



Longboat Key News

February 9, 2024

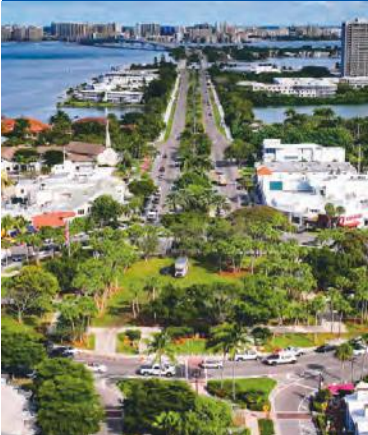
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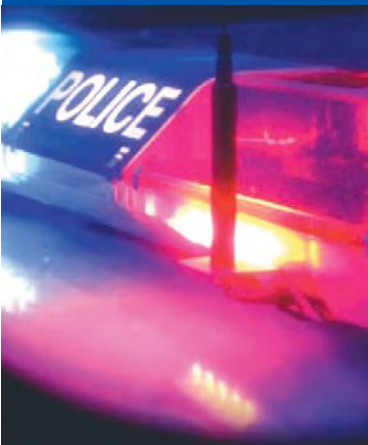
Robust sales
hit \$5.4 million
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The Marketing
of St. Armands
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Reacting to City
Island plan
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Rockin' out
at the jobsite
...page 10

Nora Patterson's legacy ripples throughout Sarasota

Nora Patterson passed last week following 24 years on City and County Commissions, 57 years of marriage and a life of dedication to Sarasota.

STEVE REID
Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

Nora Patterson — singular and unique, passionate and loyal. Funny, intelligent and filled with just enough sass to cut through conversations growing dull.

Add to these qualities a loyalty to Sarasota and its citizenry that was only rivaled by her love of 57 years to her husband, John, and you have a glimpse into the life and heart of one of Sarasota's true leaders.

After all, Sarasota has many faces, many passions and interests. It is a beautiful City with its arc of Bayfront. It is an arts center of the highest order. It is also a place where politics are fought out in the crucible of City And County halls where developers clash with residents — with each side threatening litigation.

Nora Patterson was the very epitome of Sarasota, where she served for 24 years as both City and then County Commissioner.

And beyond her life as Commissioner, she raised her daughter in Sarasota, owned a garden center on Osprey Avenue that multiplied its gross revenue under her watch, and she and her husband John Patterson ventured on boating adventures to the Keys and Bahamas that unleashed her passion for fishing and adventuring.

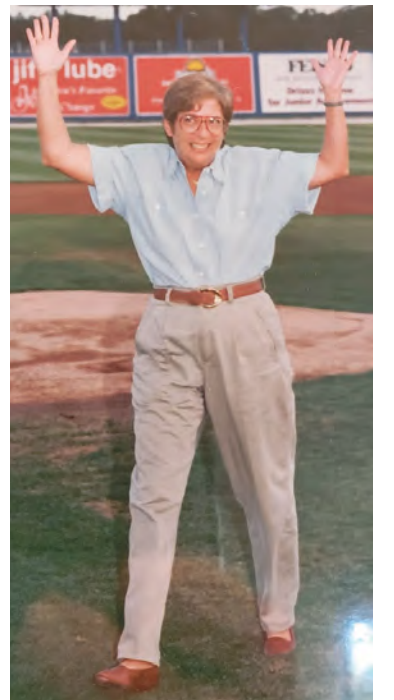
All of this activity and life and passion resolved itself into quietness and peace on Thursday morning, Feb. 8, when Leonore (Nora) Kerz Patterson passed at age 79 from Alzheimer's.

The final moments...

As her final hour approached, friends came and held her hand



Nora running for office on Main Street.



Nora threw the first pitch



Nora and John Patterson



and showed her their affection. Inevitably, they would start reminiscing about her contributions, her warmth and friendship. John,

or Johnny, as Nora affectionately called him, gave visitors a moment and then would return to spend the fleeting moments with the woman

he spent every day for 57 years connecting the various memories, like emotional ports along a coastline

See Nora, page 2

Charges reduced for woman arrested in 2017 Longboat murder

Lotoya Hanna's charges are now being reduced from first-degree murder to second-degree murder.

Latoya Hanna is the sister of original suspect Darryl Hanna Jr.

In 2017, Darryl Hanna was charged with the murder of two employees at the Zota Beach Resort. Hanna was a former employee. \$900 was stolen from the front desk, and Darryl was seen on security video.

He was taken into jail, where he suffered a stroke and later died before going to court.

59-year-old night desk manager Timothy Hurley, and 51-year-old security guard Kevin Carter were shot and killed during the robbery.

Hanna's arraignment is scheduled for March 8.

Breeze On Demand to cover all of Longboat

On Monday, Jan. 29, residents, commuters and visitors in the Manatee County portion of Longboat Key will have a new transportation option.

For the past two and a half years, public transportation on Longboat Key has been split. In the northern portion, service was provided by MCAT's call-ahead Longboat Key Shuttle, but in the southern portion, service was provided by Sarasota County's Breeze OnDemand. Customers needing to travel across the dividing line were required to transfer services.

The Town of Longboat Key has been advocating for one service that would allow seamless travel through the county line. Earlier this month, the Manatee and Sarasota County Commissions signed an agreement to implement Breeze OnDemand throughout the island.

Ken Thompson Park plan under review

At the Feb. 5 City Commission meeting, The City of Sarasota leaders referred the unsolicited proposal to privatize Ken Thompson Park on City Island to the City's Parks, Recreation & Environmental Protection Advisory Board (PREP Board) for their review and recommendations.

