



# Longboat Key News

December 19, 2025

Serving Longboat Key, St. Armands, Downtown Sarasota & Anna Maria Island

FREE

InsideLook



The Pickleball  
Safety Fallacy  
...page 15



Hands-on effort  
at Mote Marine  
...page 4



Debating LBK's  
tax values  
...page 5



An evening of  
profanity  
...page 10

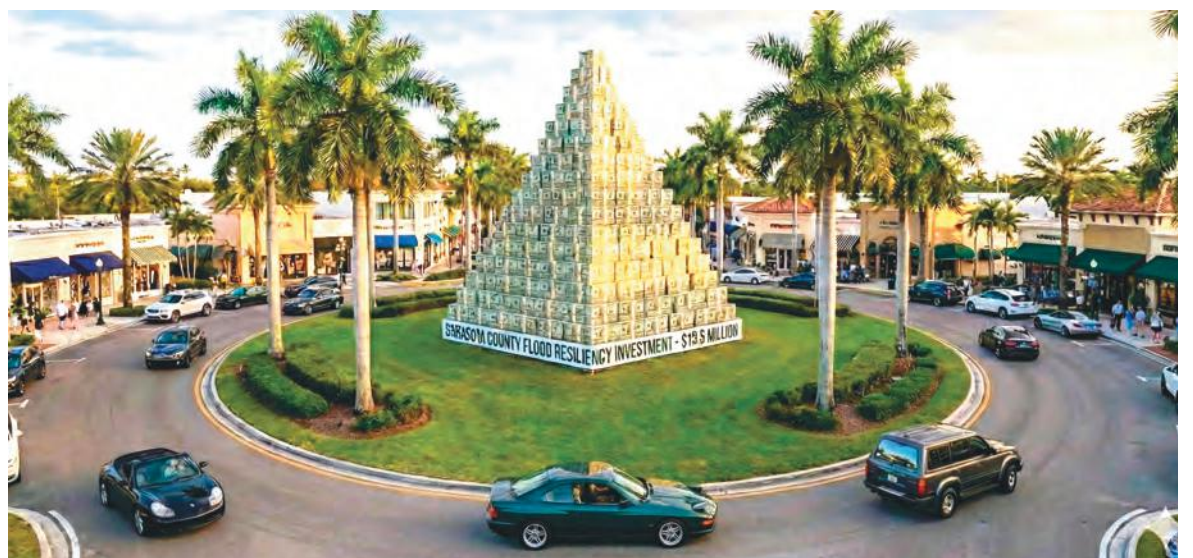
## Pumps Over Pavement: Sarasota County Rejects Barriers, Authorizes \$13.5M to Keep St. Armands Dry and Passable

*"It was extremely gratifying to witness the number of people who spoke in support of this project, as well as the diverse interests they represented."*

STEVE REID  
Editor & Publisher  
sreid@lbknews.com

In a marathon session that stretched late into the evening, the Sarasota County Commission aggressively moved to fortify the region against future storms, approving approximately \$57 million in federal disaster recovery funding.

The decision, handed down Tuesday, Dec. 16, prioritizes hard infrastructure over aesthetics, delivering a \$13.5 million lifeline to St. Armands Circle—a move celebrated not just by merchants, but by thousands of Longboat Key residents for whom the Circle represents the road to safety.



The funds, drawn from a larger U.S. Department of Housing and

Urban Development (HUD) block grant tied to Hurricanes Debby,

Helene, and Milton, were distributed. **See Flood Funds, page 3**

## The "Flat Rate" Illusion: How Longboat's Revenue Soared While Your Tax Rate Stayed the Same

*If you've looked at your property tax bill over the last decade, you might have noticed a confusing trend: the tax rate (millage) set by the Town of Longboat Key hasn't changed much—in fact, it has gone down slightly. Yet, the check you write to the tax collector keeps getting bigger.*

This is the "flat rate" illusion, a fiscal phenomenon that has allowed the Town of Longboat Key to increase its annual property tax revenue by millions of dollars without ever having to announce a "tax rate increase."

By keeping the millage rate steady while property values skyrocket, the Town has effectively collected a "hidden" tax hike year after year. A deep

dive into the last 10 years of financial data reveals exactly how this mechanism works—and how much it has added to the town's coffers.

### The Numbers: A Decade of Growth

The following table tracks the Town of Longboat Key's operating millage rate against the estimated property tax revenue collected.

Note: Revenue figures are rounded estimates based on adopted budgets and audited financial reports. "Millage" refers to the Town's operating tax rate only.

### The Town's Defense: Why the Rate Stays Put

While the numbers show a windfall for the Town, officials argue that keeping the millage rate steady—rather than adopting the lower "rollback rate"—is a fiscal necessity.

In budget hearings, Town Manager Howard Tipton and the Commission

**See LBK Taxes, page 3**

## Sarasota's Record Turtle Numbers Mask a Silent Crisis

*Scientists monitoring the 35-mile stretch from Longboat Key to Venice are observing a "data paradox": adult female populations appear robust, but the environmental conditions for their offspring are deteriorating. The concern is no longer just about protecting eggs from predators or tourists, but from the sand itself.*

The numbers emerging from Sarasota's barrier islands this year are nothing short of historic. On Longboat Key, researchers documented 1,473 nests in the 2025 season, a significant jump from 1,259 the previous year. Further south on Siesta Key, the count rose to 662 nests, up from 502. By every conventional metric used in conservation biology, this is a triumph—a testament to decades of local stewardship by Mote Marine Laboratory, the Longboat Key Turtle Watch, and rigorous coastal protections.

However, marine biologists caution that these record-breaking spreadsheets may be obscuring a more complex and precarious reality. While the quantity of nests is surging, the quality of the reproductive output faces an invisible, atmospheric threat.

Scientists monitoring the 35-mile stretch from Longboat Key to Venice are observing a "data paradox": adult female populations appear robust, but the environmental conditions for their offspring are deteriorating. The concern is no longer just about protecting eggs from predators or tourists, but from the sand itself.



Photo Credit: NOAA via Wikimedia Commons

**See Turtles, page 2**



Turtles, from page 1

The Thermal Threshold

The primary driver of this silent crisis is the rising subterranean temperature of the nesting beaches. Sea turtle sex determination is temperature-dependent; a phenomenon researchers summarize as “cool dudes and hot chicks.” The pivotal temperature for a balanced sex ratio in loggerheads is approximately 29°C (84.2°F).

Data indicates that Sarasota’s beaches are consistently trending above this threshold during critical incubation periods. This heat creates a severe sex-ratio bias, with some Florida nesting sites now producing populations that are 86% to 99% female. While a female-biased population can technically sustain numbers in the short term—since one male can breed with multiple females—generational stability relies on having enough males to fertilize future clutches.

“We are seeing a reproductive bottleneck that won’t show up in the nest counts for another 20 years,” notes a source familiar with local research.

“We are effectively counting the success of the past, not the viability of the future.”

The Disorientation Factor

Beyond the heat, hatchlings on Longboat and Siesta Key face an increasingly hostile obstacle course upon emergence. Mote Marine Laboratory has reported a concerning rise in “disorientations”—instances where hatchlings crawl toward artificial light instead of the ocean.

Despite strict lighting ordinances on Longboat and Siesta Keys, the cumulative “sky glow” from intensified coastal development creates a luminous haze that overrides the hatchlings’ natural navigation systems. A disoriented hatchling burns vital energy reserves meant for the swim to the Loop Current, significantly lowering their odds of survival even if they eventually reach the water.

The “Lagging Indicator” Trap

The high nest counts celebrated this season are a lagging indicator. The females nesting on Longboat Key today were hatched 25 to 30 years ago, under cooler climatic conditions. Their abundance is a credit to the conservation policies of the 1990s.

The true health of the population is not determined by how many eggs are laid, but by “recruitment”—the number of hatchlings that survive to adulthood. With lower hatch rates due to thermal stress (eggs essentially cooking in the shell) and higher disorientation rates,

recruitment numbers may be quietly plummeting even as nest counts soar.

