



Longboat Key News

May 2, 2025

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InsideLook



Bird Key sells at \$4 million ...page 13



Trio of island turtles nest early in 2025

It has become an exciting ritual on Longboat Key and all along the Gulf Coast – the start of turtle nesting season.

The turtles wander to the dunes at night to nest and turtle patrol workers document the activity by day.

This year, a trio of turtles nested a tad early in advance of the official May 1 start of the nesting season.

On April 26, Marine Laboratory said its Sea Turtle Conservation and Research Program (STCRP) Sea Turtle Patrol reported three loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) sea turtle nests — one each on Longboat Key, Siesta Key, and Casey Key.

These early nests mark the start of an important and exciting time for sea turtle conservation along local beaches.

The individuals of the Sea Turtle Patrol are at the heart of STCRP’s conservation mission. Comprising STCRP staff, interns, and more than 300 volunteers, the Patrol began its annual monitoring efforts on April 15, two weeks before the technical start of sea turtle nesting season.

“Even though sea turtle nesting season isn’t officially supposed to start until May 1, we begin patrolling early to ensure we catch the first signs of nesting on our beaches,” said Melissa Macksey, Senior Biologist and Data Manager of STCRP.



See First Crawl, page 2

Sarasota police save man from jumping off Ringling Bridge

Sarasota Police officers were able to rescue a man threatening to jump off the Ringling Bridge last week.

On the night of April 28, officers responded to a call about a man in crisis on the bridge. Officers discovered the man had a rope and chain around his neck and was standing on the outside of the bridge railing.

Over the course of the night, members Crisis Negotiation Team talked to the man, offering support and attempting to safely defuse the situation. Traffic on the bridge was closed while the drama unfolded.

Shortly after 6:30 a.m. April 29, while officers were still talking to the man, the opportunity presented itself, and officers quickly acted—reaching out and grabbing him and pulling him back over the railing to safety.

“This incident highlights the importance of continued training and preparation for crisis intervention, as well as the strength of human connection and compassion,” said Chief Rex Troche. “Our officers are committed to protecting lives—not just through enforcement, but through understanding and support.”

Horse with Sarasota pedigree takes a run for the roses




A significant number of horses running the Kentucky Derby this Saturday have ties to Florida. The vast majority, including favorite Journalism (3-1), were trained in the Sunshine State.

One of those horses also has ties to the Suncoast.


Flying Mohawk is co-owned by former Major League Baseball star Jayson Werth and MLB Agent Jeff Berry. The 3-year-old colt is repre-

See Horse, page 2

Culinary joy on Nag’s Head ...page 12



Longboat and the roundabout ...page 8



Sizzling dress brings response ...page 10

Woman win narrowly in Battle of the Sexes Golf Tourney



It was a true battle of the sexes, and whether the team comprised of members of the Longboat Key women’s Golf Association or the Men would win hinged on the very last team to finish at the event last week. In fact, most of the golfers were drinking margaritas and eating Mexican food in front of the Harbourside clubhouse as the final team walked up to Longboat Key Club Golf Director Terry O’Hara and revealed that the women had won.

The battle of the sexes competition has a storied history. Both men and women at the event said there had been previous contests, but no one knows who really won and the trophy had disappeared. So in many ways this 2025 contest marks the first of what they hope will be many in years to come. The trophy will remain in the Women’s Clubhouse until next year when the Men can try and claim the prize. Shown is Captain of the Women’s Team Margaret Lachmann holding the winning trophy with Men’s Captain David Gallagher on her right and Terry O’Hara on her left.

Horse, from page 1

sented by Two Eight Racing in Bradenton, while Werth lives in Sarasota.
But being the Kentucky Derby, Flying Mohawk is receiving training from the best of the best at Churchill Downs.
Flying Mohawk has only raced six times, and he has never raced on a dirt track before. All three races that comprise the Triple Crown are on dirt.
In the number 11 spot, Flying Mohawk's odds are (30-1).

Sarasota Police Officer Jumps Onto Runaway Boat In High-Speed Water Rescue

A Sarasota police officer heroically jumped onto a runaway boat circling at high speed after its operator was ejected, bringing it to a safe stop in a dramatic rescue caught on video.
According to Sarasota Police, the incident happened near the Ringling Museum after the operator of a 26-foot Everglades vessel was thrown overboard.
The man told officers he had been returning the boat following the Marina Jack Boat Show when another, larger vessel cut him off.
The sudden wake allegedly caused him to lose balance and fall into the water.
He was not wearing a life jacket and had not used the boat's emergency engine cut-off switch, leaving the vessel to spin out of control at roughly 40 mph.
Multiple agencies, including the Coast Guard, Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, Venice Police, and SeaTow, attempted to disable the unmanned boat.
Initial tow line efforts failed until a plasma tow line managed to slow it slightly.
That's when Sarasota Marine Patrol Officer Ron Dixon carefully approached the vessel, allowing Lt. Bruce King to leap aboard and shut off the engine before anyone was injured.
The boater, who suffered two broken fingers, narrowly avoided being hit by his own boat, which passed within five feet of him while he was in the water.
No vessels were damaged during the incident.