The two "at-large" City Commissioners--Jen Ahearn-Koch and Debbie Trice--were opposed to any attempt to commercialize the city's parks.

It was the three "district" City Commissioners -- Liz Alpert, and also Erik Arroyo and Kyle Battie -- all three of whom are up for re-election this year, who voted to move the concept forward.

Nora, from page 1

visited on a long mutual journey.

John and Nora

Duke University played central to the Pattersons. They met at Duke where Nora earned a BA in psychology in 1966. “I had seen her on campus and she looked like someone I would like to meet. She was stunning in a pair of jeans and a turtleneck,” John recalls. And those jeans and turtleneck soon led to a proposal and they were married within a year. Nora and John next attended the University of Florida, where she received a master’s degree in educational psychology while teaching and working as a graduate assistant, and John received his law degree.

Planting roots

Moving to Sarasota in 1970, and following the birth of their daughter Kimberly, Nora and her business partner Jane Walden Miller purchased Greenwood Garden Center on Osprey Avenue. It was the ‘silk stocking’ landscape and garden center for Sarasota. Greenwood had a reputation for having a perfect location and sought-after plants. “Nora was a plant person. I bought this as a defensive move; she was spending all her money there anyway,” jokes John. When the two ladies approached a bank for financing the center, they were told they should go open a dress shop instead. Even the seller of the Garden Center was skeptical these two young and attractive woman in their twenties could run his operation. Within a year, he was a convert. Within three years they doubled the gross revenue. They operated the business successfully until 1979, when it was sold but the real estate was retained to this day. Nora then taught school at Out of Door Academy and entered the real estate profession as a broker salesperson. She also continued as an investor, and served on not-for-profit boards, including service as chair of Planned Parenthood of Southwest Florida.

Enter politics...

Nora was urged by city business leaders to seek office as a city commissioner, and was elected in 1991. She was re-elected and served a total of 8 years, including one year as mayor. Afterwards, she was elected to the Sarasota County Commission, and served for 16 years, including three years as commission chair. If you were a watcher of city or county commission meetings when Nora was on the board, you would soon realize that she listened to her intuition and joined her instincts with her analytical talents. You could see Nora’s face scrunch up and she would start saying things like, “This doesn’t sound right; I’m not liking what I’m hearing,” or, “This is raising all kinds of questions in my mind.” And then Nora would do just that — ask all the right questions and not stop until there was clarity within the room. Her strengths academically were science and math. Numbers came naturally. What is it really going to cost and how are we going to pay for it was paramount to Nora. And what will it cost us down the road was an inquiry she often voiced. “Every major decision we talked about, Nora’s method of analysis was what are the pros and cons?” says John. “She also had a genuine desire to try and make difference,” he added. And although she was married to John Patterson, a preeminent attorney who has verbal gifts that exceed Bill Clinton when it comes to acuity and warmth, Nora was every bit his equal. “No, I don’t agree with you Johnny; I think you’re completely off-base,” was not said with hesitation by Nora. She felt no need to be beholden to any interest whatsoever — other than the interests of her constituents.

A Deep Dive...

And then, of course, there is the side of the Patterson’s and Nora that most of us did not know of and did not see. That is the world aboard the many boats that Johnny and Nora would cruise to the Keys, the Bahamas and every nook of coastline in between. On their Egg Harbor sportsfisherman, the demands of politics and the courtroom and City Hall were traded for fishing and cold drinks at Pete’s Pub in Little Harbour.

See Nora, page 15



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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.

February Greg Rusovich column

To: Editor

My wife and I are visiting Longboat Key and Sarasota from Michigan. I read your opinion article on page 6 of the Feb. 2 issue. I'm a little younger than the William F Buckley, Jr. era (67), but found his quote to be very ahead of his time.

The rest of your op-ed was also riveting. I'd love to share your op-ed with my friends and neighbors back home in Michigan. Is there any way to get an electronic (PDF?) copy?

I am not a political extremist. They exist at both ends of the spectrum. But I cringe every time an elected official or special interest group wants legislation that ultimately removes personal responsibility or plies special treatment for some people. Have we gone nuts?

Andy Sarkisian
Longboat Key

Ken Thompson rides

To: Editor

I would also like to voice my negative reaction to amusement rides at City Island Park. It is a beautiful area to roam around and take quiet walks. I think it should stay that way. I think the the set up that Mr. Koffman offered on St. Armands circle was a total negative to the area. Please do not subject us to more traffic. Please!!

Barbara Chase
Longboat Key

Longboat Library meeting

To: Editor

As you may know, plans are in motion for Longboat Key to have its own branch of the excellent Sarasota County Public Library system. The architecture and construction firms have been selected and renderings are in the works. Please see below and plan to attend the LBK Town Hall meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, February 12.

This meeting will be residents' chance to participate in the envisioning process of what our library can provide, in terms of collections, tech services, maker spaces, programming and so much more.

The project will be a hybrid in terms of funding, with Sarasota County covering all of the library costs and privately raised funds covering any additional functions we'd like to see there. Folks are dreaming of flexible classrooms and meeting spaces, indoor gathering spaces, rooftop decks, shaded outdoor spaces, you name it. Generous donors are waiting in the wings to see where they might lend private philanthropic support.

Please come and share your vision and enthusiasm for the project. If all goes to plan, we'll be cutting the ribbon and walking through our library's doors in 2026!