A Call for “Smart” Conservation

Local experts are shifting the narrative from “saving turtles” to “saving habitats.” The focus is moving toward climate-adaptive strategies:

- \* Restoring Dune Integrity: Healthier, vegetated dunes on Siesta and Longboat can provide natural shade, lowering sand temperatures by vital degrees.
- \* Next-Gen Lighting: Moving beyond simple “lights out” policies to managing the aggregate light pollution of the entire coastline.
- \* Data Granularity: Moving beyond simple nest counts to track hatchling sex ratios and metabolic fitness.

The message for Sarasota residents is clear: The record numbers are a victory, but they are fragile. The battle has shifted from the visible threats of the past to the invisible, thermal threats of the future.

Local Data Snapshot (2024-2025):

- \* Longboat Key: 1,259 nests (2024) \rightarrow 1,473 nests (2025)
- \* Siesta Key: 502 nests (2024) \rightarrow 662 nests (2025)
- \* Sarasota County Total (Loggerhead): >11,000 nests annually

Ads that work...

ads@Lbknews.com or 941.387.2200



# CREATIVE KITCHENS & BATHS

YOU CREATE THE DREAM — WE CREATE THE REALITY

LEADING CONDO AND HOME REMODELING SPECIALIST LOCATED ON LONGBOAT KEY!



941-925-3723    Transforming your home, one room at a time — bringing your vision to life on Longboat Key.

Longboat Key Showroom

By Appointment Only

5610 Gulf of Mexico Drive | Longboat Key, FL 34228

State Certified General Contractor CG-C-1531837

Serving Longboat Key, Lido Key, Bird Key and St. Armands

CKB has a team comprised of general contractors, designers, expert carpenters, project management and more. We will bring your vision to life from first conversation to job completion.

Full Condo & Home Remodeling

Custom & Semi-Custom Cabinetry | Custom Tile Work

Hardwood & LVP Floors | Solid Core Doors

Baseboards & Ceiling Molding/Trim



www.CreativeKitchenAndBaths.com



# SECUR-ALL INSURANCE AGENCY

Sandra Smith | 941.383.3388

VISIT US ACROSS FROM TOWN HALL!    510 BAY ISLES ROAD SUITE 1, LONGBOAT KEY, FL 34228

CHUBB, AIG, UNIVERSAL, UNITED, SAFECO, PROGRESSIVE, FRONTLINE, VAULT, FLOOD, WE HAVE YOU COVERED!



LBK Taxes, from page 1

have consistently defended the revenue increases by pointing to rising costs that outpace simple inflation.

- Public Safety: Police and fire services account for over half the budget. To retain staff in a high-cost region, the Town approved a 6.5% wage increase recently.
- The Hurricane “Safety Net”: Following Hurricanes Helene and Milton, the Town withdrew ~\$8 million from reserves. Maintaining the tax rate is viewed as essential to replenish funds before the next storm.
- Inflation: Costs for insurance, fuel, and construction materials have soared for the Town just as they have for residents.

The “Rollback” Rate Explained

To understand why your taxes go up when the rate stays the same, you have to understand the “Rollback Rate.”

Under Florida law, the Rollback Rate is the millage rate the town would need to set to collect the exact same amount of money as the previous year, excluding new construction.

- Scenario A: Property values go up 10%. To keep your tax bill flat, the Town would need to lower the millage rate by roughly 10% (the Rollback Rate).
- Scenario B (Reality): The Town keeps the millage rate the same. Because applied to a higher value, the math results in a higher bill.

Technically, keeping the rate flat when values rise is considered a tax increase under Florida Truth-in-Millage (TRIM) laws because it generates more revenue than the rollback rate would.

The “St. Regis Effect”

Two major factors have hyper-charged this trend in the last three years: the COVID real estate boom (11-14% value jumps) and the completion of the massive St. Regis Resort. The St. Regis alone has added hundreds of millions in taxable value, responsible for a significant chunk of the new revenue in FY25.

The Homestead Factor & Pending Legislation

While the “flat rate” illusion hits second-home owners and investors—a massive demographic on Longboat Key—hardest, full-time residents have had a shield: the “Save Our Homes” cap. This limits the annual increase in assessed value for homesteaded properties to just 3% (or the CPI, whichever is lower), creating a two-tier tax system where your neighbor in an identical condo might pay double what you pay simply because they don’t have homestead status.

However, new and proposed legislation is shaking up this dynamic:

- Amendment 5 (The “Inflation Buffer”): Passed by voters in late 2024 and effective for the first time in this 2025 tax cycle, Amendment 5 now indexes the homestead exemption to inflation. With inflation remaining sticky, this provided a small but necessary buffer for residents this year.
- Radical Reform (2026 Session): Right now in Tallahassee, lawmakers are debating changes that could make the chart above obsolete. Proposals are circulating to potentially eliminate property taxes entirely in favor of a consumption-based model, or alternatively, to drastically increase the base exemption (proposals for a universal \$100,000 exemption are currently in committee). If passed, these measures would force Longboat Key to completely restructure how it funds its \$20 million+ annual budget.
- Immediate Hurricane Relief: For those impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton, relief is available now via Form DR-465. This legislation allows homeowners to request a tax refund for the days their property was “uninhabitable” (30 days or more). While this helps residents, town officials warn it could create an unexpected dip in collections for early 2026, potentially forcing a millage rate discussion next budget cycle.

The Bottom Line

Over the last decade, the Town of Longboat Key has successfully doubled its annual property tax haul—from roughly \$10 million in 2015 to nearly \$20 million in 2025.

For residents, the lesson is clear: The “unchanged” millage rate is a policy choice. It reflects a Town government that prioritizes building reserves, funding competitive wages, and insuring against disaster over lowering the annual tax burden. But with Tallahassee eyeing radical tax reform next year, this decade-long trend may soon face a sudden, legislative end.

Flood Funds, from page 1

uted among nine projects. While the \$16 million Forest Lakes Floodplain initiative took the top spot, the battle for St. Armands’ future dominated the dais, resulting in the rejection of experimental mitigation methods in favor of heavy-duty mechanical solutions. It also pivoted on the realization that the district is a critical choke point for the entire barrier island chain.

The St. Armands Verdict: Pumps Over Pavement

The approval of \$13.5 million for the St. Armands Resiliency & Flood Mitigation Project marks a decisive victory for the barrier islands, though it fell short of the city’s original \$24.5 million request.

Facing a district often dismissed as affluent, business owners and officials argued that the Circle is an economic engine powered by a working-class labor force. Eleni Sokos, executive vice-president of Oysters Rock Hospitality, told commissioners that the funding was a strategic economic investment rather than a symbolic handout. She warned that without protecting the “economic vitality and sense of place” of the district, the livelihoods of low- and moderate-income hospitality workers would face long-term erosion from repeated flooding.

The pressure worked. The presence of Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier and Deputy Town Manager Isaac Brownman at the meeting signaled the gravity of the situation. Following two hours of public testimony from a coalition of residents, Longboat Key officials, and barrier island employers, the Commission approved the funding—but with strict caveats.

Acting on the advice of Commissioner Mark Smith, an architect by trade, the Board slashed funding for “underground storage vaults” and “aluminum flood barriers.” Smith argued the barriers should be a private expense and calculated that the proposed \$500,000 vaults would hold only 528,000 gallons—roughly 0.6 inches of water across the 132-acre area—rendering them mathematically ineffective.

Instead, the \$13.5 million will be funneled strictly into “hard” infrastructure: new high-capacity stormwater pumps, backup generators, discharge piping, and hardened outfalls with check valves.

Designing from the Dais

The debate over the St. Armands engineering specifics became so granular that County Administrator Jonathan Lewis had to summon Stormwater Director Ben Quartermaine back to the meeting while he was driving home.