First Crawl, from page 1

From April 15 through October 31, the Sea Turtle Patrol conducts daily surveys of 35 miles of nesting beaches, from Longboat Key to Venice. Each morning, they scan the sand for signs of nesting activity and document each nest.
Loggerhead sea turtles are a threatened species protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. They are the most commonly observed nesting species in this region, followed by endangered green sea turtles.
In recent years, Sarasota County has also occasionally hosted nests from Kemp's ridleys and leatherback turtles.
Throughout the nesting season, STCRP staff and volunteers collect detailed data on nesting activity to track long-term trends and assess critical aspects of sea turtle ecology. These include phenological shifts (changes in the timing of nesting), nest density, hatching and emergence success, nest site selection, and the influence of environmental conditions.
As in past years, each nest is marked with yellow stakes and flagging tape to prevent disturbances while data collection continues.
Mote's monitoring has shown rising nest numbers along local beaches. In 2024, Mote documented nearly 4,400 nests from Longboat Key to Venice.
To follow along throughout the season, the public can view weekly sea turtle nesting updates at www.mote.org/nesting.
If you see a sick, injured, or stranded sea turtle, dolphin, or whale in Sarasota or Manatee county waters, contact Mote Marine Laboratory's Stranding Investigations Program at 888-345-2335. Outside of Sarasota or Manatee counties, please call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) at 888-404-FWCC (3922).
• Approximately 300 volunteers assist Mote's team of biologists and interns with daily monitoring of beaches.
• 35 miles of beaches are monitored from Longboat Key through Venice.
• 2025 is the 44th year of monitoring by Mote.
• In 2024, Mote documented nearly 4,400 nests.
• The top three years for the number of sea turtle nests in the Sarasota region have occurred in the last 5 years.



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129 TAFT DRIVE #W102 | SARASOTA
\$2,350,000 - Park Res of Lido Key
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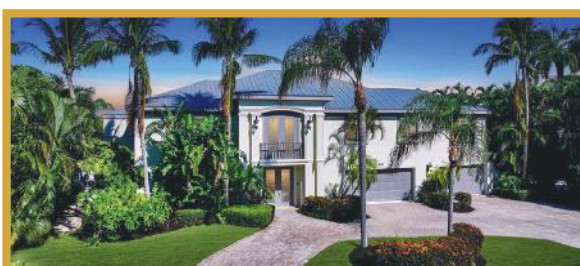
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EditorLetters

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.

Policy change for the illumination of the Ringling Bridge

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin

My name is Mark Spiegel. We briefly spoke at the Tiger Bay meeting today. I want to follow-up with you regarding the FDOT’s recent policy change concerning the illumination of the Ringling Bridge. Below you will find a copy of the petition that has been circulating throughout the city. Thus far we have over 330 signatures with comments. I would be happy to include you on the distribution list to receive the weekly report of the comments made regarding this concern. There are quite a number of residents of Longboat key who have participated by making comments on this petition. As you may or may not be aware, our request is not to restart the program that allows organizations and causes to commemorate using their particular color scheme. What we are asking for is that the FDOT allow the bridge’s daily default illumination to go back to the professionally designed Aqua Blue color that everyone liked and appreciated. The color that was designed specifically to enhance the architecture and the environment of the bridge. The color that has been iconic to the character of the city for all its residents and guests that visit Sarasota and its islands. The Red, White and Blue should be reserved for the appropriate National holidays.

I have had a productive conversation with Mr. L K Nandam, District 1 Director FDOT. He expressed his understanding and willingness to consider this request by somehow fitting it into the State policy. He seemed to indicate that city officials might enhance the sway to get this request through. It would be extremely helpful, if you concur with this request, for Mr. Nandam to receive a call from you. I have had a few conversations with the Mayor Alpert, who has stated she agrees with the petition. She indicated to me that she also would be calling Mr. Nandam about this request.

As a representative of Longboat Key, your calling Mr. Nandam on the matter will certainly make a big impression and hopefully enhance the possibility of having this change instituted. I am happy to discuss this further with you and welcome the opportunity to schedule a call or meeting with you.

Mark Spiegel
Longboat Key

Reinstate Ringling Bridge Lighting

To: Florida Department of Transportation L.K. Nandam

The John Ringling Causeway Bridge is more than just a structure to convey traffic from one side of Sarasota Bay to the other. It is an architectural landmark that defines the beauty and identity of Sarasota. The original Aqua Blue lighting is a specifically customized color that was intentionally developed by local lighting designers to compliment the bridge’s aesthetics, enhance the surrounding coastal environment and maintain the serene and sophisticated ambience that makes Sarasota unique.

Recently, the default lighting has been changed to Red, White and Blue, a color scheme that, while patriotic, does not align with the bridge’s architectural design features, intended aesthetics, or Sarasota’s distinctive character. While we fully support the use of special colors for national holidays, we believe the default lighting should remain true to its original artistic intent.

We also believe that by using the Red, White and Blue illumination as a daily feature, diminishes the specialness of our patriotic national holidays when the Red White and Blue stands out as a noticeable special event.

Our request

We respectfully ask the Florida Department of Transportation and the City of Sarasota to:

1. Reinstate Aqua Blue as the default lighting color for the Ringling Bridge.

2. Continue to allow temporary color changes for special occasions such as national holidays.

By restoring the Aqua Blue lighting, Sarasota can preserve the beauty of its skyline, uphold the artistic vision behind the bridge’s design and maintain the charm that residents and visitors have cherished for years.

We urge the FDOT and City officials to take action and honor the architectural integrity of one of Sarasota’s most iconic landmarks. What do you think?