Sarah & Paul Karon
Longboat Key

Longbeach Village meeting

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon

Congratulations on your commission appointment. We have monthly Longbeach Village meetings and we would like you to join us and introduce yourself if you are available. Our next meeting is:

Wednesday, Feb 7
5 p.m. start
Pete Rowan
Longboat Key

Longbeach Village meeting

To: Pete Rowan

Thank you for the invite, I will be there. Must leave at 5:45 for a prior commitment, hope that won't be a problem.

Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Longbeach Village meeting

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon

Thank you so much. We'll get you on first.

5:00 social time

See Letters, page 7

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648 BAYVIEW DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

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

EditorLetters



Letters, from page 4

5:30 meeting starts and you will be first
Make sure you get a street parking pass at the welcome desk.
Longbeach Village folks are very nice. Many are concerned about the recent floods. Three in the last 18 months. There is a Village meeting being planned that will cover all the actions that property owners can take to mitigate the floods. Also, Isaac is addressing the Broadway speeding issue we have.
Pete Rowan
Longboat Key

Longbeach Village meeting

To: Pete Rowan
Sounds good, I'll look forward to meeting you.
Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Longbeach Village meeting

To: Pete Rowan

Thanks so much, Pete, for inviting me to your great neighbors' gathering last night -- you all have something really special there. I appreciated the chance to get to know a few people and I look forward to working together.
Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Thank you

To: Gary Coffin
Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to come visit with us. I will look for you out on the water. We always take our out-of-town guests near Harry Christiansen's dock near the Longboat Key bridge, bring lunch, anchor in 15 feet water and swim.
My boat is just a 30-foot Mainship Pilot named Rum Runner.
Jim Darden
Longboat Key

Thank you

To: James Darden
I certainly enjoyed seeing the joy on your residences faces, as director Isaac Brownman stated,

it was the happiest group we've ever seen at the opening for utilities project. Congratulations to you and your board for cultivating a fabulous neighborhood. Lynn and I will certainly keep an eye out for your Mainship. On occasion we do anchor out off the Shore Restaurant. Thanks again for your hospitality!
Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

SARA Bulletin: Ken Thompson Park referred to PREP Board

To: St. Armands, Residents Association Chris Goglia
I was there for the presentation and thought they said that they couldn't take any action at that meeting, but not surprised. I took some comfort in the remarks by the plan's advocates that they wouldn't do anything contrary to the wishes of the neighbors most affected by the plan, but it will obviously be necessary to watch this space. It still seems to me to make sense to have some conversation about what, if any, changes/improvements the island residents might like to see at Ken Thompson before the next hearing.
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Ken Thompson Park - privatization

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
During the recent, poorly attended food truck rally, traffic congestion and back-ups spiked that Saturday afternoon. I'm being told that this was because of the traffic light at the intersection of Ken Thompson Parkway and John Ringling Parkway on State Road 789. Someone told me that this traffic light is not on a timer, that it has a way to detect vehicles. So, even a small but steady flow of vehicles leaving City Island can snarl north-south traffic coming and going to Longboat Key. Imagine if the food truck rally had been well-attended?
Personally, I think the Town of Longboat Key needs to get FDOT involved. I'd go directly to LK Nandam with this. By the city approving the privatization of Ken Thompson Park, there is the potential (no one can know for sure) for major, year-round traffic problems on this State Road. I would request FDOT do their own traffic study. I don't think there is any option to add new roads or to expand the existing ones. So the only option is to be able to control the number of vehicles coming and going.
I'm concerned because of the potential impact on my residents. I believe the folks in Lido Shores share this concern. I've heard that Longboat residents at Tangerine Bay are very concerned about this as well. What about all the employees on Longboat Key? What about all

See Letters, page 7



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2055 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #G2-102 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL

Three bedroom, two bath Longboat Key condo in coveted Seaplace. High end finishes throughout this 1,492 sq. ft. residence, including gorgeous polished travertine throughout all rooms and the double lanai, granite countertops in the kitchen with stainless steel appliances, lovely appointed bathrooms, custom lighting throughout, crown molding and plantation shutters in all rooms, as well as custom built closets. Primary suite is loaded with closet space, double sinks and separate shower room. Low condo fees for a large floor plan.

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 6

the hotel workers and security guards and pool service people and lawn care providers and house cleaners and caregivers and contractors and builders? Will they want to deal with even worse traffic when they come out here? Will they jack up their prices even more because of it?

The irony behind this proposal is that while the people behind it will make more money if they get a lot of people to come to Ken Thompson Park, those same people will stop coming to Ken Thompson Park if they have to sit in traffic for an hour to get there (and to get back out again). Unfortunately, the constant turn-over of tourists at Christmas and in-season won't know any better.

Chris Goglia
St. Armands Residents Association

Ken Thompson Park - privatization

To: Chris Goglia

We have a good relationship with L.K. and I agree it makes sense to discuss the Ken Thompson issue with him. It's worth remembering, though, that FDOT backed off on the St. Armand's Circle issue, where they had a more direct and legitimate rationale for productive involvement. Will continue to watch this closely.

The cancellation of the Corvette show at St. Armand's was a surprise. Some kind of silly payback by the City? That event could be held at Ken Thompson.

Ken Schneider
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

As Promised: a sampling of views on the library from my friends and neighbors

To: Jim Whitman

This is from the Town Code: 30.06 - Addressing the commission.

(B) Any written communications or other documents read to the commission during a public meeting shall be submitted to the town clerk as part of the official record of the meeting. Notwithstanding the foregoing, anonymous communications shall not be introduced to the commission. If those individuals wish to have their info in front of the Commission it will have to be with names and addresses.

BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 8



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SCAN FOR MORE


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SCAN FOR MORE


6960 POINSETTA AVENUE | 2 Beds | 2 Baths | 1,461 Sq. Ft. | \$815,000



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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 7

As Promised: a sampling of views on library from my friends and neighbors

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

I was I who removed the names of my correspondents and others who posted on the Sleepy Lagoon email group, as I did not have their authorization to do so. They are offered as examples of community views on this topic.

Jim Whitman
Longboat Key

As Promised: a sampling of views on library from my friends and neighbors

To: Jim Whitman

Jim, if someone does not believe enough in their thoughts to include their name it diminishes the credibility of the comments.

BJ Bishop
Commissioner, Town of Longboat Key

Town library

To: Longboat Key Commission

I have received no communications in support of a proposed library. I'm interested in the results of this year's Citizen Survey, especially in view of last year's results (To briefly summarize: out of over 1,000 opinions, 8 were about a library, 4 in favor, 4 opposed).

"Who goes to a library anymore? Maybe one or two people for sure, but more people are affected by flooding and the beach and as the younger generation moves in, they were never taught the Dewey Decimal system like us, most will never step foot in a new or old library. We need to protect our homes and investments first."

"30yrs ago I would have supported the investment. Why would Longboat need a library in 2026? And a budget of \$1 million? I don't think that will cover the cost of the park-

ing lot. My guess is a new library (and 10 yrs. of operating expenses) will cost as much as raising all the roads in Sleepy Lagoon."

"In the pre-digital age a library could make sense. I would have supported that. I also know that in some communities where people have severely limited resources libraries have become a haven for free internet and computers. Places like that serve a purpose even in the post paper world we live in. However, we do not have an affordable housing community. If you can get to our "Longboat Key Library" you have your own internet, computer, devices, extenders, etc. at home. That makes a library obsolete on Longboat Key before it's ever built.

From discussion about the library it appears this is really a way to get a community center funded by calling it a library. I can see how a community gathering space with an emphasis on education, being informed, etc. could be a positive for Longboat Key.

This would be a positive if more important community needs were being met. We know they are not being addressed! Things like proper maintenance of our canals with routine dredging schedules, proper beach nourishment and storm repair, adequate flood control with engineering for water rise to protect the taxed properties that fund all our common needs and wants. These items need to be prioritized! Not libraries, community spaces, theaters, dog spaces. These are all worthy areas to have and enjoy if you aren't being flooded, can't get your boat off the lift, can't enjoy the beach, can't keep your car in the garage without fearing damage, etc.

Unfortunately, many parts of Longboat Key do not have these concerns so Maslow's hierarchy of needs allows them to focus on greater self-actualization while other areas like SLHA, The Village, Buttonwood, etc. struggle with more basic needs that are being ignored."

Jim Whitman
Longboat Key

Canal dredging at Golf Links

To: Longboat Key Code Enforcement Officer Bryan

Winsom

A friend who resides in Country Club shores is concerned that neighbors at 521 and 531 Golf Links may be doing some dredging work on the canal adjacent to those properties. Is it possible that a permit was issued for the work to be done privately?

Debra Williams
Commissioner, Town of Longboat Key

FDOT Funds

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Right now, the use of the \$1.4 million FDOT funds does not require any matching amount from the Town. However, if construction bids come at or higher than that amount, we are first going to petition the FDOT to add funding to the project to fully fund the actual construction cost plus the construction engineering inspection cost. As a precaution and because of this uncertainty, the Town budgeted \$200,000 into the FY 2024 budget for this project in case we needed to make up an amount for construction or construction inspection to move the project forward (in case the FDOT is unwilling to put in any more funds).

The Town's \$200,000 is in Fund 301 ("Streets") under "Center Turn Lanes" (page 106 of the FY 2024 budget book).

Regarding your second question, yes, that would be the perfect place we suggest FDOT make up a shortfall. Effectively, remove 0.88-miles of 2-lane resurfacing from their FY2027 resurfacing project. They would have to do some financial juggling because it is money programmed several years out, but a good conversation to have if we need it.

Isaac Brownman
Director Public Works
Town of Longboat Key

FDOT Funds

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Please remind me what we think our share of the construc-

See Letters, page 11

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| 426 CLEVELAND DR | 2,396 | \$4,490,000 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 84 | \$4,000,000 |
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| 4400 EXETER DR Unit#205 | 725 | \$464,000 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | \$465,000 |
| 2295 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#24S | 1,235 | \$550,000 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | \$550,000 |
| 651 CEDARS CT | 1,440 | \$675,000 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 97 | \$650,000 |
| 834 BAYPORT WAY | 1,601 | \$899,900 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 156 | \$825,000 |
| 1211 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#906 | 2,135 | \$1,730,000 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | \$1,650,000 |
| 2020 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#434/435 | 2,462 | \$1,795,000 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | \$1,735,000 |
| 6605 GULFSIDE RD | 2,235 | \$1,950,000 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | \$1,750,000 |
| 455 LONGBOAT CLUB RD Unit#504 | 3,685 | \$2,849,000 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 4 | \$2,865,000 |
| 6401 GULF OF MEXICO DR | 3,037 | \$5,875,000 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 15 | \$5,400,000 |



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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.