Upon his return to the podium, Quartermaine validated the Commission’s skepticism regarding the storage vaults. “Because these areas are so low... any storage of rainfall becomes

problematic,” Quartermaine explained, noting that watertight vaults in such high water tables risk “popping up” or floating if not perfectly engineered.

Commissioner Teresa Mast drove the “infrastructure first” mandate home, refusing to support a requested \$2.8 million for design and architectural services. “The need is so great,” Mast argued, pushing to maximize the spend on physical pumps and generators. The County’s stormwater department will now assume responsibility for the design and construction, ensuring the project focuses on keeping the State Road 789 evacuation route dry.

Following the Money: The \$57 Million Breakdown

The Commission faced what Commissioner Ron Cutsinger called “an absolutely impossible task,” sifting through 25 applications totaling over \$174 million in requests with only \$57 million available.

The final distribution heavily favored massive civil engineering projects over community facilities, adhering to a strict hierarchy of need:

- \$16 Million: Sarasota County Forest Lakes Floodplain Creation & Mitigation (Top Award).
- \$15 Million: River Road Interstate Connector upgrades in Englewood—a critical evacuation route improvement.
- \$13.5 Million: City of Sarasota St. Armands Resiliency Project.
- \$6 Million: Bahia Vista Flood Mitigation Project.
- \$3 Million: Southgate Regional Lift Station Expansion.
- \$3 Million: Newtown Boys & Girls Club Rebuild (The largest non-profit award).
- \$750,000: Venice YMCA Campus Improvements (Commercial kitchen rebuild).
- \$261,000: Family Promise Shamrock Emergency Shelter.
- \$179,000: Sarasota County Sewer Lift Station Bypass Pumps.

A Community Mobilized

The St. Armands award serves as a case study in civic mobilization. Chris Goglia, President of the St. Armands Residents Association, noted that without the physical presence of the City’s interim manager, Public Works director, and Longboat Key leadership, the project “may not have received any funding at all.”

“It was extremely gratifying to witness the number of people who spoke in support of this project, as well as the diverse interests they represented,” Goglia stated following the vote.

The allocation adds to the county’s previous full funding of the Hudson Bayou and Whitaker Bayou dredging projects, cementing this funding cycle as one of the most significant infrastructure investments in the city’s recent history.

Longboat Key News  
Sarasota City News

PO Box 8001  
Longboat Key, FL 34228  
941-387-2200  
www.lbknews.com

Steve Reid, Editor & Publisher  
sreid@lbknews.com

Associate Publisher  
Melissa Reid

Sales  
Lillian Sands  
Steve Reid  
ads@lbknews.com

Graphic Production  
Dottie Rutledge

Letters to the Editor  
letters@lbknews.com



# Sleet and Cabbage Return Home: Mote Marine Celebrates Release of Manatee Rehab Patients

In a major milestone for local marine conservation, Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium has successfully released its first two manatee rehabilitation patients back into the wild. The manatees, named Sleet and Cabbage, were returned to Florida waters last week following months of recovery at Mote’s facilities. Their release marks the successful conclusion of Mote’s first case since receiving its new designation as a secondary care holding facility.

### A Journey to Recovery

Sleet and Cabbage arrived at Mote on April 28, 2025, after being transferred from acute-care centers within the Manatee Rescue & Rehabilitation Partnership (MRP). Sleet: Rescued on January 8, 2025, from Crystal River, suffering from severe cold stress. Cabbage: Rescued on February 27, 2025, from Bradenton, also presenting with cold stress and significant weight loss. Mote’s role as a secondary care facility is designed to bridge the gap between critical care and release. Once the manatees were stabilized, Mote’s animal care teams focused on:

- Nutritional Support: Helping the animals regain significant weight.
- Body Conditioning: Ensuring they met the physical requirements to survive in the wild.
- Medical Monitoring: Overseeing the final stages of rehabilitation.

“The successful release of these two patients represents significant progress in statewide manatee conservation efforts,” said Dr. Michael P. Crosby, Mote’s President & CEO.

### Back in the Wild

The releases were a coordinated effort involving the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), and several partner organizations. Sleet was released into the warm waters of Crystal River on Tuesday, December 9. Cabbage was released the following day, Wednesday, December 10, at the TECO Big Bend discharge canal. Partner agencies assisting in the operation included ZooTampa at Lowry Park, Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute, and the Bishop Museum of Science and Nature.

### The Environmental Reality: Status and Threats

While Sleet and Cabbage are success stories, their struggle highlights a darker reality for the species. The West Indian manatee remains listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act, though many conservationists are petitioning to reinstate its Endangered status due to volatile environmental conditions.

### Population Numbers

Current estimates place the Florida manatee population between 8,350 and 11,730 individuals, with a widely cited average of approximately 9,790. While this is a rebound from the lows of the 1990s (when the population was roughly 1,500), the stability of these numbers is fragile.

### Increasing Mortality Rates

The expansion of Mote’s facilities comes at a critical time. Preliminary data from the FWC indicates that 2025 has seen a slight uptick in mortalities compared to the previous two years:

- 2025 (Year-to-Date): ~587 deaths recorded.
- 2024: 565 deaths.
- 2023: 555 deaths.

While these numbers are an improvement over the catastrophic “die-off” years of 2021–2022 (where nearly 2,000 manatees were lost), the trend line remains concerning.



### Primary Threats

The threats driving these numbers are threefold:

**Starvation and Seagrass Loss:** The Indian River Lagoon (IRL)—a critical habitat—has suffered massive seagrass die-offs due to nutrient pollution. While the 2025 health assessment for the Central IRL showed a rating improvement from “poor” to “okay” with slight seagrass increases in the Mosquito Lagoon, coverage remains historically low, leaving manatees vulnerable to starvation.

**Vessel Strikes:** As boating traffic in Florida increases, collisions remain a leading cause of injury and death.

**Cold Stress:** As seen with Sleet and Cabbage, the loss of natural warm-water habitats forces manatees to rely on artificial sources (like power plant discharge canals), making them susceptible to cold snaps if they cannot find refuge.

### Answering the Call

These environmental pressures created a bottleneck in the rehabilitation system, sparking an urgent statewide need for more holding capacity. By taking in non-critical patients like Sleet and Cabbage, Mote frees up space at acute-care hospitals for the most critically injured animals, creating a more efficient network of care across the state. With the 2025 winter season approaching, Mote’s empty tanks will likely not stay empty for long, as the network prepares to respond to the ongoing environmental challenges facing Florida’s state marine mammal.

BREAKFAST • BRUNCH • LUNCH • DINNER • CATERING • GOURMET DELI & BAKERY • CORNER STORE



WEEKLY SPECIALS

BEST BRUNCH ON LONGBOAT KEY

20% OFF BOTTLES OF WINE DAILY

RESTAURANT & DELI

HAPPY HOUR 3-6

NIGHTLY DINNER SPECIALS



525 ST. JUDES DRIVE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL 34228 • HARRYSKITCHEN.COM • (941) 383-0777



LAZY LOBSTER

NEW HOURS!

NEW MENU!

Enjoy your favorites all day!

Great food & drinks served continuously.

MONDAY - FRIDAY: 11:30 AM - 9:00 PM

Early Dining & Happy Hour Menu

11:30 AM – 5:00 PM

All-Day Dinner Menu

11:30 AM – 9:00 PM

SATURDAY: 1:00 - 9:00 PM

Early Dining & Happy Hour Menu

1:00 – 5:00 PM

All-Day Dinner Menu

1:00 – 9:00 PM

CLOSED SUNDAYS

5350 Gulf of Mexico Dr. | In the Centre Shops

www.LazyLobsterofLongboat.com | 941-383-0440



CHRIST CHURCH

OF LONGBOAT KEY

PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)

Growing in Jesus' Name

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Worship and Celebrate with Us

Wednesday • December 24, 2025 • 5:30 PM

The Sermon Title is “With”

A Service of Lessons, Carols, & Candlelight,

with Chancel Choir & Trumpet.

