August 18, 2023

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FREE



InsideLook

The canary in our coal mine ...page 8



Traffic still soaring at SRQ ...page 14



A world of strong labels ...page 13



Palm fronds threaten bikers ...page 10

Sarasota and Islands Enjoy Waves of Real Estate Success

Longboat Key is not just a destination location, it is a special place in its own right. It's a way of life, a point of relaxation, and a tropical paradise.



TRYLA LARSON
GUEST WRITER
Tryla@lbknews.com

Longboat Key has gone through a pandemic and back. We have had threats from hurricanes and tropical storms — but none of these things could stop our booming real estate market. People are still moving to our island paradise.

In July 2023, on Longboat Key we have 170 residential listings. I know we feel like the inventory is low, especially since today we only have 144 active listings totaling in an estimated \$368,086,518.00 in possible sales.

However, if we compare it to the last two years where in July 2022, we had 106 active listings and in July 2021, we only had 89 active listings, then it looks like our cup runneth over.

Of course, those were the crazy and unpredictable pandemic numbers. If you look back before the pandemic, you will see that in July of 2020, we had an inventory of 305 active listings. In July 2019, we had 364 active listings and in July 2018, we had 331 active listings. Apparently, in the 300's is what we are accustomed to. We are getting there, but we are just not there yet.

There could be a number of contributing factors. Everything from higher interest rates, homeowners wanting to hang on to the current low interest rates, and the unknown

that comes with the upcoming election. It could be one thing or a combination of many things. I know we feel like the interest rates are high now, but who remembers paying 18+ percent interest rates on a home mortgage?

Yes, it may appear that Longboat Key currently has a low inventory.

When other places in the country have fluctuating and stagnate real estate markets, the Longboat Key real estate market is staying strong.

However, when compared to other places in the country, we have an overwhelmingly healthy and thriving real estate market.

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Longboat Key has a population of 7,510 residents which is a 8.8% increase over the 2010 U.S. Census.

The town that I moved from to live in this semi-tropical paradise was Chesterfield, Missouri. Chesterfield has a population of 50,000 residents according to the U.S. Census. In July 2023, Chesterfield had 18 active listings. In July 2022 it only had 19 active listings. In July 2021 it had 33

active listings and only 64 in July 2020, 101 active listings in July 2019 and 95 active listings in July 2018. According to Maris MLS.

A colleague of mine in Chesterfield told me that she had recently been trying to help a family find a home. They wrote offers on 8 different homes. All of the

homes had multiple offers. One home had as many as 22 offers. Her clients were offering over list price by up to \$100,000.00. They were waiving contingencies like home inspections and financing left and right. Yet they were still not winning the bidding wars. She was finally able to get them into a home on the 9th house that they wrote an offer on. This gave me flashbacks of what was happening on Longboat Key mid-pandemic. It appears that other parts of the country are still stuck there. Comparatively, I would say we are doing pretty darn good.

See Values, page 2

City takes front seat in future St. Armands Circle plans

The Sarasota City Commission will take over responsibilities starting on Sept. 30, when the St. Armands Business improvement District will cease to exist.



Following a second round of voting by the commercial property owners in St. Armands Circle, the vote to renew the special neighborhood improvement district has failed.

Proponents failed to gain the votes needed to renew the BID earlier this year at 48.9%. This time, the referendum received even less support.

The next act is the City Commission will take over the BID's responsibilities starting on Sept. 30, when the St. Armands Business Improvement District will cease to exist. As a result, nearly \$700,000 in the BID's coffers will be turned over to the city's finance department.

On June 22, 63 ballots were mailed by certified mail. The deadline for returning completed ballots to the city auditor and clerk's office was Tuesday, Aug. 1. By 7 p.m. on that date, 40 ballots had been received — all of them certified as valid — the votes weighted based on the assessed value of the property each ballot represents. Of the returned ballots, those representing 39.96% of the assessed value voted yes with 19.71% opposed, falling well short of the required 50% to renew the BID through Sept. 30, 2033.

The outcome was nearly identical to the first ballot, when 41 ballots were received, three rejected as invalid per state guidelines.

Values, from page 1

Longboat Key is not just a destination location, it is a special place in its own right. It's a way of life, a point of relaxation, and a tropical paradise. When other places in the country have fluctuating and stagnate real estate markets, the Longboat Key real estate market is staying strong.

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Chesterfield						
Active Listings, Number of						
Month	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	62	68	63	49	15	11
Feb	55	71	59	44	13	6
Mar	62	88	59	39	6	6
Apr	58	100	55	36	21	9
May	72	107	68	38	22	15
Jun	77	105	72	31	23	12
Jul	95	101	64	33	19	18
Aug	88	90	67	36	22	
Sep	75	92	67	28	17	
Oct	70	90	65	28	13	
Nov	66	78	59	26	15	
Dec	65	62	53	18	14	

Longboat Key						
Active Listings, Number of						
Month	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	408	482	400	161	75	173
Feb	432	490	414	127	68	200
Mar	407	490	417	111	76	214
Apr	391	453	394	99	86	197
May	376	426	359	95	97	213
Jun	362	407	337	84	105	189
Jul	331	364	305	89	106	170
Aug	315	305	255	93	101	
Sep	308	307	237	93	101	
Oct	355	357	210	85	114	
Nov	403	374	199	90	132	
Dec	438	374	188	89	152	



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NOW SOLD



LIDO KEY • 159 TAFT DR., #206 **\$2,450,000**
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.

NEW CONSTRUCTION TO BE BUILT



WEST OF TRAIL - HIGHLY DESIRABLE LOCATION **\$8,299,000**
Waterfront location, this custom home is situated on a quiet cul-de-sac steps to Siesta Key. Offering nearly 5,000 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.