Longboat Key residents

Request for One-Time Financial Support for the Longboat Key Chamber of Commerce

To: Longboat Key Commission

On behalf of the Longboat Key Chamber of Commerce, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for your continued support of our organization and our shared commitment to the vitality and resilience of the Longboat Key community. As you are aware, the impact of Hurricanes Helene and Milton in 2024 created unprecedented challenges for our local businesses. In response, the Chamber placed a temporary moratorium on the collection of membership dues, recognizing that many of our members were focusing on recovery. While necessary, this decision affected our operational funding. The Chamber is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving Longboat Key and the surrounding region through business promotion, educational programming, visitor services, economic development, and community engagement. After the hurricanes, we shifted our role out of necessity to include resource coordination, advocacy, and direct support for our business community. We organized events to generate foot traffic, offered increased networking opportunities, and worked closely with state and regional partners to connect businesses with disaster relief programs. The proposed one-time contribution of \$10,000, which would be in addition to the Town’s annual Corporate Sponsorship of \$7,500, would assist the Chamber in maintaining essential services as our businesses continue to stabilize. Specifically, these funds would be used to:

Offset revenue loss from under-attended events following the storms. Event attendance has consistently been reduced over the past year, and our events are a major part of the Chamber’s operating budget. Deliver events and marketing that drive economic activity and benefit local businesses and tourism. Rebuild our membership base – through enhanced outreach, communications, and support to encourage former members impacted by hurricanes to return and prospective members to join. Sustain visitor services – including in-person and digital guidance to travelers and potential residents that drive commerce throughout the island. As the primary link between the Town’s business community and its visitors, the Chamber plays a vital role in driving tourism, supporting economic recovery, and enhancing the overall experience of those who live, work, and vacation on Longboat Key. We remain fully committed to serving as a reliable partner to the Town and its residents. We are working diligently to restore revenue through memberships, sponsorships, and events. This one-time support would greatly assist us in bridging the current gap and preserving our ability to continue to serve the Longboat Key community. We thank you for your partnership and thoughtful consideration of this funding. Your support at this time would have a meaningful impact on our efforts and the future strength of our island’s business community.

Kim Verreault
President/CEO
Longboat Key Chamber of Commerce

See Letters, page 6

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Letters, from page 4

Understanding Compensation for Local Elected Officials

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

This month, we're excited to share our latest research brief on local policymakers' compensation. Based on a nationally representative survey of 408 local elected leaders serving municipalities, townships, and counties across the United States, this brief highlights the part-time and voluntary nature that many of these positions take.

Our analysis focuses on the types of positions local officials hold, including whether they are

salaried, receive a stipend, or serve without compensation. It also explores how these patterns vary by the size of the community, providing important context about the structure of local public service. As always, thanks to all the government officials and staff for taking our surveys. We truly appreciate you making the time to support our efforts to fill the gap in publicly available research on local and state government.

Nathan Lee
Founder and Managing Director
Civic Pulse

May 2025 Town Manager Brief is Here

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle

None of our residents were at the Hurricane Conference so be sure they see the Hurricane Briefing by Paul Dezzi on the Monthly Update. It is particularly critical that people know how to secure boats correctly and to get all their outdoor stuff put away, especially if they travel. Also, Electric vehicles and battery pack equipment must be out of the way of water. We had several fires last year on island because of EVs.

BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

SB184

To: Florida Senator Joe Gruters

SB184 is a bill relating to Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). House sponsor Conerly filed an amendment (Amendment Barcode 6937) that removes the one-month rental restriction.

Please reject the House's amendment to SB184 when the Bill returns to the Senate for consideration. This amendment allows these ADU's to become party houses and takes these units away from individuals looking for long term housing as new employees of business in Sarasota and Manatee Counties. I hear from local business owners that they have lost talented potential staff due to the number of properties that have become AirBnBs and other short term rentals making it impossible to find housing. We also still have residents in both Counties in need of long term rentals who lost their homes or had significant damage to homes from last year's hurricanes - some have stayed with families and friends, but that becomes more challenging with time. I know on my street 13 homes being rebuilt will be a two year rebuild (including mine). Thank you for your support.

BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Suncoast Waterkeeper Weekly Review

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

On April 22 last week, the enterococci survey was carried out during a high tide between 1.3 to 1.4 feet. There was thick wrack observed on the shore at The Bay Park, Sarasota Sailing Squadron, and Longboat Key Bayfront Park. Horses were approximately 150 feet away from the sampling area during sample collection.

See Letters, page 8

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Letters, from page 6

The results for sites sampled in Manatee County are as follows:

- Longboat Key Bayfront Park (bay side): 108 #/100 mL
- Town of Longboat Key Boat Ramp: Undetected
- Herb Dolan Park: Undetected
- Palma Sola Causeway North: 591 #/100 mL
- Braden River: 10 #/100 mL
- Palmetto Bridge: 20 #/100 mL
- Emerson Point: 10 #/100 mL
- Terra Ceia Bay: 31 #/100 mL

Any count exceeding 71 is considered unsafe for swimming, indicating a potential health concern. The standard for enterococci in Class II and Class III Marine waters is “MPN or MF counts shall not exceed a monthly geometric mean of 35 nor exceed the Ten Percent Threshold Value (TPTV) of 130 in 10% or more of the samples during any 30-day period. Monthly geometric means shall be based on a minimum of 10 samples taken over a 30-day period,” (62-302.500 F.A.C.). The two Longboat Key sites are located in Class II waters (<https://geodata.dep.state.fl.us/datasets/FDEP::surface-water-class-boundaries-areas/explore?location=27.336358%2C-82.433979%2C10.00>)

We are committed to bringing these critical issues to your attention and believe your active involvement is crucial. The official reports for this week’s sampling activities, courtesy of Benchmark Enviroanalytical, are attached to this email. We want to encourage you to direct all questions, suggestions for additional analysis, and feedback to Dr. Abbey Tyrna at Executivedirector@suncoastwaterkeeper.org and Pia Ronquillo-See at waterquality@suncoast-waterkeeper.org. Your input is invaluable in our collective efforts to address these water quality issues.