Duet by Alexa Lowrey & Pam Snauwaert

Visitors & Residents Welcome

Join Us for Our Regular Sunday Service at 10:00 AM

Dr. Julia Wharff Piermont, Pastor

Watch Our Services Live:

www.bit.ly/cclbksermons or

www.christchurchoflbk.org (follow YouTube link)

6400 Gulf of Mexico Dr. • 941.383.8833 (office) • www.christchurchoflbk.org



# 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.

## Sarasota street maintenance

To: Sarasota City Commission

When was the last time you walked around downtown? I don't mean just Main Street or the popular shopping areas...I challenge you to take a stroll along the 300 block of S. Pineapple Avenue. Last week when I did, I was amazed and ashamed at the weeds that were growing up out of sidewalk cracks and beside traffic and parking signs. One, in the popular Burns Court area, was growing up between a storefront and the sidewalk and was over 3 feet high! Sarasota is one of the most beautiful cities in our country; perhaps we need a "weed patrol" to ensure that all of our downtown neighborhoods are being taken care of properly. Thank you.

Jim Owen  
Watertown, SD

## Public Funds

To: Longboat Key Commission

The purpose of this email is to respond to a question posed by the Commission regarding the Town's ability to expend public funds opposing certain property tax measures that are likely to be advanced by the State by referendum in the fall of 2026. The question implicates an interpretation of Section 106.113, F.S., and the prohibitions set forth in that statute in terms of public fund expenditures.

Attorney Amy Farrington and I previously provided guidance on this subject to the Town Commission in the form of an August 2024 Memorandum relating to "Expenditures on Public Advertising Associated with Referendums." A copy of that Memorandum is attached for reference. That Memo includes a review of Section 106.113, F.S. and its most recent amendments. Specifically, section 106.113, F.S. was amended in 2022 to include a specific prohibition against the expenditure of local government funds for certain communications concerning an issue or question that is subject to a vote of the electors.

Subsection (2) specifically provides:

A local government or a person acting on behalf of local government may not expend or authorize the expenditure of, and a person or group may not accept, public funds for a political advertisement or any other communication sent to electors concerning an issue, referendum, or amendment, including any state question, that is subject to a vote of the electors. This subsection applies to a communication initiated by a local government or a person acting on behalf of a local government, irrespective of whether the communication is limited to factual information or advocates for the passage or defeat of an issue, referendum, or amendment. This subsection does not preclude a local government or a person acting on behalf of a local government from reporting on official actions of the local government's governing body in an accurate, fair, and impartial manner; posting factual information on a government website or in printed materials; hosting and providing information at a public forum; providing factual information in response to an inquiry; or providing information as otherwise authorized or required by law (emphasis added).

As far as we can tell, the particular scenario posed by the Town Commission has not been addressed through advisory opinions (Attorney General, Florida Elections Commission or Division of Elections) or caselaw since the 2022 amendment. There are a few instances of cases regarding this section of law, but they were all determined before the 2022 amendment. Without additional guidance, the statute lays out that these communications are prohibited for any issue "that is subject to a vote of the electors." The statute is not entirely clear as to whether the resolution or amendment has to be approved/scheduled for a ballot or if it just goes to an issue that is expected to go before the voters. The bill analysis also did not provide any further guidance regarding that particular sentence in the statute. That said, any property tax amendments or changes to the Florida Constitution would predictably go before the voters through a referendum vote.

As a result, at this time, we recommend that the Town not spend public funds opposing these measures even if the referendum questions have not been finalized yet. Instead, we would recommend that the Town continue to focus on what the Town can do to inform the voting public regarding the (negative) impacts and consequences of such referendum measures (e.g. post factual information on their website, hosting information at a public forum, etc.). Again, the attached memo provides more detailed information as to what is not prohibited.

Maggie Mooney  
Town Attorney  
Town of Longboat Key

## Longboat Key Valuations

To: Longboat Key Commission

Attached is the response that we have received from the Manatee Property Appraiser's Office. It would appear that while this year is lost, that next year their plan is to restore the valuation base to its prior condition. We'll be exploring all of this with the Manatee Appraiser's Office when we speak with them.

Also, Town staff did meet today with the Sarasota Property Appraiser's Office to understand their processes in storm events and some of the best practices they mentioned we will cover with the Manatee Appraiser's Office when we meet with them (no date yet for that meeting).

Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

## Request for Meeting to Discuss Property Valuations Within the Town of Longboat Key

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

In response to your letter dated November 19, please find enclosed brief responses to the

questions outlined therein. Additionally, I have included the applicable Florida statutes governing the valuation of properties damaged by catastrophic events.

Should you wish to meet in person to obtain further clarification, please contact our Executive Director, Barbara Richardson, to arrange a mutually convenient date, time, and location.

Please note that there is a defined statutory window during which a taxpayer may request a review and possible correction to the tax roll. This window begins on the date the TRIM notices are mailed and closes 25 days thereafter. For this year, TRIM notices were mailed on August 18. I am not aware of any other period designated for such corrections.

Tracy L. West  
Director-Appraisal Services  
Manatee County Property Appraisers Office

## Longboat Key Valuations

To: Manatee County Property Appraisers Office Director Tracy West

The Town has been advised today that there is a window in which Property Appraisers can make corrections to inaccurate valuations and that this window may currently be open. If this is correct, will the Manatee Property Appraisers Office be making any value adjustments now that you've been advised of a number of incorrect valuations for Longboat Key? Looking forward to receiving your response.

Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

## Longboat Key Valuations

To: Manatee County Property Appraisers Office Director Tracy West

My Vice-Mayor Debra Williams mentioned she spoke with you today and came away with the feeling that the Property Appraiser's Office had responded to our initial questions.

On Friday I received the following email from Mr. Hackney stating a response would be coming the first of this week. Although we haven't received anything yet, we look forward to reviewing and the opportunity for a follow up discussion. Just wanted to make sure we're all on the same page and that if a response has been sent it hasn't been received in my office as of this date and time. Thank you and I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

## Longboat Key Valuations

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Please be aware that by utilizing the Manatee County Property Appraiser's email system, your email messages may be subject to interception for the purpose of detecting and preventing malicious emails. Mr. Tipton, I apologize for the delay in responding to your request regarding the valuations on Longboat Key. I had surgery and was out of the office last week. My staff has been reviewing your questions and will have our answers the first of the week. When you receive our response, please take time to study our answers and after you get a chance to digest our answers, call and we can set up a meeting to go over your concerns. I look forward to meeting with you next week.

See Letters, page 6

Live in Your Home's Best Light

CALL BRINGLES BLINDS TODAY

SALE! \$500 OFF all Custom Interior Shutters & Shades



Longboat residents and business owners Chris & Dana Bringle

Bringles Blinds provides affordable blinds, shutters, shades, and master installation services to the Longboat Key, Sarasota, Bradenton, Lakewood Ranch and surrounding areas.