CLASSIFIEDS

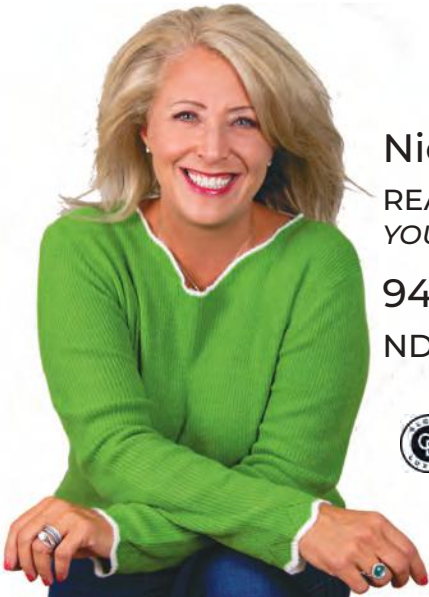
I have a client looking for a unit
at Seaplace, Longboat Key.

IF YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT MAKING
A MOVE, LET'S CHAT.!

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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648 BAYVIEW DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

Boater's dream property on oversized (19,994sf) 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.



\$6,295,000

5910 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

Under Construction. This spectacular, 4,210 sq. ft., newly built 4BR/4.5BA, coastal contemporary waterfront home provides easy access to the Intracoastal Waterway, Sarasota Bay and Gulf of Mexico. Located on a three-quarter acre lot with 133 feet of frontage on a 125-foot-wide canal.



\$2,299,000

793 JUNGLE QUEEN WAY | LONGBOAT KEY

Two-story custom-built, canal-front 4BR/3BA featuring a private rooftop deck. Spacious open floorplan with 22' soaring ceilings. French doors lead to an expansive back porch and screened patio with a pool and spa.



\$1,995,000

1211 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #601 | LONGBOAT KEY

Stunning views of the Gulf of Mexico and Sarasota Bay in this 6th-floor condominium in Promenade. The desirable end unit features 2 bedrooms plus a den, all with full baths, abundant floor-to-ceiling windows and glass sliders to 2 balconies.



\$2,995,000

830 TARAWITT DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

Just three lots to the ICW from this over 2,500 sf, coastal 2015 built home. Living area and kitchen open to the patio and contemporary pool. The privacy of the second level offers two guest bedrooms with full bath, plus an extra lounge.



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JANET WALTER

941.232.2000

Janet@WalterGroupRealEstate.com

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\$1,899,000

BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME

524 HALYARD LANE | LONGBOAT KEY

Country Club Shores - WATERFRONT 100 ft. x 100 ft. buildable lot. Includes 2BR/2BA/1,668 SF home. Perfect location for new construction on 80 ft. wide deep water canal. Close access to Country Club Shores' beach access and the Longboat Key Club. Less than three miles to Saint Armand's Circle. Highly desirable location on north side of 80 ft. canal for southern exposure on pool and outdoor entertaining space. Seller commissioned design of 4,344 SF contemporary home and considers property as lot value. Plans available. Renderings reflect one possible build option; new home not included in the listing.



EditorLetters

Letters, from page 4

believe, to the very high-water temps and salinities in our waters right now. Based on salinity and temps, the highest DO we would expect to encounter is about 4 mg/L. A nighttime drop in DO of 3 mg/L isn't much of a problem if you start off at 5 or 7 or so, but it can cause a fish kill if you start at 4 and drop down to 1 or 2.

Just be on the lookout for a potential spike if the dead fish become more abundant – it's not an epic kill right now, but it's not hard to find dead fish along the causeway right now. And lots of dead blue crabs.

David Tomasko
Executive Director
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

Mangrove Alteration Complaint

To: Florida Department of Environmental Protection Administrator Hannah Westervelt
I would like to file a complaint of mangrove alteration at 6832 Pine St, Longboat Key. A picture is attached.
Thank you!
Brice Claypoole
Sanibel Island

Mangrove Alteration Complaint

To: Brice Claypoole
Thank you, Brice. We will investigate and can keep you updated on our findings.
Hannah Westervelt
Environmental Administrator
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Mangrove Alteration Complaint

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Do we have any color on this?
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Mangrove Alteration Complaint
To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
Thanks for passing along. We did not receive a complaint about this. Code Enforcement
will be following up.
Allen Parsons
Director Planning and Zoning Department
Town of Longboat Key

Staffing question

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
Am curious why Chief Turner wants the police force employment numbers to be at 2008 levels- what is magical about that year and is it really necessary?
Thank you.
Laurel Gilbert Phillips
Longboat Key

Staffing question

To: Laurel Phillips

Commissioner Bishops asked me to respond to your question generated I assume from the newspaper article last week.

What the Chief was referring to was the reduction in staffing that took place that next year (2009/10) as a result of budget cuts due to the recession. Virtually all Town departments lost staff in order to achieve a balanced budget during that historic downturn. I.T., Clerk, Parks, Fire, Police, Public Works, Planning & Zoning, and others are examples of departments receiving staff reductions.

While there is nothing magical about 2008 staffing levels, Town staffing is focused on providing high levels service to meet our “exceptional” service standard. We utilize technology and volunteers where we can however much of our daily interactions are people to people (and our residents appreciate that). The PD used to have 20 positions (2008) and they’re at 19 today. We have needs to patrol more on the water and beaches in addition to our road patrols to address challenges from the growing number of visitors and new mainland residents (about 30,000 to 40,000 more annually between our two counties).

If we were to look at additional PD positions in the future, the discussion would be focused on the best ways to keep our community safe and address the security and safety concerns in our areas that we just don’t have the ability to get to and not just what the staffing was 15 years ago. If you have any other questions, please don’t hesitate to let me know.

Howard Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Staffing question

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Thank you for your reply and for clarifying we currently have 19 paid positions in the Police Department. I think it would be helpful for residents to know what specific needs the Police Department feels are not being addressed with current staffing when discussions veer into staffing increases.
Laurel Gilbert Phillips
Longboat Key

Staffing question

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Guess we're back at 19 again after yesterday's firing. May our next hire be truly "exceptional."
Jim Whitman
Longboat Key

Manatee County Holmes Beach Parking Garage Discussion meeting

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
Topic of the beach parking garage on Holmes Beach has been placed on Manatee County meeting agenda for Monday. Sending you a link to the meeting in the event you would want to watch or provide to your citizens or others. We are sending to ManaSota League members with link below.