Feb. 2 Dog in vehicle

1:15 p.m.
Officer Swinford was dispatched to Cedar Court in reference to a dog left in an unattended vehicle. Officer Swinford arrived on scene and was advised the dog was left in a black Audi with Connecticut plates. The people advised they have looked for the owner for approximately 45 minutes but haven't been able to locate them. The windows of the vehicle were down and the dog did not appear in any kind of distress. The owner would arrive on scene and issue was resolved. Case clear.



owner's yard and appeared to have damaged several bushes. Neither the dump truck nor tiles were blocking any part of the roadway. Officer Martinson spoke with the homeowner and the owner of the roofing company's son, who were both on scene outside in front of the property. The owner's son said the company already has a crane on the way to pick up the dump truck and then they would be picking up the tiles up by hand. The son stated the company would be paying to for any damages they caused to the homeowner's property. The son had a cut on his finger but declined to be seen by EMS. Officer Martinson provided the man a band aid. Case clear.

Feb. 3 Disturbance

8:07 a.m.
Officer Swinford was dispatched to the pickle ball courts at the 4000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a disturbance. Officer Swinford arrived on scene and spoke with a public works employee. He also said they put up signs on Thursday advising the two south courts would be closed on this date for this project. There was a group of individuals on the tennis courts not wanting to leave disputing the new lines being painted. Officer Swinford spoke with all the individuals present and explained what public works was doing and requested them to leave the courts to avoid any further conflict. The individuals present left the courts without issue, and public works was able to continue painting. Case clear.

Feb. 4' Aground boat

11:40 a.m.
Officer Connors observed a boat in the area of Lands End. Officer Connors was able to make contact with the owner who advised that his keel had become entangled in his anchor rode, and drifted to a shoal. The owner advised that he has been in contact with commercial assistance who was responding. Case clear.

Injured animal

8:00 p.m.
Officer Montfort was dispatched to Bayou Sound for a report of an injured cat on the roadway. Officer Ferrigine and Officer Montfort arrived on scene and located the injured cat. The cat appeared to have been struck by a vehicle or had fallen from a tree. Sarasota County Animal Services was requested to the scene. After a short time, animal services arrived on scene and removed the animal for treatment. The cat did not display a collar and an owner was unable to be located. Case clear.

Feb. 5 Loud music

3:45 p.m.
Officer Miklos was dispatched to Kingfisher Lane in reference to a loud music coming from a construction site. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos observed a construction crew working on a house with several power tools and a radio playing. Officer Miklos came into contact with the worker who advised his supervisor's name. The man advised he was aware of the noise ordinance times for Longboat Key and would turn off the radio for the day. The worker advised his crew was going to be leaving at approximately 4:45 p.m. Case clear.

Feb. 6 Tipped truck

12:22 p.m.
Officer Martinson while on patrol observed dump truck tipped over on its side in the driveway. The tile roofing that had been inside the dump truck was slipped out onto the home

Feb. 7 Suspicious incident

5:00 p.m.
Officer Maple while on patrol on Bay Isles Road noticed a white Kia driving around the Bank of America Building with hazard lights on. Upon his arrival, Officer Maple observed the driver taking numerous pictures of the exterior of the building including the ATM and drive thru areas. Officer Maple turned on the patrol car's emergency lights and approached the subject after calling in the stop to dispatch. The driver produced identification and stated he was conducting a lighting survey for the bank and was also stopped the previous night conducting a survey of a Fort Myers bank as well. No other suspicious activity was observed. The stop was completed and the driver continued his survey. Case clear.

Abandoned vehicle

2:20 p.m.
Officer Ramsaier was dispatched to Outrigger Lane for a call of an abandoned vehicle. Upon arrival, Officer Ramsaier conducted a license plate query which produced negative results for stolen vehicle inquiry. Officer Ramsaier conducted a check of Registered Owner's last name which was met with positive results. Officer Ramsaier called the owner and spoke with her in regard to the vehicle. She said the driver was staying with her parents. The owner advised the move the vehicle to the street. Case clear

Flashing lights

8:09 p.m.
Sgt. Montfort was dispatched to the 4900 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for flashing lights. Sgt. Montfort arrived on scene and observed the lights coming from the porch and proceeded to the residence and canvassed the property. Sgt. Montfort was unable to make contact with any of the residents and it's believed that the porch lights were malfunctioning. Case clear.

Feb. 8 Found property

5:01 p.m.
Officer Zunz was at the Police Department lobby when a good Samaritan approached the lobby desk with a wallet she had found in the parking lot by the pickleball courts at Bayfront Park. The leather wallet contained various credit cards, insurance cards, a driver's license and approximately \$430 in cash. Officer Zunz was able to obtain a telephone number for the owner's wife through research and he made contact with the owner of the wallet. After correctly telling the officer his birthdate, he advised that he had been playing pickleball on Longboat Key this day but was unaware that his wallet had even been missing. He then drove over to the Police Department with his wife from his home on the receipt before exiting the police department. Case clear.

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 8

tion costs will be and where that amount is budgeted? Also, if the CCS project actually accomplishes a segment of our GMD Corridor plan, can some of money the MPO has allocated to resurfacing the South end of GMD be added to the State's share of the cost of this project?

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Country Club Shores Turn Lane

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin
As requested, attached are the best plan sheets to illustrate the proposed turn lanes down by the Country Club Shores southern area. A few facts about the project:

Gulf of Mexico Drive is a state road known as State Road 789.

Town initiated the project in 2016 as a simple request to create a single, long left-turn lane by widening and paving to the west.

Project is about 0.88-mile long.
Early on, the FDOT objected to the proposed single, long left-turn lane due to operational concerns that may create and directed the Town to break the turn lane into multiple, individual turn lanes some with raised, landscape medians.