CALL FOR A FREE QOUTE — 941-320-7019

BRINGLEBLINDS.LBK@GMAIL.COM

BRINGLESBLINDS.COM

\*Offer valid with minimum purchase of three



# Editor Letters

Letters, from page 5

Charles Hackney  
Manatee County Property Appraisers Office

Longboat Key Valuations

To: Manatee County Property Appraisers Office Charles Hackney  
The Town has not had a response from your office regarding the attached letter sent to you on November 19th. This is a matter of critical importance to not only the Town but to other Manatee taxing authorities and our residents. A meeting to understand what has occurred is essential to moving forward and I again request that we get a time scheduled to discuss.  
Please feel free to call me if you have any questions. I look forward to hearing from your office shortly.  
Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

Ohana

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier  
At your Commission Meeting on December 8th, you stated that you had asked “staff” to reach out to the new owners of Ohana on the issue of customary cross-over access. Today I attended Mr. Tipton’s town managers meeting and he stated that it might be “tricky” for staff to approach the owners since it might be seen as “intimidation”.. We have a group of citizens who are willing to be involved with meeting the new owners, but we feel the town’s involvement is appropriate and necessary. I do not know which “staff” member was asked to help in this matter. Could you please let me know who the best staff person would be to work with us on this approach?  
Many thanks!  
Patricia DeChiara  
Longboat Key

Longboat Key Property Valuations

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
I had an executive committee meeting with the Manasota League, and Holmes Beach had a vastly different experience with the appraiser office. May be worth a phone call  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

Longboat Key Property Valuations

To: Longboat Key Commission  
Attached is the response that we have received from the Manatee Property Appraiser’s Office. It would appear that while this year is lost, that next year their plan is to restore the valuation base to its prior condition. We’ll be exploring all of this with the Manatee Appraiser’s Office when we speak with them.  
Also, Town staff did meet today with the Sarasota Property Appraiser’s Office to understand their processes in storm events and some of the best practices they mentioned we will cover with the Manatee Appraiser’s Office when we meet with them (no date yet for that meeting).  
Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 7

### Transform Your Interior For Less ...

35% Off Roller & Solar Screen Shades with Free Cordless option or Save \$100 Off Motorization



★2024★  
THE OFFICIAL  
COMMUNITY  
CHOICE AWARDS  
Sarasota  
WINNER

★2025★  
THE OFFICIAL  
COMMUNITY  
CHOICE AWARDS  
Sarasota  
WINNER

Call for a Free Quote    **941-360-9200**

Visit our Showroom  
4201 N. Washington Blvd. Sarasota  
Mon-Fri 9 am to 5 pm & Sat 10 am to 2 pm

**Blinds & Designs**  
of Florida

[www.blindsanddesignsofflorida.com](http://www.blindsanddesignsofflorida.com)

## Elevate your leisure time with unparalleled experiences.

As a member you'll enjoy:

• Championship Golf

• Private Beach & Pool

• Deep-Water Marina

• Pickleball & Tennis

• Spa & Wellness Center

• Five Exclusive Restaurants

Contact [membership@longboatkeyclub.com](mailto:membership@longboatkeyclub.com) or (941)387-1661 for a tour.





LONGBOAT•KEY•CLUB



LEARN MORE



# Editor Letters

Letters, from page 6

## Request for Meeting to Discuss Property Valuations Within the Town of Longboat Key

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

In response to your letter dated November 19, please find enclosed brief responses to the questions outlined therein. Additionally, I have included the applicable Florida statutes governing the valuation of properties damaged by catastrophic events.

Should you wish to meet in person to obtain further clarification, please contact our Executive Director, Barbara Richardson, to arrange a mutually convenient date, time, and location.

Please note that there is a defined statutory window during which a taxpayer may request a review and possible correction to the tax roll. This window begins on the date the TRIM notices are mailed and closes 25 days thereafter. For this year, TRIM notices were mailed on August 18. I am not aware of any other period designated for such corrections.

Tracy L. West  
Director-Appraisal Services  
Manatee County Property Appraisers Office

## Longboat Key Valuations

To: Manatee County Property Appraisers Office Director Tracy West

The Town has been advised today that there is a window in which Property Appraisers can make corrections to inaccurate valuations and that this window may currently be open. If this is correct, will the Manatee Property Appraisers Office be making any value adjustments now that you’ve been advised of a number of incorrect valuations for Longboat Key? Looking forward to receiving your response.

Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

## Longboat Key Valuations

To: Manatee County Property Appraisers Office Director Tracy West

My Vice-Mayor Debra Williams mentioned she spoke with you today and came away with the feeling that the Property Appraiser’s Office had responded to our initial questions.

On Friday I received the following email from Mr. Hackney stating a response would be coming the first of this week. Although we haven’t received anything yet, we look forward to reviewing and the opportunity for a follow up discussion. Just wanted to make sure we’re all on the same page and that if a response has been sent it hasn’t been received in my office as of

this date and time. Thank you and I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

## Suncoast Waterkeeper Sampling Results for Dec. 5

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

On December 8, Monday, the enterococci survey was carried out during a low tide to a rising tide, from -0.5 to -0.1 feet. There was a considerable amount of rain the night before; in the 24 hours prior to sampling, the amount of rainfall ranged from 0.28 to 1.71 inches.

The water was murky with sediments, and the bottom was not visible at Caples Bayfront, Indian Beach, The Bay Park, and Sarasota Sailing Squadron. There was 1 dog in the water at The Bay Park. There were several birds and visible bird feces (white floating bits) at Sarasota Sailing Squadron. At Indian Beach (pictured below), the sand had been pushed further from the stormwater pipe, indicating that it was discharging a high volume of water during the rain event.

While the water was clear, thick wrack was present on the bottom and shore at Longboat Key Bayfront Park and Longboat Key Boat Ramp. The shoreline was very mucky at Herb Dolan Park, where there was also a lot of wrack on the bottom and shore. Horses were in the water at Palma Sola Bay, in the northeast corner, about 300 meters away from the sampling area. The water at Braden River was murky with sediments and the bottom consisted of leaf litter. The water was clear at Palmetto Bridge. At Emerson Point Preserve, wrack was coming in towards the shore with the current. The water was slightly murky with sediments at Terra Ceia Bay, and 2 dead adult horseshoe crabs were observed on the shore.

The results for sites sampled in the northern suncoast (across Manatee & Sarasota Counties) are as follows:

Caples: 185/100 mL  
Indian Beach: 5172/100 mL  
The Bay Park, Boulevard of the Arts: 74/100 mL  
Sarasota Sailing Squadron: 175/100 mL  
Longboat Key Bayfront Park (bay side): 341/100 mL  
Town of Longboat Key Boat Ramp: 281/100 mL  
Herb Dolan Park: 122/100 mL  
Palma Sola Causeway North: 213/100 mL  
Braden River: 544/100 mL  
Palmetto Bridge: 86/100 mL  
Emerson Point: 10/100 mL

See Letters, page 12



JEFF  
RHINELANDER  
941-685-3590  
Jeff@jeffrhineland.com



COURTNEY  
TARANTINO  
941-893-7203  
courtney.tarantino@floridamoves.com



443F John Ringling Blvd. • Sarasota, FL 34236



BIRD KEY • SARASOTA  
247 Robin Drive  
New Construction • \$13,999,000



BIRD KEY • SARASOTA  
605 Wild Turkey Lane  
2,200 SF • \$1,995,000



L'AMBIANCE • LONGBOAT KEY  
435 L'Ambiance Dr #J703  
3BR/2BA/1HB • \$4,795.000



NEW CONSTRUCTION - GULF FRONT  
4005 Casey Key Road, Nokomis  
6BR/6.5BA • 7,977 SF • \$9,950,000



BEACHES • LONGBOAT KEY  
775 Longboat Club Rd #203  
3BR/3BA • Gulf front • \$1,999,000



COUNTRY CLUB SHORES • LONGBOAT KEY  
510 Wedge Lane  
4BR/3BA • Canal front • \$2,215.000





**TOP .5%  
IN THE WORLD**



**\$3.4 Billion Career Sales**

JUDY  
**KEPECZ**  
HAYS  
*Team*



Leah George  
941-780-0597



Judy Kepez-Hays  
941-587-1700



Steven Kepez  
941-376-6411

Casa del Carnevale on St. Armands



139 S Washington Drive  
\$16,850,000  
CasaDelCarnevale.com

*Dear Friends  
& Neighbors*

*Wishing you the blessings of*

*Peace,  
Love & Joy*

*this Holiday Season.*

*May you be blessed with family,  
friendship, and abundant laughter  
throughout the year.*

*Judy, John and The Kepez-Hays Team*



John & Judy

In loving memory of my brother  
Gabe Buky  
April 27, 1952 - July 28, 2022

Charles Buky & Family  
REALTOR®

Nicole Kasten & Family  
REALTOR®

Steven Kepez & Family  
REALTOR®

Veronika Humphreys  
Licensed Marketing Director

Leah George  
REALTOR®

McDuff

Islander Club



**NEW TO THE MARKET - 4 BR/4BA**

2301 Gulf of Mexico Drive #11N & #12N  
\$2,488,000  
IslanderClub11N-12N.com

Hideaway Bay



757 Hideaway Bay Drive  
\$7,488,000  
757HideawayBay.com

Our expertise is undeniable—deeply understanding the local market and truly listening to our clients.