<https://agendaonline.mymanatee.org/OnBaseAgendaOnline/Meetings/ViewMeeting?id=423&doctype=1>

Gail Loeffler
Administrative Coordinator
ManaSota League of Cities

Manatee County Holmes Beach Parking Garage Discussion meeting

To: Mike Condensa

See Letters, page 7


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A horizontal banner with a white background. On the left is a portrait of Sandra Smith, a woman with dark hair and bangs, wearing a pink top. To her right, the text 'SECUR-ALL INSURANCE AGENCY' is written in a large, bold, black sans-serif font. Below this text is a thick blue horizontal bar. Underneath the bar, 'Sandra Smith' is written in a black script font, followed by a vertical line and the phone number '941.383.3388' in a bold black sans-serif font. Below the phone number, the address '6350 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL' is written in a smaller black sans-serif font. At the bottom of the banner, the text 'CHUBB, AIG, UNIVERSAL, UNITED, SAFECO, PROGRESSIVE, FRONTLINE, VAULT, FLOOD, WE HAVE YOU COVERED!' is written in a small black sans-serif font.

EditorLetters



Letters, from page 6

This could be one of the worst things to happen just north of us. Be sure Kimber knows about this.

BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Boat Ramp

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown

Here is your timeline of events related to the activity at the 10th Street boat ramp:

In early Fall of 2022, Code Compliance received a complaint from a gentleman who stated that there were lot of water activity businesses clogging the boat ramp. Myra and Diane spoke with him and told him that as long as there's no monetary transaction taking place that they were free to pick up and drop off customers. Shortly thereafter, Kalyn stopped by the boat ramp and she observed many water activity businesses dropping off and picking up customers. She didn't see any monetary transactions taking place.

In late Fall of 2022, Diane received a phone call from Shelia Roberson with Sarasota County Parks & Recreation asking how we were planning to approach the issue of these businesses using public resources. Diane advised her of her discussion of picking up customers being acceptable but monetary and business transactions were not.

Over the course of the last year LBT has received many complaints about businesses operating out of the 10th Street boat ramp and our response has remained the same.

Approximately one month ago, Code Compliance received another call stating that these water activity businesses were operating out of the 10th Street boat ramp. Diane spoke briefly with the gentleman and he was very rude to code staff, including Diane. Diane started looking at Google Maps and found that three companies had pin drops at the 10th Street boat ramp indicating that this was their place of business. Diane called all three and advised them to remove the pin drop and she reiterated with each of them that they could not sign any sort of paperwork or take monetary transactions at the boat ramp. I confirmed with them that they could only pick up and drop off customers. Diane also called and spoke with Shelia Roberson and asked what Sarasota County's approach to this issue has been. She said that they are amending their code to prohibit these companies from operating their business in their parks. She said that they were establishing a \$500 fine for the violation in this ordinance revision. She also stated that on 9/12/23 they would begin a new campaign to "educate, communicate, and seek voluntary compliance" with these businesses. She further stated that beginning 10/6/23 Sarasota County Sheriff's Deputies will be patrolling these areas to enforce.

Approximately two weeks ago, SPD Marine Officers Skinner and Dixon stopped by and stated that they had to address a jet ski business because they were storing their water vessels in the water by the sea wall while waiting for their customers to arrive. The officers advised them that they were not allowed to store or moor any type of vessel at our boat ramp. They typically remove the vessels at the end of their business day. Officers Skinner and Dixon wanted to make us aware of the activity and Diane advised him that she had been talking about the boat ramp issues and I would let them know the plan once she had direction on what to do. They also stated that these businesses are taking up a large part of the parking area and citizens and boaters are very unhappy with the congestion.

I plan on stopping by the boat ramp to check out the activity. I will touch base with my staff and let you know if there is any course of action by us.

Lucia Panica
Development Services Director
City of Sarasota

Follow up

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch

Hope you had a great time in Orlando. Just following up to see if you had any updates.
Steve Martinucci
Sarasota

Follow up

To: Steve Martinucci

Thank Steve, per the speed bumps being repainted, I sent the speed bump repainting information, has it been repainted? Per the chillers, that is more complicated because, as you know, that is school board. I asked the City Manager if the level of noise is in violation of the noise ordinance, and he said he would ask staff to have a look and respond. I have copied him on this email as well. Thanks for the follow up!

Jen Ahearn-Koch
City Commissioner

See Letters, page 11

I'm riding the trail this weekend would you like to go?

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Residents and Businesses regularly serviced on Monday will be serviced the following day.

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





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KeyHealth

The new canaries in our coal mine

The problem is that we don't know really know why insect populations are declining so rapidly.

MATTHEW EDLUND, MD
Guest Writer
edlund@lbknews.com

People hate insects. They bite, snap, sting, and kill. Perhaps the most hated animal on the planet is the mosquito, despised for bringing malaria, dengue fever, sleeping sickness and a host of other fatal and disfiguring diseases. The most frightening sci-fi film monsters from “Alien” to “Starship Troopers” are giant, intelligent insectoids. Whether it’s the ticks bringing Lyme Disease or the vicious black flies of the north woods, lots of us would be happy to see insects gone. The problem is, we might be, too.