FDOT also directed the Town that we would have to mill and pave the whole roadway section.

In addition, the FDOT directed the Town to widen the bike lanes, and there will be a speed limit modification through this section as well.

At the time, the Town was not fond of the FDOT directed scope creep, however, the project now does more resemble our complete streets vision even though that was not contemplated at the beginning of the project – so, in the end, a better project outcome, particularly since the FDOT has agreed to fund \$1.4 million of the construction.

FDOT had us go through about three different design reviews over the last 7-years, and now we finally have a final set of bid plans. We are currently working on finalizing a Joint Project Agreement (“JPA”) with FDOT, which is something they require of a local agency to use state funding and build a project on a state roadway; the JPA is in our respective legal offices for review. Assuming that review and signatures wrap up this month, the following is our tentative, target timeline:

April 2024 Advertise for construction bids
May 2024 Confirm lowest responsive and responsible bidder; if bid is within budget, enter into contracts for Construction and Construction Engineering Inspection (“CEI”)

June 2024 Start Construction
Construction about 6 – 8 months

The goal would be to get as much done before the start of next traffic season, depending on weather and unforeseen items. Please let me know if you would like additional information.

Isaac Brownman

Director Public Works
Town of Longboat Key

Country Club Shores Turn Lane

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman
Commissioner Gary Coffin has a meeting with a HOA in CCS and wanted to share with them a picture or rendering or cut sheet of the turn lanes along with information about the timing of the project. Is that something you have that you can share with him?

Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Important Information concerning Longboat Key Project

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle

This is to inform you that FDOT District One had a media request from “The Islander” newspaper on Anna Maria Island. Their request was for more information concerning the PD&E study 436676-1 (which includes Longboat Pass Bridge). Although our notifications of public meetings are sent to you 30 days prior to the meeting; in this case, FDOT wanted to make sure that you learned of the meeting from us rather than risk you learning of the meeting from the media first. The normal, full notification of the meeting will follow soon. Below is the information we provided to “The Islander.”

“Thank you so much for your interest in Project 436676-1 (the PD&E study which includes the Longboat Pass Bridge). The next public meeting for this project will be virtually on March 12 and in person on March 14, 2024. These meetings will present the design alternatives for this project. The public is invited to attend either of these meetings and offer their comments and/or suggestions.

A hearing to present the chosen recommended alternative would be held approximately 12 months later.

There is funding for this project through the design phase. The design phase would follow the acceptance hearing.”

If you have any questions regarding the project, please feel free to reach out to the Project Manager: Patricia Bateman by email at Patrick.Bateman@dot.state.fl.us or by phone (863) 519-2792 – or - Environmental Administrator Abra Horne by email at Abra.Horne@dot.state.fl.us or by phone at (863) 519-2239.

Full notification of the meeting dates, times, locations, etc., will soon follow.

Patricia Pichette
Communications Specialist
Florida Department of Transportation

Important Information concerning Longboat Key Project

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Good to know. North end residents will be very interested.
Ken Schneier

See Letters, page 12

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EditorLetters

Letters, from page 11

Mayor
 Town of Longboat Key

Library and community center

To: Bob Gault
 As we've discussed, Sarasota County has committed funds to design, build and operate a library at the Town Center next to Publix on Longboat Key. Our vision has long been that the project will include adult education and a community center as well as a library. This will be the first library on the barrier islands and represents a 20-year endeavor on our part.
 The County and Town will sponsor two "charrettes" (fancy for public input meetings) to gather as many ideas as we can from residents and others as to what this building should look like and contain. The first charrette will take place at LBK Town Hall on Monday, February 12 at 1:30 pm. As our island partners, St. Armand's and Lido will hopefully benefit from this project, as well as from the Town Center Green as a whole, and you and others from your communities who would like to share their ideas or just listen to the planning process are welcome and invited to attend.
 Ken Schneier
 Mayor, Town of Longboat Key

Library and community center

To: Bob Gault
 Thanks, Bob. I hope you and Shannon attend next Monday's meeting to share your thoughts.

My hope and expectation, which is supported by the views of our Town Manager and our newest Commissioner, President of the Sarasota County Library Foundation, is that the County will be receptive to the opinions of our community and Commission as to the design and contents of the Library/Community Center. The process begins Monday. I'm not unhappy that the timetable for this project is tight (this has been 20 years in the works), but it will take as long as it takes to get it right.
 Once we have a plan and a design, we can determine the allocation of costs. As discussed at yesterday's Commission meeting, both the County and the School Board have acknowledged repeatedly the considerable contributions Longboat Key makes to the community, financial and otherwise. We will do our best to receive a fair return on those contributions.
 Ken Schneier
 Mayor, Town of Longboat Key

Before/Post Storm Full-Time Resident Committee

To: Longboat Key Town Commission
 Chief has put together a team of full-time residents that now serve on a Before/Post Storm Committee. We had our first meeting last week and some of the members thought it would be a good idea to have a representative, whether it be a property manager and or someone who is on the Board of Directors/Board of HOA. We are looking for your assistant in helping us push this word out to all the managers you have contact with. The goal of the committee is to brainstorm ways to help LBK prepare, react, and recover for weather events. As we move forward, our team will put in place ways we are able to assist those in need. I am attaching our agenda for our next meeting as well as the PowerPoint presentation from our 1st meeting last week. Anyone may reach out to me if they have any questions. Thank you as always for helping spread the word!
 Tina Adams
 Fire Administration Manager, Fire Department
 Town of Longboat Key

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WineTimes

St. Armands Market an exciting addition to Circle

This preview of the St, Armands Market gives it good marks for the quality of the products it offers and convenience.