L'Ambiance



415 L'Ambiance Drive #A801  
\$6,995,000  
LAmbianceA801.com

435 L'Ambiance Drive #L807  
\$3,500,000 | Furnished  
LAmbianceL807.com

415 L'Ambiance Drive #B202  
\$2,500,000  
LAmbianceB202.com

Ritz-Carlton Managed



The Beach Residences

1300 Benjamin Franklin Drive #709  
\$3,750,000  
BeachResidences709.com

Gulf Views



**Under Contract**

6473 Gulf of Mexico Drive  
\$2,895,000  
6473SleepyLagoon.com

Villa di Lancia



2165 Gulf of Mexico Drive #114  
\$2,100,000  
VillaDiLancia114.com

Tangerine Bay Club



**Under Contract**

350 Gulf of Mexico Drive #126  
\$2,100,000  
Tangerine126.com

350 Gulf of Mexico Drive #211  
\$938,500  
Tangerine211.com

Longboat Key Towers



603 Longboat Club Road #402N  
\$1,350,000  
LBKTowers402N.com

Promenade



1211 Gulf of Mexico Dr #704  
\$999,000  
Promenade704.com

Golden Gate Point



660 Golden Gate Point #32  
\$849,000  
MarinaView32.com



# OnPatrol



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

## Dec. 12

### Disturbance

7:06 p.m.

Officer Miklos, Officer Tillman and Officer Martinson were dispatched to the 3600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a disturbance. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos spoke with the complainants who advised they saw a man with red shorts and a white and blue shirt yelling profanities in the parking lot. The complainant advised he believed the man was in a verbal argument with a woman. The other complainants also reported that they observed the man on the phone. All the complainants advised no threats were made nor any physical contact was made while they observed or interacted with the man. While in the parking lot, officers observed a man matching the description walking around on the phone. The man advised he was attempting to get a ride to pick him up. The man advised he was at a dinner with his wife and got into an argument on the way home. The man advised his wife dropped him off in the parking lot and he was able to speak to his wife on the phone who advised she was on the way to pick him up. The man was walked to the public beach access and he said he would remain at the picnic table until his wife returned to get him. The man was checked through NCIC/FCIC for wants and warrants and returned with negative results. Case clear.



property. No police services were needed. Case clear.

## Property

2:15 p.m.

Officer Nazareno was dispatched to Bay Isles Parkway for a property damage report. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno made contact with a security officer who advised that a black Ford F150 that had damaged the gate arm. The estimated cost of the damage was \$1,500. The driver stated that he had been waiting in line for more than ten minutes and decided to follow behind a vehicle on the owner's lane and the gate went down and hit the back of his pickup truck. No damage was observed on the pick up truck. Both parties were

exchanged information and were given the case number. Case clear.

## Dec. 15 Highway

8:13 a.m.

Officer Mathis was dispatched to Marbury lane in reference to a construction vehicle blocking the roadway. Upon his arrival, Officer Mathis observed a crane sitting in the road moving jobsite materials. The roadway was open after the materials were relocated and the crane could sit on the jobsite. No further roadway obstruction present. Case clear.

## Citizen assist

8:42 p.m.

Officer Pescuma was dispatched to Gulfside Road in reference to a citizen assist. Teh caller stated that she observed the front porch light go on and off at her neighbor's house and advised that the owner is not living there and the home should be vacant. Upon arriving on scene, Officer Pescuma did not observe any lights on at the residence. As Officer Pescuma approached the front of the house, the motion sensor lights activated. Officer Pescuma observed the residence to be gutted and boarded up. Officer Pescuma did not see any signs of forced entry or evidence that someone was there. Officer Pescuma conducted an exterior search of the perimeter and did not observe anything out of the ordinary. Officer Pescuma made contact with the homeowner through the ring camera at the front door and Officer Pescuma explained his reason for being there. The homeowner stated that they have not received any ring notifications of any persons on the property. The owner has reason to believe an animal could have been activated the motion sensor lights. Officer Pescuma attempted to call the complainant with negative results. Case clear.

## Dec. 16

## Citizen assist

11:14 p.m.

Officer Pescuma was dispatched to Mistletoe Lane in reference to a dumpster in the roadway. The caller, who didn't want to meet stated there was a large dumpster that has been in front of the location since Monday. He said that he reached out to the company to have it moved and has not received a response. The caller requested an LEO to issue a citation and/or have it removed. Upon arriving on scene, Officer Pescuma observed the dumpster which belongs to a Phil's Site Prep Inc. The dumpster is a private construction dumpster and has debris consistent of construction/ remodeling materials. Officer Pescuma attempted to call the owner however it was outside of business hours. The dumpster is on private property and is not obstructing traffic to include emergency vehicles. Officer Pescuma made an attempt to call the complainant to explain that due to the dumpster being on private property and not an obstruction that he should go through the homeowner's association. The caller did not answer. Case clear.

**Dec. 17**  
**Vehicle**

1:05 a.m.

Officer Butler while performing security checks in the area of Town Center Green when he came upon a vehicle parked after hours in the public parking lot. Signage stated that park access was from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. and was posted at the park entrance. Upon further inspection, the vehicle was found to have a missing passenger rear tire and was suspended in the air by a floor jack. There were no occupants in the vehicle, nor was the owner on scene. Officer Butler attempted to contact the owner by conducting a LinX search, but no results were obtained. The vehicle was in violation of hours of use for town parks, public beaches and public beach and bay access. All persons and vehicles are prohibited from being present in any town park except during the hours of operation. A town ordinance was listed on the vehicle, which was not roadworthy, the vehicle was classified as abandoned, though not a hazard. A red tag sticker was issued to the vehicle. A follow up visit in 24 hours will be conducted to determine if the vehicle has been removed. Approximately 24 hours later, Officer Miklos arrived at the Town Center Green and confirmed the vehicle was no longer located in the parking lot. Case clear.

## Dec. 18 Alarm

6:18 a.m.

Sgt. Smith responded to a hold up alarm activation at the 400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Upon arrival, Sgt. Smith observed normal business activity with no signs of distress or criminal activity. Sgt. Smith made contact with on-site employees, who advised the alarm activation was accidental. A security check of the premises was conducted and no suspicious circumstances were observed. The scene was determined to be secure. Employees were advised to have the alarm system checked for malfunction. Case clear.

## Theft

6:00 p.m.

Officer Martinson responded to the 6700 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a theft report. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson met with the owner of the restaurant who stated that a group had left without paying their \$415.87 bill. While speaking with the owner, someone called the restaurant stating she had accidentally walked out without paying the bill. The woman provided her credit card number over the phone and paid the bill. Case clear.

**Dec. 13**  
**Vehicle**

11:22 a.m.

Officer Maple while on patrol in the 3100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive noticed a north-bound gray passenger vehicle with an obscured Florida plate that was covered by a faded/tinted covering. The tag was unreadable from 50 feet. Officer Maple conducted a traffic stop of the vehicle and informed the driver the reason for the stop. The driver stated he was aware of the tag covering. Officer Maple asked for his driver's license, registration and insurance. The driver stated he did not have his driver's license on him. However, the driver then reached for his wallet in his back pocket and stated his driver's license is actually suspended. The driver then handed over a Florida identification card. Officer Maple then ran the identification card he presented which confirmed the suspension for numerous violations including failure to pay traffic fines. NCIC/FCIC warrant checks were negative. During the paperwork processing stage, his coworkers arrived to take possession of the vehicle. Officer Maple cited the man for having an obscured tag and for driving on a suspended driver's license with knowledge. He received a mandatory assigned court date. Officer Maple informed him of the court date and he provided a fingerprint on the uniform traffic citation and a signature. After Officer Maple completed all paperwork, he allowed the man to depart as a passenger with one of his coworkers driving the vehicle from the location. Case clear.