Insects are a large part of the animal biomass of our planet. They are crucial to our survival in many ways, particularly as pollinators. People are vaguely aware than pollinating bees, necessary to so many of our crops, have been dying or disappearing in large numbers. They are less aware



than many other insects are pollinators. Without these pollinators, crops don't grow. And they are disappearing, too. A recent study out of northwest Germany from the Krefeld Entomological Society found that in the period of 1989 to 2013, the biomass of insects fell 76%. The Krefeld Entomological Society has been studying, collecting, researching insect populations since 1905. They were surprised when traps set in 1989 in nature reserves – protected areas of woodlands, meadows, forests and marsh generally adjacent to farms and sometimes fallow lands of farms themselves, demonstrated massive declines in biomass populations through 2013. So they checked many sites, 63 all told. They checked them in summer and winter, at expected peak and depressed population times. Insects kill many pests that human despise. And moths, butterflies, and flies may be as important for pollination as bees, whose marked decline is increasingly blamed on the behavior changing effects of neonicotinoid insecticides. The bigger problem is that we don't know really know why insect populations are declining so rapidly.



It's hard to understand what losing three quarters of a population does to the world. So try this experiment: a three quarters population decline in the United States from 1989 to 2014. The decline would not be completely even. Sparsely populated areas like central Nevada might not see the precipitous declines that occur in large cities. But if we were to extrapolate from the insect data, the largest part of the decline would occur in the first 13 years. Imagine your hometown with three quarters of the population gone. Who would be the pediatricians? The hairdressers? Who would teach the few children left? With these kind of population shifts, “downsizing” would not automatically create smaller, functional communities. The basic glue of the economy and society would be gone. The most likely result would be chaos. Indeed, such catastrophic population decreases have only occurred in modern times as the result of near genocidal wars. But even conflicts like WWII did not produce anything like the devastation now going on in animal populations. And humans are very mobile. If areas are still ecologically sustainable, humans move in, often from far afield. Devastated Germany and Russia saw their populations expand following the war. That is not happening with animal populations worldwide. Many species are going extinct, disappearing altogether. So for us, the insects are the canaries in our coal mine. Indeed, canaries are probably suffering – populations of German birds are way down, too. In 1948 there were about 2.5 billion people on Earth. Now there are more than three times as many. Our industrial and food footprints are much longer. Magical thinking won't help us this time. It will be much harder to feed us if the insects are gone.

ISLAND PARADISE!

BAYPORT BEACH & TENNIS CLUB
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LONGBOAT KEY, FL

This rare first floor, end unit boasts over 1,600 square-feet and is meticulously updated in 2022, with gorgeous high-end finishes. Improvements include an all-new Chef's kitchen with new custom cabinets, exquisite quartz countertops, and professional grade stainless steel appliances. The fabulously updated baths include oversized showers, and primary shower with 6 spa like jets. The primary bedroom with en suite includes a huge updated closet and bonus office area. This residence also boasts luxury vinyl floors, recessed LED lighting, and two-panel solid wood doors. An oversized, private patio overlooks a nature preserve and was updated with new pavers. This dream home is move in ready.

2BR/2BA | 1,601 SF

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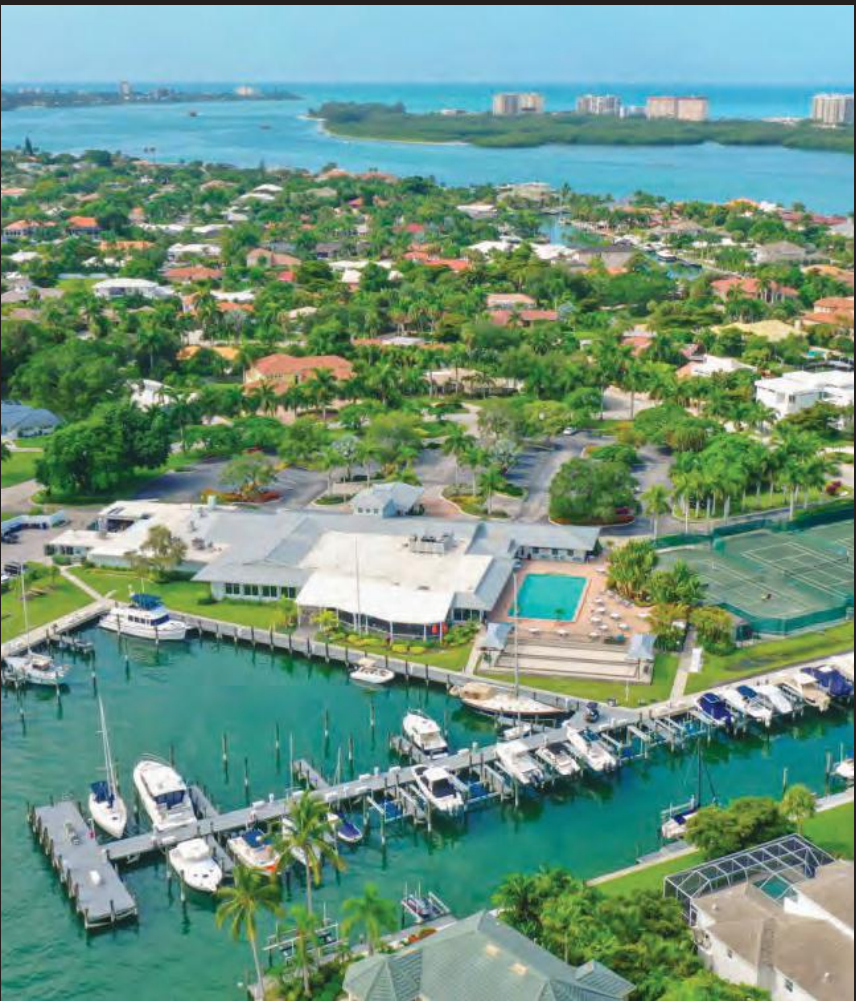
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1744 FORTUNA STREET
BUYER REPRESENTED | \$1,650,000



460 E. ROYAL FLAMINGO DRIVE
BUYER REPRESENTED | \$3,300,000



114 N. WARBLER LANE
SELLER & BUYER REPRESENTED | \$3,100,000

443F John Ringling Blvd | Sarasota, FL 34236



COLDWELL BANKER

OnPatrol

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

Aug. 11 Found property

9:55 a.m.
Officer Zunz responded to Longboat Key Police Department for a resident who was turning in a Florida license tag. She advised she had been riding her bicycle on Broadway early this morning where she discovered the tag beside the curb in front of the restaurant. Officer Zunz contacted the owner to advise the police had recovered the tag. He expressed relief in knowing it had been located and arranged delivery. Case clear.