2024 Year-End Analysis

We analyzed our enterococci data from January to December 2024 using the Florida Department of Health’s Water Quality Categories for Healthy Beaches and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Surface Water Quality Standards. Suncoast Waterkeeper applies the stricter Healthy Beaches criteria to determine whether areas are safe for swimming. Specifically, water quality results in the “Good” and “Moderate” categories are deemed “swimmable.” The percentage of swimmable weeks over the past year was calculated based on weekly enterococci results at our 11 monitored sites. We also examined and discussed trends, seasonal changes, and the impacts of unprecedented weather events on the number of swimmable weeks throughout 2024.

Additionally, we evaluated the enterococci results against the Ten Percent Threshold Value (TPTV) of 130 MPN per 100 milliliters of water, as specified in Chapter 62-302 of the Florida Administrative Code for Class II and Class III water categories. The TPTV is clearly defined in the Florida State Statutes (62-303.320 and 62-303.420) and is determined using confidence intervals of a binomial distribution.

We hope this year-end analysis benefits you; you can view and share our story map here: 2024 Review: Fecal Indicator Bacteria on the Suncoast. As always, please reach out with any questions, comments, suggestions, or concerns.

Suncoast Waterkeeper

GMD/Broadway Roundabout

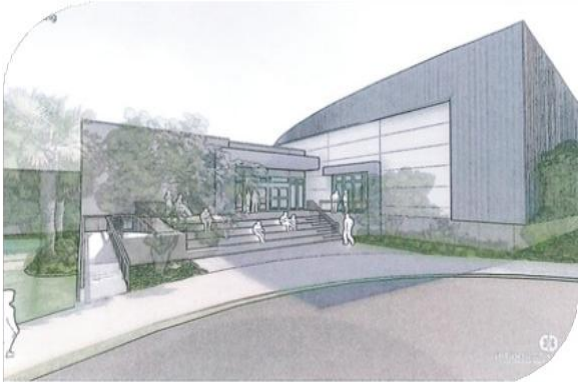
To: Longboat Key Commission
Town Manager Tip Tipton, Asst Town Manager Isaac Brownman, Public Works Director Charlie Mopps, and Public Works Project Lead Jennifer Fehrs
Regarding: GMD/Broadway Roundabout Commission Open House Meeting on May 1, 2025

The undersigned are in support of the GMD/Broadway roundabout for the following reasons:

1. Pedestrian crossing safety – The GMD/Broadway intersection is most likely the highest pedestrian trafficked intersection on Longboat Key - while at the same time, is probably the most unsafe. It is unsafe due to:
 - a) the limited sight lines due to GMD curvatures both north and south of Broadway for west bound pedestrians.
 - b) the 6 lanes that are needed to cross (bike lane, Broadway turn lane, north bound travel lane, middle turn lane, south bound travel lane, bike lane). The distance across GMD is more than that of a four-lane highway.
 - c) the uphill slope when going west.As one crosses GMD going west, often holding a beach chair or grandchild’s hand, a car that you weren’t able to initially see is now barreling down on you as you get into the 4th car lane. When crossing GMD east bound, it is easier (sight lines are better and going downhill) but often cars enter the Broadway turn lane by the time you are able to get there. Please note that many drivers are very courteous and slow down, or even stop, to allow pedestrian crossings. But that is often not the case: trucks and cars speed through the area creating a very unsafe passage for pedestrians and Broadway drivers alike.
- A roundabout will provide four half-way safety refuge medians and crosswalks making GMD crossing much safer and easier, while also slowing traffic.
- 2) Turning left onto GMD safety - Often there is constant north and south bound GMD traffic that impedes GMD access from Broadway when coming from the east. There are over 2000 cars per day on Broadway east of GMD. Turning left is often very difficult as one needs a traffic gap in both GMD directions, the sight lines are extremely limited, and the interior of the car significantly blocks the required backward view. Often drivers are almost forced to turn left into the middle turn lane and then subsequently merge with the south (or north) bound traffic - but sometimes a car will enter the turn lane from the other direction! It is much easier to gain GMD access when coming from the west side since the sight lines are much better.
- A roundabout will make GMD access much easier and less hazardous as one can gain roundabout access while dealing with GMD traffic from just one direction only, be on the roundabout, then deal with GMD traffic from the other direction.
- 3) Aesthetics - A roundabout would be a great looking entrance to our great looking town.
- The need for a safer intersection has increased over the last ten years as the area has become more congested with increased businesses coupled with Longboat Key’s busiest public beach access. The costs for this roundabout seem to have escalated, but the roundabout would provide a much safer intersection and result in the completion of 1900 feet of the planned

See Letters, page 12

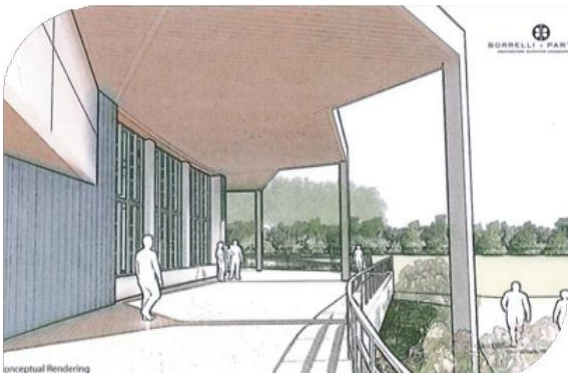
LONGBOAT KEY
TOWN CENTER GREEN



In partnership with Sarasota County, Longboat Key is building its first-ever Community Hall. This indoor-outdoor space will host meetings, classes, and events while also serving as a resiliency hub to provide our island with support and services in times of emergency.