## Dec. 14

## Citizen assist

10:46 a.m.

Officer Nazareno was dispatched to Harbourside Drive for a public service call and was instructed by dispatch to meet the caller in front of Publix. The caller stated that she had forgotten her phone and went shopping at Publix and security was not letting her back in at Bay Isles. Upon arrival, the caller was no longer at Publix lot and Officer Nazareno was advised by staff that the caller was able to contact a relative and was able to gain entry back into Bay Isles.

LBK  
Liquors



941.953.1835

The Island's largest selection of Beer, Wine & Spirits  
Come check out our competitive prices!

Discounts on cases of wine | Special orders welcome

Locally owned & operated

Whitney Beach Plaza  
6854 Gulf of Mexico Drive | Longboat Key, FL





# WineTimes

## Longboat Kiwanis Welcome Return of Lawn Party

*n a display of versatility, the Lazy Lobster on LBK prepared a savory braised rib with an Asian Glaze and Toasted Sesame Seeds on Smoked Gouda Grits.*

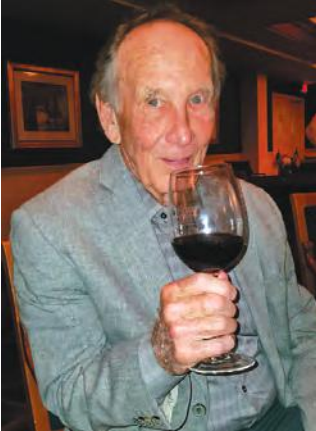
**S.W. and Rich Hermansen**  
**Guest Writers**  
**wine@lbknews.com**

The somber fall of 2024 on Longboat Key and its devastating Hurricanes seemed a distant memory as residents of the Sarasota area welcomed the Kiwanis Lawn Party by the Bay.

Except for last year, this annual event has raised tens of thousands of dollars to help kids in need. Led by the Event Chair, Michael Garey, co-owner of the Lazy Lobster restaurant on LBK, and staffed by a legion of volunteers, the Lawn Party provided a showcase for the hospitality industry on Longboat Key and its Sarasota and Manatee County neighbors.

This year the weather broke favorably for the event: pleasantly cool and dry sea breezes lightly overcast in the Ken Thompson Park on the end of City Island that juts out between two sides of Sarasota Bay. Restaurants and beverage distributors/importers brought ample quantities of samples of their popular offerings. Those attending received trays along with wrist bands. The trays held multiple food samples and a beverage glass. Some, including ours, had food samples stacked on one another.

The number and variety of food samples challenged our best efforts to evaluate all of them. One of the first volunteers to open close to the front gate, Pascone's Ristorante, served a primo piatto of Orecchiette, and ear-shaped pasta from the Puglia region on the Adriatic side of Italy. This perfect first course had a light olive oil sauce flecked with bitter green herbs. Close by, the Resort at Longboat Key served an appetizing jerk-spiced Ahi Tuna on a bed of Edamame and Mango Relish. The Old Salty Dog on City Island served plump Coconut Shrimp with a raspberry sauce lightly spiked with jalapeño. Crab and Fin added ceviche tasting spoons, and Viento Kitchen at the Zoto Resort contributed a Maine Lobster Bisque. Ocean Prime in Sarasota plied us with another Ahi Tuna Tartare, this one with avocado, pickled ginger, and wontons, as did Tsunami Sushi with its Ahi Tuna Tower with crab, avocado, sauces and Masago. Michael Helmer of Winebow distributors poured what he described as an old for a white wine 2016 Cascinetta Muscato d'Ásti from the Piedmont region of Italy. This peaches and apricot sweet and low alcohol wine had over its years developed dried fruit and sherry flavors. It paired oddly but well with the meaty tuna, shellfish, olive, herbs, and tropical fruit



flavors in this first course.

A second course of the shell and fin fish favored on the islands began with Daiquiri Deck Escabeche of Poached Shrimp, Scallops, and Lump Crab in citrus=tomato broth presented by Chef Jeremy Thayer, Lynn Veronica's Spinach and Artichoke dip from Mean Deans in Bradenton, Harry's Continental Kitchens' Crabcake with Remoulade on Baby Arugula and Corn Salad, Lo'Key Seafood Chowder, and an authentic Seafood and Andouille Gumbo from Kacey's Seafood and More. The Paella de Mariscos from Alma de España deserves mention as well. Salad courses to refresh the palate, the popular 1905 salad from the Columbia Restaurant, the Mediterranean Seafood Salad by Ringside at Cirque St. Armands Beachside, and the White Bean Hummus with roasted pine nuts from the Drift Kitchen and Bar at the Lido Beach Resort. To pair with these seafood dishes, Al Purpura of Vino Veritas Importers suggested the luscious 2023 Collefrisio white wines, blends of Pecorino, Trebbiano, and Falanghina grapes from Central Italy, and for more robust and meaty dishes the Sicilian 2020 Fueda Disisa Vuaría Nero D'Ávola red wine.

In a display of versatility, the Lazy Lobster on LBK prepared a savory braised rib with an Asian Glaze and Toasted Sesame Seeds on Smoked Gouda Grits. Nearby, the Café on St. Armands served Kefta, beef and lamb meatballs with saffron rice, pickled red onions, spicy feta, and tzatziki drizzle, Sara's Italian Kitchen provided Meatballs in Marinara and Del Campo sauces, Gnocchi topped with Sausage, Mushrooms, Gorgonzola, Garlic, Olive Oil, and Cream. The Nero D'Avola matches up to these dishes, while the Lola Pinot Noir from California poured by that vineyard's Florida Sales Manager Jordan Brewer paired well with the Stonewood Grill and Tavern Boursin Pork Chop with Pear Chutney and Fig Balsamic.

The next annual lawn party promises to bring another large sample of food and beverage selections in the Sarasota and Bradenton counties. Don't miss these culinary and the chance to join in a good cause.

*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 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.*

LONGBOAT KEY TENNIS CENTER

Join the fun!

10 OPEN COURTS | TOURNAMENT PLAY | LESSONS

FULL SERVICE TENNIS PRO SHOP

ROUND ROBIN LEAGUE

CERTIFIED INSTRUCTORS AND CLINICS

OPEN MON-FRI 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM

SAT-SUN 7:30 AM - 1200 PM

SEASONAL AND ANNUAL PASSES ENJOY

UNLIMITED FREE PLAY!

590 BAY ISLES ROAD | LONGBOAT KEY, FL

941.316.8367

Laid-Back Waterfront Living!

744 JUNGLE QUEEN WAY • LONGBOAT KEY  
3BR/2BA • 1,688 SF • \$1,200,000

Fully renovated, furnished coastal retreat includes a single car garage, deeded beach access and two boat lifts with quick access to the Bay and Gulf.

405 BRYN MAWR ISLAND, BRADENTON  
2BR/2BA • 1,392 SF • \$649,000

Never flooded! This POOL home, with a 70 ft. private waterfront dock, is located on a deep saltwater canal with direct bridge-free access to Bay.

CALL FOR YOUR PRIVATE TOUR!

Teddi Aberle, Realtor • 813.503.6128 • teddiaberle@yahoo.com

Your Hometown Realty, Inc. • P. O. Box 10367 • Bradenton, FL 34282

RINGSIDE

EAT. DRINK. SAVOR

Sarasota's Newest Dining Spectacle - Now Open!