Suspicious vehicle

10:33 p.m.
Officer Nazareno while on patrol in the 6000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive observed two rental scooters parked at the private parking lot of the marina after hours. As Officer Nazareno ran the tags, two men emerged from the south side of the property and were asked for their driver's licenses. Both men stated they were visiting from out of town and were just admiring the boats for sale at the lot. Both subjects were not carrying any other items such as possible burglary tools or bags FCIC/NCIC checks for wants and warrants were negative. Both men were advised to stop by the business at normal business hours. Case clear.

Aug. 12 Citizen assist

10:56 a.m.
Officer Puccio while in the 2200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive observed a vehicle pull off the side of the road with the driver on her cell phone. Officer Puccio made contact with the driver who said her vehicle would not go into gear and she had AAA en route to take her to the auto repair and didn't require any assistance at this time. Officer Puccio assisted her and had the car move into the grass area so as not to cause a hazard. Case clear.

Boat

1:30 p.m.
Officer Kolodzieski while on patrol was flagged down by a white man on light blue and white boat that had the engine hatch open and was north of Sister Keys. Officer Kolodzieski activated his blue light and approached the vessel. The operator asked if the officer could tow him to the land. Officer Kolodzieski advised he was not able to tow him but could call a towing service. The boater advised he did not want any assistance and would be fine as he was at the sand bar. Officer Kolodzieski stood by as he was calling friends. He asked if they needed water and he said he was fine and a boat at the sandbar was a friend who would be helping him out. Case clear.

Aug. 13 Dog on the beach

Officer Miklos was dispatched to the 6800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a dog on the beach. Sarasota Sheriff's Officer advised that the caller would meet with police if necessary to help locate the man and woman with the dog. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos came into contact with the dog owner who advised he was from Las Vegas and did not realize dogs were not allowed on the beach. The owner and the dog left the beach without incident. The owner was advised that no dogs were allowed on the beach as well as all dogs must be on a leash. Case clear



Agency assistance

7:39 p.m.
Officer Nazareno was dispatched to Lois Avenue for an outside agency assistance call from the Manatee Sherriff's Office Deputy Burgess to attempt to locate a pink purse. The purse was being tracked by the owner using an Apple Tag. The owner arrived in the area at 8:25 p.m. and discovered that the bag's location had changed. The new location was Coquina beach area. Officer Nazareno then drove to the Coquina Beach parking lot area and met with the Bradenton Beach Police Supervisor who assisted to locate the purse. Case clear.

Aug. 14 Citizen assist

9:14 p.m.
Sgt. Montfort responded to the 5100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of a water main break. Sgt. Montfort arrived on scene and observed a large hole with a large amount of water shooting out of the ground behind the apartment. Sgt. Montfort further observed that the water was shooting into a window causing the unit to flood. The caller stated that management and the emergency line were not answering for the complex. Sgt. Montfort requested Longboat Key Fire Rescue to assist. The Fire Department arrived on scene and began digging to locate the break. The Fire Department shut off the water at the street and the residents were advised the water would be shut off for the night. Case clear.

Aug. 16 Suspicious incident

7:08 a.m.
Officer Nazareno was dispatched to Harbourside Drive for a suspicious incident call regarding construction equipment being turned on in the area. The caller advised that the site manager received an online alert that the skid steer at the site was started. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno checked all equipment at the construction site and none of them were running. Officer Nazareno also advised the caller that a thunderstorm was going through Longboat Key during the call. Officer Nazareno observed no suspicious activity and nothing seemed out of place. Case clear.

Hazard in roadway

1:43 p.m.
Officer Miklos while on patrol in the 4000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive, observed a large palm frond blocking both lanes of travel causing vehicles to drive in both bike lanes. Officer Miklos removed the palm frond from the roadway and placed it next to the tree. The traffic returned to normal. Case clear.

Aug. 18 Noise

8:00 a.m.
Officer Connors and Officer Swinford were dispatched to the 2900 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of construction noise. Upon arrival, Officer Connors spoke to the construction foreman who advised that he was unaware of the Town Ordinance pertaining to construction noise. Officer Connors informed him that construction noise is allowed between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Although the complaint was after 8 a.m., a verbal warning was issued to the foreman. Case clear.

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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 7
City of Sarasota

Follow up

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch
Thank you Jen! I just sent you an email about the handicapped residents on Tami Sola St. Maybe you could look at it when you get a chance. Have a great time in Orlando! Thanks again for all of your help!
Steve Martinucci
Sarasota

Follow up

To: Steve Martinucci
I have some information on some of the items we discussed:
the speed bumps will be repainted on 18 August 2023.
They will be painted white as this conforms with the State requirements in the Uniform Traffic Control Devices Manual: “yellow paint is not permitted in lanes”.
Mr. Brown is still working with staff per the Chiller and the sound, I’ll get back to you next week as I am leaving today for a conference in Orlando.
Jen Ahearn-Koch
City Commissioner
City of Sarasota

Feasibility study

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown
See the attachment with the 2007 “new performing arts feasibility study”.
I haven’t read it yet but thought you should have a copy. Maybe there will be useful info, maybe not, but it might serve as a baseline.
Jen Ahearn-Koch
City Commissioner
City of Sarasota

Feasibility study

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch
I believe I have located the study you were looking for (copy attached) which was referenced in the Cultural Park Master Plan.
Please let me know if you need anything further. Thanks!
Lori Rivers