A Dream Realized

We’re thrilled to announce that, with the support of our generous community, we have pledged \$2.65 million toward our goal of raising \$3.5 million for the new Community Hall—more than 75% of the way there! Together, Longboat’s friends, neighbors, businesses and institutions will fund a gathering place to benefit everyone, with seating for up to 200 people and a broad, welcoming terrace connecting to the park. The Hall takes its place under the same roof as our new public library, which is funded entirely by Sarasota County. This beautifully designed building is set to open its doors in 2027, from which point the County will invest \$1 million per year to fund its entire scope of operations



Become a Supporter

Be part of the wave of generosity that creates this crowning addition to our Town Center Green. This is a first for Longboat Key: a community-wide call to action that will culminate in a much-needed Town amenity built by all of us, for all of us. Contact Town Manager Howard Tipton (h tipton@longboatkey.org or 941-316-1999) to learn more. Longboat Key's motto, “Premier Community, Exceptional Service,” is about to take on a whole new meaning. Please choose the level of support that works for you and join this groundbreaking campaign to Complete the Green!



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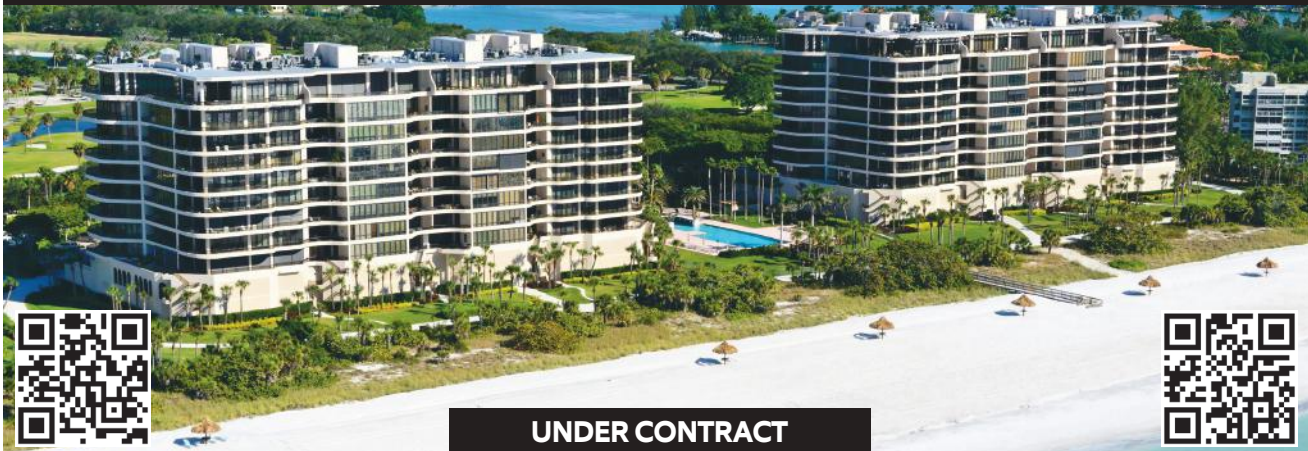
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521WedgeLn.com

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InnOnTheBeach4201.com

230 Sands Point Rd #3501
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InnOnTheBeach3501.com

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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.

April 25

Boat

8:45 a.m.

Officer Pescuma was dispatched to the 4100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a suspicious boat tied to the docks. Upon arrival, Officer Pescuma met with the Homeowner's Association Director who stated that the vessel drug anchor overnight and the owner of the vessel tied off to the dock. Officer Pescuma observed the boat to be 40 foot cabin cruiser. Officer Pescuma made contact with the vessel owner who stated that he drug the anchor and plans on lighting off his generators shortly to charge the vessel's batteries and get back underway to reset his anchor. The man was satisfied with that plan of action. The marine unit was advised. Case clear.



Animal

4:59 p.m.

Officer Pescuma was dispatched to the 5300 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a cormorant tangled up in fishing line sitting on the pier. Upon arriving on scene, Officer Pescuma observed a bird on the pier with fishing line wrapped around its body. Officer Pescuma was able to remove the fishing line with a boat hook. The bird then flew away without incident. Case clear.

April 26

Suspicious

2:22 a.m.

Sgt. Montfort while on patrol, observed a man sitting under the gazebo in the parking lot of the Publix property. Sgt. Montfort made contact with the man who appeared to be in his late 60s with several pieces of luggage and back pack. The man stated he was moving out of his apartment at Sea Place due to not renewing his lease. Moreover, the man stated he was waiting to be picked up by his girlfriend who was traveling from the Tampa area. The man did not wish to provide his pedigree information. Case clear.

Rescue

8:45 p.m.

Officer Ericsson was dispatched to Harbourside Drive on a rescue assist involving a burn victim. Upon arrival, Officer Ericsson contacted Longboat Key Fire Department who was on scene. The Fire Department advised an individual attending a wedding at the establishment got too close to a candle which ignited her dress. The individual's dress caught fire, which caused injury requiring immediate medical attention. There was a second victim that sustained minor burns. Both individuals were transported to Sarasota Memorial. The Fire Department advised that the police department was not needed. Case clear.

April 27

Traffic

12:35 a.m.