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

Even after just a few days in Paris, Reims, Beaune, and Strasbourg during wine tours in France, we recognized the value of neighborhood markets.

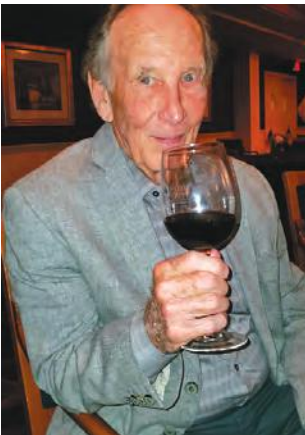
Amid the rich variety of specialized shops such as the boulangerie, offering fresh baguettes and croissants in the morning, and the pâtisserie, where one would find pastries to serve later in the day, or the charcuterie and the cheese shops, or the coffee, tea, and the fruit and vegetable stands in the local markets, we had to look for a convenience store for items not carried by these destination shops or needed after shop hours.

New York City, San Francisco, and Los Angeles have many varieties of ethnic shops that serve as convenience stores in many neighborhoods. Many corner stores in the Magazine District of New Orleans have Italian markets with prepared foods to take out, canned and bottled products, and beer and wine. Polcari's Coffee in the North End of Boston stocks, in addition to coffee and tea, spices, confections, roasted beans, and snacks. The University Market and Deli, adjacent to the Johns Hopkins University Homewood Campus in Baltimore MD stays open 24 hours a day and stocks a full range of convenience store items. It also offers a variety of prepared foods and sandwiches.

The boutique shopping district of St. Armand's Circle in Sarasota FL, two bridges away from downtown Sarasota and a drawbridge away from Longboat Key, has dozens of restaurants and shops selling foods, wine, and beer; and yet, as Chris Goglia, President of the St. Armand's Residents Association wrote in a message to residents, "People have been asking for a market on St. Armands for a long time".

The new St. Armands Market certainly has a convenient corner location at 60 S Boulevard of the Presidents. The attractive storefront gives potential customers a welcoming view of the store. The bar from the restaurant formerly on the site makes an attractive checkout counter. A Lavazza coffee machine capable of brewing American, cappuccino, latte, café au lait, and other variants occupies a prominent place on the counter. The store stocks many of the items one would expect to find in a convenience store: basics such as milk and eggs, canned goods, coffee and tea, and bread and chesses. It includes a limited selection of prepared dishes and sandwiches as well. Dove and Klondike ice cream bars look inviting, and salty chips and other snacks appear in abundance.

The quality of beer and wine selections seems higher than anticipated in a convenience store. The Hazy Skywire New England IPA from the Big Top Brewing Company in Sarasota FL should appeal to tourists interested in trying local beers and the residents looking for a step up and above the light beers. The shelves of wines have a scattering of Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay, along with Sauvignon Blanc from California and New Zealand, Prices of beer



and wine tend to reflect the beach resort location: higher than at the local supermarket. The Nicolas Feuillatte Reserve Exclusive Rose, for example, would make an excellent choice for a last-minute purchase of a Valentine's Day gift, but would cost about a third more.

This preview of the St, Armands Market gives it good marks for the quality of the products it offers and convenience. We look forward to seeing an increasing inventory of local products and fresh cut flowers, fruits, and vegetables. The hours of 9AM to 8PM look sensible at first, but experimenting with earlier and later hours could increase revenues and profits. Serving coffee and a wider variety of breads and pastries would build daily visits as the weather warms. We are hoping that the St. Armands Market will become the market that residents have been hoping to see and seasonal visitors will seek out.

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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Nora and daughter Kimberly

Nora, from page 2

Nora was a good fisherman with a good touch and has a trophy to prove it. She caught a sailfish on 14-pound line and won the plug-casting category in 1978. She grew up fishing with Puerto Rican kids in Central Park, having grown up in Manhattan.

John and Nora always returned for the past 42 years from fishing adventures to their mid-century modern home designed by Ralph and William Zimmerman that sits on a canal with a sweeping view of no other than the Nora Patterson Park, which the county and city jointly named after her lifetime efforts.

Alfa Romeo

Nora's desk at home looks across the tidy yard to the undulating waters of Sarasota Bay. Competing with this panorama, on her desk is a series of photographs of her life and most prominently her and John's daughter, Kimberly.

Nora and John raised a beautiful, intelligent and artistically gifted daughter in Sarasota.

Nora and John would howl with laughter decades later after they realized Kimberly, who lived on the second floor of their Siesta Key home, had placed a ladder on the roof and would stealthily rendezvous as a teenager on adventures as they peacefully slept.

As a young adult, Kimberly thrived in the commercial design industry and rose by 29 years of age to become design director of Town & Country Living / Brownstone Gallery on 5th Avenue in New York. But her run was sadly truncated.

Kimberly died in 2000 at 29 years of age from leukemia.

John bought Kimberly a red 1988 Alfa Romeo and shipped it on a car train to Washington DC where she lived for a short time. John still has the car in his garage — another connection transcending time.

Nora and John suffered from their loss, but out of the pain a tremendous spirit of giving back to the community manifested in many ways — not just intellectually and politically, but financially, emotionally and passionately.

Era of engagement

Nora over the ensuing years threw herself into the world of politics, nonprofits, planning and philanthropy.

While serving on the Sarasota City Commission, she was active in the Florida League of Cities and was a member of its executive committee.