Deputy City Clerk
City of Sarasota

Feasibility study

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown
Thank you Mr. Brown (and staff) for looking into this and clarifying the situation when you can.
Jen Ahearn-Koch
City Commissioner
City of Sarasota

Harvest Tabernacle selling tickets for another rental event

To: Sarasota City Director of Development Services Lucia Panica, General Manager Development Services Myra Schwarz
We have discovered another rental event scheduled for Harvest Tabernacle. They are using the monikers “The Venue@LEC” and “The Harvest” for this non-religious money-making event. This John Denver Tribute concert, through SunEvents, is scheduled for February 24, 2024.
You allowed the April 2023 SunEvents concert because Harvest Tabernacle claimed that a third party (SunEvents) would be financially harmed if they had to cancel their scheduled concert.
My email to SunEvents on April 10, 2023 notified them that Harvest Tabernacle was not permitted to rent their facility for these concerts, per your written direction. SunEvents and Harvest Tabernacle have scheduled this 2024 concert knowing that it is not permitted, and they may believe that the city will allow Harvest Tabernacle to once again ignore the city’s direction.
Attached are snapshots of the advertisements for the February 24, 2024 concert.
We believe that Harvest Tabernacle will continue to ignore the city’s direction until you rescind their conditional use.
Please advise what action the city plans to take on this issue.
David Wright
Chair
Glen Oaks Manor Committee opposing Harvest Tabernacle’s Conditional Use Modification

Harvest Tabernacle selling tickets for another rental event

To: David Wright
Thank you for the additional information and concern. Staff will take appropriate action in as timely a way as warranted and according to process. The conditional use request will be
See Letters, page 12

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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 11

reviewed with any infractions taken into account.
Myra Schwarz
General Manager Development Services
City of Sarasota

Emergency Mats- Salvation Army Sarasota

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Debbie Trice
Good afternoon! I wanted to give you a brief rundown of the changes at The Salvation Army of Sarasota (TSAS). First, it’s important to note that none of these changes effect the Homeless Outreach Team’s Beds that the City leases at TSAS. Our beds remain the same and are still controlled by the City Homeless Outreach Team. Second, TSAS will still be offering shelter on nights where temperatures are below 40 degrees, the need being determined by Sarasota County.
June 1st, 2023, TSAS ceased the use of the emergency shelter mats that cost individuals \$12 a day. They would place these mats on the floor in the cafeteria and the individuals would sleep there. They would then have to be up and leave the property by 430am. They only offered 35 emergency mats a night. TSAS, instead, offers the transitional program. There are 40 beds available in this program. There is no charge for the client and they are able to stay on a mat in a dorm that includes a bathroom, storage for their property, three meals a day and a guaranteed place to sleep each evening. The only qualification for the bed is to work with a case manager provided by TSAS to reach a housing goal. This assists the individual in saving money, case management to assist in finding housing, and assisting with making appointments for other needs. They are finding this to be much more successful than providing a mat for them to sleep on, with a much higher chance of finding permanent housing. If you need more information or would like to sit and discuss this further, I will be more than happy to do so!
Dede Jones
Coordinator of Homeless Response
City of Sarasota

Emergency Mats- Salvation Army Sarasota

To: Sarasota City Coordinator of Homeless Response Dede Jones
Thanks, Dede, for the update. In eliminating the 35 emergency shelter mats, did TSAS reduce their overnight capacity by 35, or have they increased the size of the transitional program somewhat to compensate? They were able to add five beds by starting the transitional program to add additional space for more clients.
I’m pondering the issue of being awakened and back on the street by 4:30 am. A few weeks of sleep deprivation will cause even the most rational person to start “acting out.” So the transitional program beds are clearly an improvement over the emergency mats. But were the emergency mats an improvement over the street? Yes, having to leave so early in the morning did make it more challenging for these individuals to better their circumstances. We have seen a significant decrease in individuals on the street surrounding The Salvation Army. There are several individuals taking full advantage of this new program. There are times that their beds are full. We partner with them to assist in having temporary placement in our beds until one of their beds is available. We have seen only positive impacts in the community since this change was implemented.
I will be supportive of any suggestions you have for increasing availability and/or capacity of day programs.
Debbie Trice
City Commissioner
City of Sarasota

Emergency Mats- Salvation Army Sarasota

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Debbie Trice
Good morning! I answered each question in red text below!
Dede Jones
Coordinator of Homeless Response
City of Sarasota

Emergency Mats- Salvation Army Sarasota

To: Dede Jones
Thank you, Dede! It’s always great to hear about the positive outcomes from coordinated efforts. I will be sure to communicate these improvements when City residents express their concern. (BTW – my initial query was triggered by a resident’s concern about the welfare of our homeless neighbors.)
Debbie Trice
City Commissioner
City of Sarasota

Lower Main

To: Jim Lampl
I appreciate you bringing this ongoing issue on Lower Main Street to my attention per our previous correspondence. Regarding the concern about the gentleman obstructing the pedestrian right-of-way, We have followed up with both Code Compliance and our Homeless Response Team.
Code Compliance has previously spoken to this individual and advised he cannot obstruct or impede pedestrian access and flow. Unfortunately, without proper identification, they are unable to issue a formal notice of violation.
Rest assured this matter has been escalated to our Homeless Response Team to determine next steps. They are working diligently to find a constructive solution that considers the needs of all involved.
Thank you again for your patience we work through this issue. Please don’t hesitate to let me know if you have any other questions or concerns.
Nik Patel
City Engineer
City of Sarasota

Bobby Jones

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Liz Alpert
Can you find out when Bobby Jones GC will reopen. There is no current news on the City website.
Peter Bartys
Sarasota