Officer Mathis responded to the 400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive operating a speed laser. At this point in time, Officer Mathis observed that the vehicle was a white Honda Accord travelling 50 mph in a 35 mph zone. As the speeding vehicle passed Officer Mathis, he observed that the vehicle was speeding in a construction zone, Officer Mathis asked the driver for his driver's license, registration and insurance for the vehicle. The driver explained that he did not have a license but he was trying to get to work at the St. Regis. Officer Mathis then returned his patrol unit and ran the driver's information through ELVIS which returned the driver's which returned the driver was in fact, unlicensed. The driver was cited for speeding and processed roadside for driving while unlicensed. The driver was cited for speeding and processed roadside for driving while unlicensed. The driver provided his signature and right thumb print on the court copy of the citation. The driver also provided their cell phone number. Case clear by noncustodial arrest.

Citizen assist

1:11 p.m.

Officer Troyer while on patrol, was flagged down by a man at the restaurant. The man informed the officer about a boat that crashed into the restaurant's dock and was currently parked off the shoreline and did not have any contact information. The man did not believe any criminal activity but wanted boat contact information. The man did not believe any criminal activity occurred, but wanted contact information so the dock could be repaired. The man pointed to the bot and identified the boat as the involved vessel. Officer Troyer made contact with the boat and asked the operator if he crashed into a dock at the shore which he did. The operator was identified. The man said

when he was unloading passengers, he throttled too much, but did not believe he caused any scratches to his vessel though. The man said he had every intention of giving his information to the Shore, however, he was out of fuel and would return when the towboat assisted him. Officer Troyer provided the information related to the other man to which the complainant was satisfied and would handle the issue civilly. Officer Troyer also told the man to contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission to report a boat crash, if they wished to self report a boat crash. The other man was thankful for the assistance. Case clear.

April 28

Animal

8:21 a.m.

Officer Maple was dispatched to North Shore Road for an animal control problem. Upon arrival, Officer Maple met with the complainant who reported that she had seen a black duck that appeared to be injured laying by the side of the road. However, prior to Officer Maple's arrival, the black injured duck was to fly away successfully. Dispatch attempted to reach Florida Wildlife Control for an officer to assist with negative results. Case clear.

Incident

1:11 p.m.

Officer Nazareno was dispatched to Harbor Point Road for suspicious incident call regarding a TECO employee who rang the doorbell and told the homeowner that he had a work order for that address. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno made contact with the TECO employee at Harbor Cove Circle which was a block away. The TECO employee stated that he initially went to the wrong address at Harbor Point Road and realized it when he checked the work order. Officer Nazareno also made contact with the caller on her cell phone and verified the same information.

April 29

Disturbance

7:45 p.m.

Officer Miklos and Officer Tillman were dispatched to the 4600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a disturbance. Upon arrival, Officer Tillman came into contact with the complainant who stated she observed a white Lexus parked on private property. The complainant stated she called and texted the number she found on a business card inside the dashboard for a limousines. The complainant advised the unknown man responded via text message calling her profanities. The complainant stated the man returned to the vehicle and a verbal argument continued. The man left with the white Lexus, however, the complainant did not get a license plate number. At that time, the complainant advised it was strictly verbal and no threats or criminal activity occurred. The complainant was shown how to block the number. Case clear.

April 30

Citizen assist

7:36 p.m.

Officer Troyer was dispatched to Sands Point Road in reference to a signal four which was later changed to signal 67. Upon arrival, Officer Troyer met with the complainant who stated the driver of the gray Porsche ran a stop sign and hit the business' golf cart. There was no damage, so they exchanged information and the other driver left the scene. Officer Troyer provided the complainant with information and the other driver left the scene. Officer Troyer provided the complainant with information regarding self-reporting crashes and informed him they could handle the issue civilly if they so choose as this was private property. The complainant was thankful for the assistance. Case clear.

Suspicious

1:04 a.m.

Officer Troyer while on patrol observed a brown Kia Soul parked in the middle of the parking lot. Officer Troyer observed a man walking down the stairs from the church. Officer Troyer asked the man what he was doing as the church was closing. The man said he was driving from Bradenton to Sarasota and made a pit stop because he was feeling sad. The man felt he wanted to play music, so he facetimed his friend and played his guitar on the back steps to the church. The man was also holding a guitar. Officer Troyer asked the man if he was an employee of if he had permission to be at the church, to which he denied. Officer Troyer cleared the man for any wants or warrants through NCIC/FCIC, and the man was cleared. Officer Troyer asked the man if he went inside to which he denied. Officer Troyer checked the outer perimeter of where he located the man and did not observe any signs of forced entry or criminal acts. Officer Troyer told the man he needed to leave, to which he complied. Case clear.

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551 S POLK DR	2,565	\$3,749,000	3	2	1	21	\$3,400,000
1800 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#A1003	1,350	\$1,495,000	2	2	0	50	\$1,400,000
845 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#202	756	\$410,000	1	1	0	238	\$365,000
608 BAYVIEW DR	3,199	\$3,590,000	3	4	0	20	\$3,450,000
601 WESTON POINTE CT	5,010	\$3,500,000	4	4	1	8	\$3,100,000
1281 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#703	3,054	\$2,650,000	2	4	0	45	\$2,650,000
4561 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#301	3,260	\$2,500,000	3	4	0	0	\$2,500,000
240 SANDS POINT RD Unit#4507	1,619	\$2,400,000	2	2	0	267	\$2,300,000
1211 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#108	1,827	\$1,299,000	2	2	0	87	\$1,100,000
2129 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#901	2,219	\$1,095,000	3	2	1	52	\$1,010,000
3360 BAYOU	1,922	\$1,299,500	2	2	0	5	\$1,000,000
3460 WINDING OAKS DR Unit#38	2,608	\$900,000	3	3	1	0	\$900,000
4485 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#403	1,022	\$799,900	2	2	0	155	\$719,000
709 BAYPORT WAY Unit#709	1,400	\$599,000	2	2	0	308	\$530,000
1975 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#G4-306	933	\$549,000	2	2	0	61	\$515,000



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Jeff@jeffrhineland.com



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BIRD KEY

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 8

GMD ‘complete streets’ project. Thank you for considering this input.