During her service on the Sarasota County Commission, She also held leadership positions while serving on the boards of Sarasota United Way, Plymouth Harbor, the Glasser Schoenbaum Center, Sarasota County Teen Court, Jewish Family and Children's Service, and Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast. She narrowly lost the Republican primary election for the Florida State Senate in 2016.

In closing...

Perhaps the most poignant gift, the most loving expression one human can make for another is to live beyond the one they love and help that person through their death.

That's what Johnny did as he said goodbye to Nora in those final hours.

57 years together distilled in a few moments, a few closing touches and then Nora departed. When she left and the room seemed empty and cold.

But the warmth returns when we think of Nora and how she affected so many of us throughout Sarasota and John's life and the lives of everyone she swirled between and among.

Thankfully, when someone lives as fully and passionately as Nora Patterson, her love and her commitment to Sarasota forms a legacy that transcends the limited time we all share together on this earth.

Nora is survived by her husband, John, her brother, Paul, her son-in-law, Brian Murphy and his family, her brother and sister-in-law, Peter and Pam Gianino, and nieces and nephews.

Memorial services to be announced. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Kim's Fund at the MD Anderson Cancer Center, P.O. Box 297153, Houston, TX 77297 or Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast, PO Box 902, Osprey, Florida 34229.

Kim's fund was started by Kimberly as a leukemia research fund and the initiative has raised over \$1 million for research and patient assistance. To learn more, go to www.kimsfund.org

**TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING & HEARING
ORDINANCE 2024-03
FEBRUARY 13, 2024 – 9:15 AM**

Please take notice that a public meeting and hearing of the Town of Longboat Key's Planning and Zoning Board will be held to consider proposed modifications to Title 15, Land Development Code, Chapter 154, Flood Control, and Chapter 158, Zoning Code, of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Longboat Key, as more particularly set forth in Ordinance 2024-03:

ORDINANCE 2024-03
AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE 15 LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; AMENDING CHAPTER 154, FLOOD CONTROL; AMENDING SECTION 154.202, DEFINITIONS; AMENDING SECTION 154.301, BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES; AMENDING CHAPTER 158: ZONING CODE; AMENDING ARTICLE X, DEFINITIONS; AMENDING SECTION 158.144, DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The public hearing before the Planning and Zoning Board on proposed Ordinance 2024-03 will be held on **February 13, 2024, at 9:15 a.m.**, or as soon thereafter as may be heard, in the Town Commission Chambers at Town Hall, 501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, Florida.


All interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to proposed Ordinance 2024-03. Copies of Ordinance 2024-03 and related material associated with the amendment may be viewed at the Planning, Zoning & Building Department, 501 Bay Isles Road, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. weekdays prior to the hearing. Questions may be directed to the Planning, Zoning & Building Department at 316-1966. The proposed amendment will affect property within the corporate boundaries of the Town of Longboat Key as shown on the map appearing at the bottom of this advertisement.

No verbatim record by a certified court reporter is made of these proceedings. Accordingly, any person who may seek to appeal any decision involving the matters noticed herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony and evidence at these proceedings upon which any appeal is to be based (see Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes). In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Town Clerk's office at 941-316-1999 seventy-two (72) hours in advance of this proceeding. If you are hearing impaired, please call 941-316-8719.

David Green, Chair
Planning and Zoning Board
Published: 02/09/2024



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Nora, from page 2

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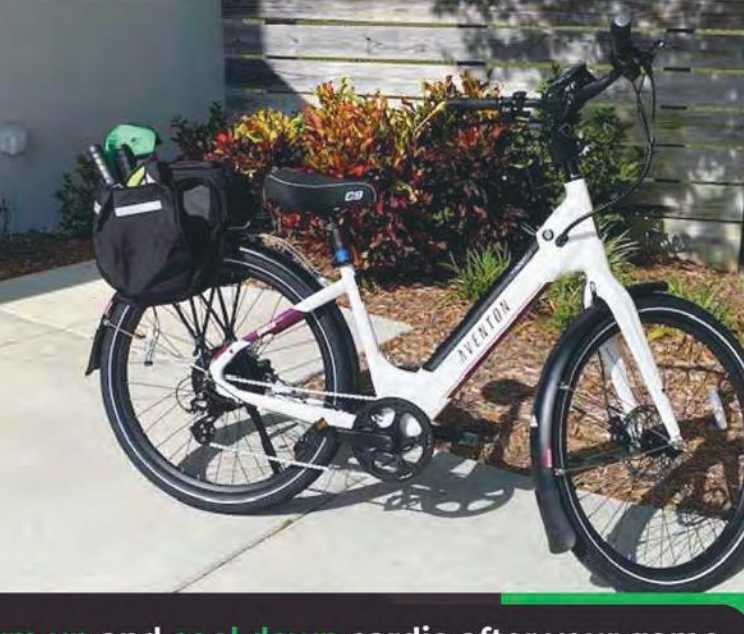
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Planning and Zoning Board
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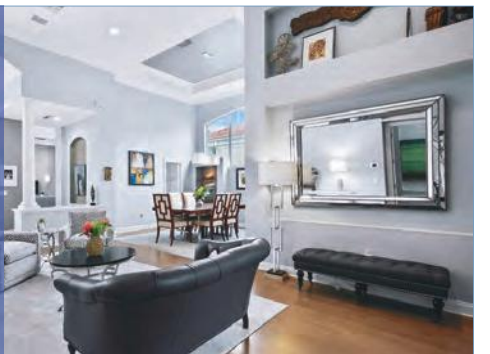
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