Bobby Jones

To: Peter Bartys
I hope your day is going well. Thanks for the email. Please see the below Bobby Jones Golf Club update and website (will be updated soon), along with the projected Grand Opening. The City will notify you via email once we finalize the Grand Opening date and time.
Bobby Jones Golf Club Update:
18-Hole Regulation Course (Donald Ross)
All irrigation and drainage installed
Turf on Fairways and Tees is in the grow-in phase
Greens are being grassed
On-course restrooms and driving range building are under construction
Temporary clubhouse/cart storage construction to start soon
Projected opening: Nov. 2023
Gillespie Course (9-hole adjustable)
All irrigation and drainage installed
Course construction and shaping underway
Restroom/starter building construction to start soon
Projected opening: Nov. 2023
Nature Park
Continuous concrete and crushed bank shell trails under construction
Wayfinding signage in the works
Projected opening: Nov. 2023
Bobby Jones Golf Club Website for Updates:
<https://www.bobbyjonesgolfclub.com/construction-updates>
Thanks, and enjoy the rest of your week!
Jerry Fogle
Parks and Recreation Director
City of Sarasota

See Letters, page 14

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Sherry ‘Nef’ Price is a USPTR certified professional. She played at IMG and Division 1 College.
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WineTimes

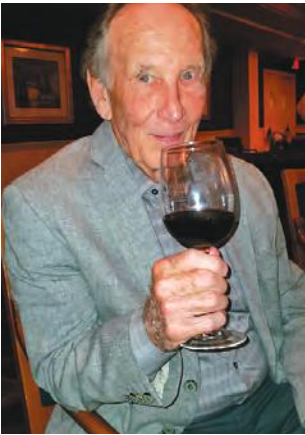
Art, information and marketing share the label

Wine labels have evolved due to marketing and regulatory reasons. Take a few minutes to read a wine label before buying the bottle.

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

Labels on wine bottles (and increasingly on cans and boxes) serve dual purposes. Marketing teams hope to catch the eye of a wine buyer who is scanning a wall of bottles and to entice a person to take the bottle off the shelf to take a closer look.

A small Spanish bull logo on the Sangre de Toro Original Red Blend label makes it easy to spot this Spanish brand of blood red wine from Catalonia. The Kangaroo logo on labels of the mass market Yellowtail wines ties together different varietals in the Australian Yellowtail brand. The drawing of a Stag on the label of Stag's Leap Cabernet from Napa California identifies this iconic wine, whereas the mildly satirical Frog's Leap Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon from Napa identifies a worthy competitor. A stark black and white or colorful label often has a little vignette (the word curiously derived from the French word for "vine") printed over an illustration or on the label on the back of the bottle.



A popular wine bargain, the 2022 La Granja 75% Verdejo, 25% Viura (Macabeo) 360 from Castilla y León in Spain has a label with a colorful painting of a peacock on the front and a cryptic vignette on the back in English and Spanish. A face, especially of a celebrity endorsing the wine, or a distinctive work of art, classic or new, gives a wine an air of familiarity. A photo of Martha Stewart appears on the label of the cheeky 19 Crimes Martha's Chard from California. A 2021 vintage wine bottle that we noticed recently had a label designed to look like one on an old bottle from a cellar, replete with a yellowish fade and a tear across the bottom. Wine bottle labels have emerged as a favorite venue for talented designers and artists.

A second purpose of a label on a wine bottle is to inform potential buyers about key properties of the wine. Federal and state regulations in the USA prescribe inclusion of alcohol by volume (ABV). The description of the wine on the label may indicate the wine region from which the wine comes, or the variety of wine grape, or both. Names of regions (appellations) jealously enforce their own rules for using the names on labels, backed by nations such as France, Italy, Germany, and Spain, and states such as California in the USA and Victoria in Australia. Nations also approve quality standard agreements among wine producers. France initiated its Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée/Protégée (AOP/AOC) during the 1930's. Italy and Spain followed with denomination (DOC) beginning in the 1960's. The USA followed in 1978 with American Viticulture Area (AVA) regulation. Wine labels now specify appellations in some detail where appropriate. A label also specifies the name of a varietal, the estate or vineyard source of wine grapes, or a more general region such as Monterey or California where grapes come from different appellations.

The La Granja Verdejo/Viura label provides much detail, but what it does not specify proves significant as well. In addition to the vignette, it has the vintage on the back label (2022), it has



a photo of a piglet and a note that the brand supports the Farm Sanctuary, the volume of the bottle (750ml), a "contains sulfites" warning (as usual) with a list of sulfites, ABV, and names of the distributor and importer, a vegan product logo, and a barcode. The label does not list an appellation or denomination, as Spanish wines normally do. It has "Vino Varetal de España", implying that it contains grapes sourced from various locations in Spain. Despite the absence of denomination or vineyards information, we recommend this very inexpensive wine as an everyday drinking wine. A similar type of French wine would be a Vin de Pays.

Wine labels have evolved due to marketing and regulatory reasons. Take a few minutes to read a wine label before buying the bottle. What you read may validate your choice or help you make a better informed decision.

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.

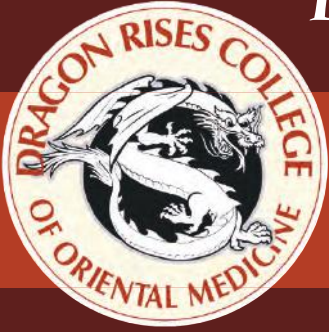
Rich Hermansen selected his first wine list for a restaurant shortly after graduating from college with a degree in Mathematics. He has extensive service and management experience in the food and wine industry. Family and friends rate him as their favorite chef, bartender, and wine steward. He lives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

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NewsWorthy

City hosting three open houses to discuss new mixed-use zoning districts and attainable housing

The City of Sarasota's Planning Department is hosting three open houses to discuss new mixed-use zoning districts and receive public input. The first open house is 5:30-7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 24 at the Selby Public Library, 1331 First Street.

A potential Zoning Text Amendment would create new mixed-use zone districts to incentivize on-site attainable housing along commercial corridors and in commercial centers.