Mark Barber
Melanie Barber
Carol Clark
Dave Day
Kimberly Bennett
Robert Bennett
Don Fancher
Larry Kanarek
Winnie Nelon
Jill Nemeth
Joe Nemeth
Carla Rowan
Pete Rowan
Longboat Key

Sovereign Immunity

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
Yes, I think you’re right on working with Rep. McFarland earlier if she’s going to take another swing at it. Sounds likely that the two chambers will not reach agreement anytime soon. As you know, legislation can be held hostage during this time so we shall see what their negotiations bring.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager, Town of Longboat Key

Sovereign Immunity

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
The Senate appears to not be willing to hear the Senate version of Sovereign Immunity so it will die again this year. It is still sitting in committee. We may want to start discussions with Fiona late summer, early Fall if she is going to take this forward next year. A reasonable increase with a tie annually to the CPI would be a reasonable place to go.
House and Senate are still far apart on the budget - would not be surprised to see session extended. Don’t know what that means for other legislation, but hopefully they settle the budget issues and go home.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner, Town of Longboat Key

Bill 1221 - Tourist Development Tax

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
I believe your assumption is correct. What was funding for beach nourishment will now be used to fill the shortfall caused by the proposed reduction in property taxes. Unless the County is willing to provide other sources of funding, which will be under similar pressure from the loss of property tax revenues, their beach funding will likely go away if this legislation becomes law.
What’s at stake for the Town? Through agreements we have with both counties regarding the Town’s allocation of TDT

funds for beaches, we budgeted in FY2025:
Sarasota County - \$687,262 for nourishment + \$249,194 for beach maintenance
Manatee County - \$640,000 for nourishment
That’s a \$1.577 million annual impact to our beach nourishment program which goes without saying is significant for our community.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager, Town of Longboat Key

Bill 1221 - Tourist Development Tax

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Regarding HB 1221 concerning TDC taxes: 1. I recall that Longboat has an intergovernmental agreement for our share of TDT for use in beach renourishment. Have we evaluated how that agreement could be affected by the bills? 2. I heard this morning that an amendment would only allow counties to take TDT into general revenue if they reduced property taxes by an equivalent amount. I assume that would kill it?
Ken Schneier
Mayor, Town of Longboat Key

Bill 1221 Tourist Development Tax

To: Florida Senator Joe Gruters
I want to add my voice to the chorus of opposition to CS/CS/HB 1221, relating to the tourist development tax. It is up for a House vote today. If allowed to pass, this bill will divert funds away from the very beaches and businesses that have built Florida’s vibrant tourism industry.
Loss of tourism development dollars would be particularly devastating for a barrier island like Longboat Key, which relies on a share of this revenue for beach renourishment, maintenance and protection. This bill seeks to kill the proverbial golden goose... hurting the very beaches, tourist attractions, and sporting events that drive much of Florida’s economy and employment.
The TDT is a valuable resource that provides ongoing benefits to the entire community. This is clearly recognized by the citizens who overwhelming vote for the one-penny tax. Rockport Analytics found that in 2023, Florida Tourism contributed \$127.7 billion to Florida’s economy; \$36.9 billion in local, state and federal tax revenue; and 2.1 million Florida jobs.
Tourism supports so many of our locally owned businesses in Sarasota and Longboat Key, which are just now recovering from the revenue losses sustained through Covid and three Hurricanes (Debby, Helene and Milton). There could not be a worse time to disrupt our tax base and the tourism industry.
If and when this bill arrives in the Senate, I encourage the body to carefully consider the serious ramifications of CS/CS/HB 1221 and prevent it from moving toward passage.
Thank you for all of your hard work on behalf of the citizens of Sarasota and Longboat Key.
Penny Gold
Commissioner, Town of Longboat Key
See Letters, page 15

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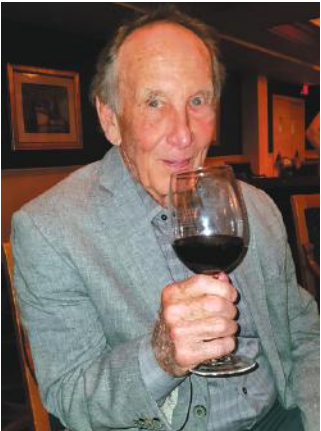
WineTimes

Nag’s Head Redux 2025

The fortunate residents of the Outer Banks of North Carolina now have two star chefs serving their signature recipes using local seafood, meats, and produce as ingredients.