The open houses will begin with a staff presentation, followed by break-out sessions to foster conversation on the following topics:

- **Future Land Use and Zoning**
- **Mixed-Use Zone Districts**
- **Attainable Housing**
- **Design Standards**
- **Transportation**

Future workshops

5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3233, 124 S. Tuttle Ave.

5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27, at the Arlington Park Gymnasium, 2650 Waldemere St.

Questions can be sent to: Communityworkshops@sarasotafl.gov, and additional information can be found by visiting: sarasotafl.gov/attainable-housing-initiative.

Airport traffic still soaring over 2022

The Sarasota Bradenton International Airport continues to see record passenger traffic.

Last month, 323,396 passengers traveled through the airport, a 14 percent increase over July 2022, which saw 283,125 passengers.

Over the past 12 months — July 2022 to July of this year — there were more than 4.18 million passengers, a 12 percent increase over the previous 112-month period, the airport said.

Meanwhile, year-to-date, the airport has seen a 14 percent increase in passenger traffic over the same period in 2022.

This growth builds on 2022's record year for passenger traffic, when more travelers than ever before, about 3.85 million, traveled through the airport.

Last week, a new cell phone lot with paved parking and upgraded restroom facilities opened at the airport.

A new five-gate terminal expansion will be completed by the end of next year, while additional paved parking lots will be finished before the upcoming holiday seating.

Concourse B is also currently being refreshed with additional space for seating, new carpeting, a new companion assist restroom and a new mother's nursing room.

Additional projects breaking ground in the next couple of months including a new ground transportation facility, expansion of the west air carrier apron and expansion of the employee parking lot.

New College of Florida students displaced from dorms due to mold

Some New College of Florida students are being forced to live in hotel rooms after mold was discovered inside dorm rooms.

It has been reported three dorm buildings have mold. An engineering report indicated the dorms were not properly built.

The College said it is renovating the dorms to fix the problem.

Until then, students will stay in the hotels paid for through the school's housing budget.

Ads that work...
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KeyCrossword

Lonely Street

Across

1. Poppy derivative
7. Cheering syllable
10. Folder identifiers
14. One of three Quidditch players
15. Flow's partner
16. Fictional beekeeper
17. Extreme satellite trajectories
20. Kind of gin
21. Brouhaha
22. Curses
23. Smut, of a sort
26. Adam's donation
28. OSS successor
31. Sun Tzu's guide to strategy
37. Lace enders
39. Stand over
40. Plagues
41. Satum or Mercury
42. Riyadh resident
43. Pepsi's Mug
46. Nicaraguan President Daniel
48. "Listen Up!"
50. German article
51. What you need for a hand out?
52. Cher, e.g.
54. Accidental misspellings
58. Wetland
60. Aura, perhaps
64. 1956 Elvis hit, and a hint to the puzzle's theme
68. "Duke of ____"
69. With 24 Down, Cooperstown Giant
70. Masks
71. Kong co-star
72. Director Craven
73. Prescribe valium for

Down

1. See 2 Down
2. With 1 Down, "Draft Dodger Rag" singer
3. Othello's bane
4. Pyre product
5. Where one might await the driver
6. Big time
7. No longer an empl.
8. Despised
9. TMC rival
10. Big brass
11. Landed
12. ____ Israel
13. Meeting of the H.R.
18. If it's going, it's not fixed
19. Automoton
24. See 69 Across
25. Stunned reactions
27. "____ My Party..."
28. Kind of terrier
29. White house?
30. Permit
32. Cut short
33. Campus greeks, informally
34. Hyper
35. Words from the wives?
36. Concrete strengthener
38. Neh. follower
41. Antiseptic
44. King Kong, e.g.
45. Musical sense
46. Furnace fuel
47. They're usually right in front of U
49. Mandlikova of tennis
53. Not quite circular
54. A barbarian's may be brawny
55. Class designation
56. Legal beginning
57. Paris airport
59. Sniggler's targets
61. "____ Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood"
62. Exemplar of redness
63. Otherwise
65. X5 manufacturer
66. Metric weights
67. Ivory or jade

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Sarasota City News

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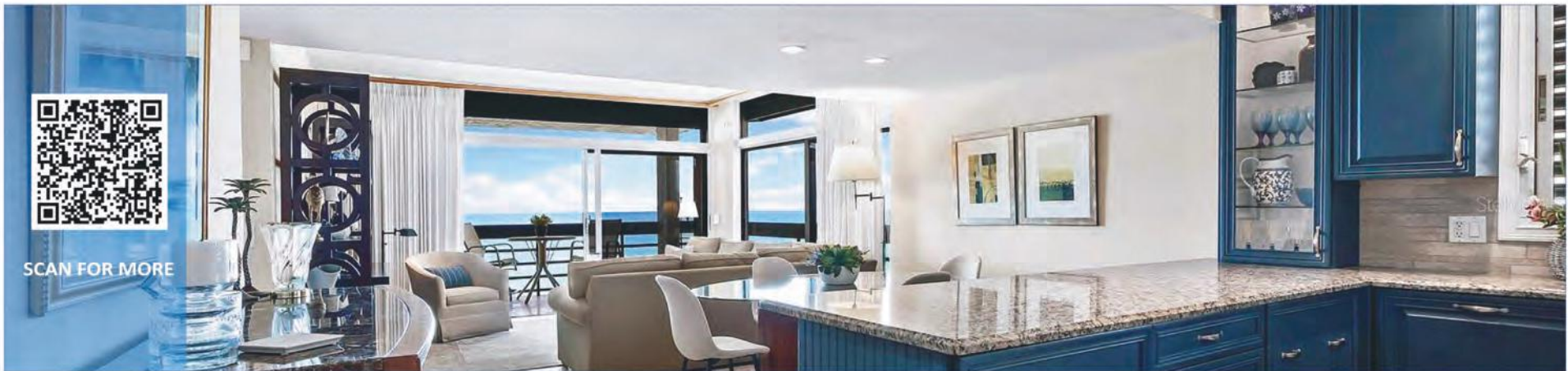


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