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

As we drove east on I64 toward Williamsburg and Norfolk Virginia, we pictured in our mind’s eye the Outer Banks as they were during a long ago vacation to the Duck beach on the extreme north end of North Carolina. The urban sprawl of the Tidewater Region in Virginia gave way to Carolina country towns separated by pine forests and two lane highways built along banks of creeks and canals. After recovering from a confusing turn on our navigation system, we followed the Highway 158 toll road through a tunnel and a long causeway crossing the Albemarle Sound onto the Outer Banks. The Route on the Outer Banks through Kitty Hawk and Kill Devil Hills of the Wright Brothers fame leads first to Nag’s Head, once a sleepy beach town but now a long strip mall. Where once a few beach houses lined the beach, now thousands of multistory wooden houses on stilts (twelve foot pilings) line the beach and many rows back. Prosperous Noth Carolinians from Charlotte, Raleigh-Durham, and Rocky Mount have staked a claim to the Outer Banks, as have residents of more distant places who vacation there and rent when not. The architecture of these beach houses looks much the same, except for older houses with the rustic cedar shake siding of the earlier Nag’s Head style.



We try to set aside the contrasts between what we remember about the Outer Banks and what it looks like now, and focus on the original reason for us being there: our search for the Washington DC chefs that vanished from Washington DC and had reappeared in an ad for an event in the Outer Banks.

Jeff Buben and his wife Sallie established the restaurant Vidalia on 23rd Street NW in the District of Columbia. Jeff had a following from his tenure as chef at the Occidental Restaurant in the shadow of the White House and Sallie on the financial side of the Red Sage, one of the pioneer fine dining venues in DC. Jeff mentored many of the young chefs that moved on to establish their own restaurants in DC. His son Mac at an early age had a strong interest in the role of a chef and followed in his father’s footsteps. Vidalia had a successful 25 year run that coincided with the extent of its lease. Before the end of the lease, Jeff Buben had received the 1999 James Beard Award for Best Chef in the Mid-Atlantic Region and had opened the restaurant Bistro Bis in the Hotel George close to Capitol Hill in DC. Bistro Bis survived the Pandemic during the early 2020’s with Mac Buben as the chef.

Young chef Mac Buben prompted the move to the Outer Banks. Jeff and Sallie followed to keep the team intact. The small restaurant space in the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center has a few tables inside overlooking two levels of decks outside and a view of a large marina with sport fishing boats tied into docks. The Sea Chef menu retains items from the Vidalia and Bistro Bis menus. When we arrived, Jeff Buben was roaming the Kitchen and helping with preparations for the annual oyster roast and pig picking BBQ event. Chef Mac had already stationed himself behand one of several 85 pound roasted pigs that would feed a crowd of 400 attendees at the event. A line of people selected their choices of hush puppies, coleslaw, oven roasted potatoes, collard green soufflé, and corn bread, all derived from the Vidalia menu, before choosing either



dark shoulder meat or white loin with cracklin’s from the roast pig, and roast oysters in the shell with a lemon-garlic-butter sauce sprinkled with parsley. Most people revisited the line more than once to sample everything the buffet had to offer.

Jeff Buben joked about being held in a witness protection program in the Outer Bank. The fortunate residents of the Outer Banks of North Carolina now have two star chefs serving their signature recipes using local seafood, meats, and produce as ingredients.

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 Orego Valley in New Zealand. Currently he splits time between residences in Chevy Chase, Maryland and St. Armand’s Circle in Florida.

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



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To: Mimi Kennedy
There will be a meeting from 2-4 pm at Town Hall on Thursday, May 1, to discuss all aspects of the Roundabout project. I suggest you attend if you can.
Ken Schneier
Mayor, Town of Longboat Key

Firehouse Rd. Concern

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
Following up on this email below. I understand this is more in the hands of FDOT, so if there is someone I should touch base with on their team could you please let me know?
We are very concerned that if GMD is graded to accommodate the roundabout our home will be even more susceptible to flooding and want to be sure that the proper group is aware of this issue.
Mimi Kennedy
Longboat Key

Firehouse Rd. Concern

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
Thanks so much for your quick response, Ken. I am fearful that our home, along with the rest of the neighborhood, will be even more susceptibility to flooding with this change, and if flooding does get worse, who is then responsible? I look forward to Charlie’s insights.
Mimi Kennedy
Longboat Key

Firehouse Rd. Concern

To: Mimi Kennedy
Thanks for your note. We share your frustration with the FDOT plan changes for the Broadway roundabout, but an important element of the re-design involves stormwater management plans so that drainage problems in the area will not be exacerbated in the case of future storms. I am copying this response to Charlie Mopps, our Public Works Director, in case he wishes to provide further details.
Ken Schneier
Mayor, Town of Longboat Key

Firehouse Rd. Concern

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
My name is Mimi Kennedy, and first let me start by saying thank you for all your efforts in keeping Longboat Key such a special place, especially as you have faced such a difficult year. My grandfather bought a condo in Longbeach Condominiums in the 1970s so I have been lucky enough to spend my entire life going to LBK. I even used to walk past “the fancy french restaurant” L’Auberge as a child and told myself I would go there someday. Little did I know that once I was finally able to “go there” the cooking would be horrible... because I am now the chef. My husband and I purchased 7040 Firehouse Rd. in April of last year.
Sadly, like much of the key, our house flooded 2.5 feet in September due to the hurricanes. Our home sits directly on the ground so we lost an entire living level.
My understanding is that the water came across Gulf of Mexico Dr. from the bay. Although our family appreciates the traffic safety reasons for the roundabout at Broadway, we are very concerned that we will be even more susceptible to flooding in the future due to the road being flattened. Have our home and the other Conrad beach homes’ safety been considered in the current roundabout plans? What will happen to our home if the road is flattened and there is more flooding?
I know these questions may not be specifically for you, but if you could help me find the answers, connect with someone to talk to, or even meet with someone in person to discuss I would really appreciate it.
Mimi Kennedy
Longboat Key

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