A fresh, inventive dining destination just a short stroll from St. Armands Circle, Ringside balances bold flavors and Gulf seafood favorites in the mesmerizing setting of Cirque St. Armands Beachside.

opalcollection.com/cirque-st-armands

941.388.5555



# Editor Letters

Letters, from page 7

Terra Ceia Bay: 230/100 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.

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@suncoastwaterkeeper.org. Your input is invaluable in our collective efforts to address these water quality issues.

Pia Ronquillo-See  
Suncoast Waterkeeper

PD by CSTF



**SCAN HERE TO  
SUBMIT A TIP OR  
DOWNLOAD OUR  
FREE MOBILE APP**



**CRIME STOPPERS**  
of Sarasota County

**REWARDS UP TO \$5000**  
FOR ANONYMOUS TIPS THAT LEAD TO AN ARREST

**941-366-TIPS**  
SarasotaCrimeStoppers.com

**THE EDUCATION CENTER  
AT TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL**  
*Like College, Only Better!*

**2025-2026**

**LECTURE SERIES**  
PAINTING CURRENT EVENTS  
QIGONG YOGA **MEDITATION**  
BRIDGE MAH JONGG CANASTA  
**SUPREME COURT** AMERICAN HISTORY  
LITERATURE & POETRY **MOVIE & BOOK GROUPS**  
MUSIC & ART APPRECIATION JAZZ NIGHTS  
MORNING FORUMS THEOLOGY **WORLD POLITICS**  
**FILM FESTIVALS** THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES  
AUTOBIOGRAPHY **IPHONE & IPAD** BIRDING  
**NATURE WALKS** WELLNESS NORDIC WALKING  
LANGUAGES **PIANO LESSONS**  
**SUNDAY CONCERTS** BROADWAY BIOS  
**CRAFTS** SPECIAL ONE-TIME EVENTS  
**& MUCH MORE!**

*Everything Under The Sun To Learn & Enjoy*

Many Programs Available on Zoom.

**THE EDUCATION CENTER AT TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL**  
567 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, FL 34228  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE [www.TBleducationcenter.org](http://www.TBleducationcenter.org)  
For a brochure or inquiries call: (941) 383-8222  
or email [Admin@tbieducationcenter.org](mailto:Admin@tbieducationcenter.org)

14th Street Speed Table

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch  
As requested, please find below an update on speed tables on 14th street (between US 41 and Coconut Ave) in preparation for an upcoming Central Coconut Neighborhood meeting. During the traffic calming process, two speed tables were proposed on 14th Street. Only one speed table (between 1254 and 1258 14th Street) received agreement from adjacent neighbors. This speed table was designed in-house (attached plan for your reference). Due to limited funds, construction was not completed last FY. Staff have now started the process for a purchase order (PO) to one of the City’s “continuing services” contractors. Once the PO is completed/Notice to Proceed issued, staff will coordinate with the contractor for scheduling. Upon scheduling and right of way use permits construction can begin. Construction is anticipated to start soon, early 2026. Staff will notify residents before construction begins.  
Sage Kamiya  
City Engineer  
City of Sarasota

14th Street Speed Table

To: Sarasota City Engineer Sage Kamiya  
Thank you Mr Kamyia for your quick response, I know the neighborhood will appreciate N update tonight! Thank you all for the quick turnaround. Have a lovely evening,  
Jen Ahearn-Koch  
City Commissioner  
City of Sarasota

MLK Update

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch  
I hope your day is going well. Mr. Bullock reached out to me to provide you with an update regarding the MLK project. Please see the below update.  
Regarding, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park, the City and the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program are partnering to improve both the park and shoreline for park users, along with water quality improvements. The City will focus on improving the park, while the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program will focus on shoreline restoration to increase access to Whitaker Bayou, and add natural features to improve water quality. The City’s project is out to bid. The bidding will close on January 15, 2026, and a contractor will be selected for the project. The tentative timeline for the City’s project to be completed is June 2026. I believe the tentative timeline for the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program’s project to be completed is March 2026.  
City’s Improvements: (May not be inclusive of all improvements):  
Bench Swing  
Seat Wall  
Picnic Shelters  
New Paver Plaza (Flex Space)  
Picnic Tables  
Benches (Variety)  
Bike Racks  
Ping Pong Tables  
Chess/Checker Tables  
New Walkways (ADA Compliant)  
Lighting (Poles and Bollards)  
Landscaping (Shrubs/Florida Coontie/Pink Muhly Grass/etc.)  
Trees (Live Oaks/Mahogany/etc.)  
Parking Lot Improvements  
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program’s Improvements: (May not be inclusive of all improvements):  
Kayak Launch  
Tiered Terrace  
Upland Planting (5,775 square feet)  
Marsh Planting (1,231 square feet)  
Plants in Existing Dry Stormwater Pond  
Plants in Existing Swale  
Shoreline Restoration  
Wishing you and your family nothing but the best for the holiday season and 2026!  
Jerry Fogle  
Director Parks and Recreation Director  
City of Sarasota

MLK Update

To: Sarasota City Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Fogle  
I appreciate the detailed email and turned around in ten seconds! Thank you all! Much appreciated!  
Jen Ahearn-Koch  
City Commissioner  
City of Sarasota

Urgent Assistance Requested, North Tamiami Construction Site Impacting Local Businesses

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Liz Alpert

See Letters, page 13

Send us your best thoughts...  
[letters@lbknews.com](mailto:letters@lbknews.com)



# Editor Letters



**Letters, from page 12**

My name is Andrea Ronchini, I had your contact information from Vanessa Bough, I am the owner of RONC (Ronchini Food Inc.), a small, locally owned food business located on North Tamiami Trail in Sarasota.

I am writing to bring to your attention the severe economic impact that the ongoing construction on North Tamiami Trail is having on my business. Since the construction began, customer access, visibility, and traffic to my location have been dramatically reduced. Despite my best efforts to adapt, sales have dropped to a level that is no longer sustainable.

RONC employs local workers and serves the surrounding community with freshly made food and coffee. Like many small businesses, we operate on tight margins, and this prolonged disruption is putting us at serious risk of closure. Without some form of assistance or intervention, I may be forced to shut down, which would mean job losses and the disappearance of another local small business.

I fully understand that infrastructure improvements are necessary, but I respectfully ask for the City’s help in mitigating the damage being caused to businesses like mine. This could include:

- Improved signage directing customers to open businesses
- Temporary financial or tax relief
- Rent or utility assistance programs
- Any other support the City can offer to help us survive this period

I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to speak with you or a member of your team to discuss possible solutions. My goal is simple: to stay open, keep my employees working, and continue serving the Sarasota community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope the City will stand with its small businesses during this difficult time.

Andrea Ronchini  
Sarasota

**Urgent Assistance Requested, North Tamiami Construction Site Impacting Local Businesses**

To: Andrea Ronchini  
I’m sorry to hear what is occurring in your business due to the infrastructure construction. I’m copying the interim city manager and deputy city manager with this response so the appropriate staff can respond regarding what, if anything, we can do.  
Liz Alpert  
Commissioner  
City of Sarasota

**City Manager Search**

To: Sarasota City Commission  
As a follow-up to my prior email, I am writing regarding the City Manager search and the upcoming meetings. After discussions with the City Attorney and a review of the Commissioners’ request, it is our recommendation that applications no longer be accepted after the December 12 deadline. Following the Commission’s review, should you decide not to move forward with any of the candidates, the application period may be reopened at that time.  
Next Steps in the Process:  
Once Sumpter has completed its review of the applications, the firm will transmit them via Cloudbox so they may be redacted for legal purposes prior to distribution to the Commission. Sumpter has indicated they are on track to submit the applications by Friday or Monday.  
Staff will proceed with scheduling a Special Meeting with the Commission on January 13, 2026, to discuss the applications. Representatives from Sumpter will be present to facilitate the discussion. Please let me know if you have any questions.  
Shayla Griggs  
City Clerk  
City of Sarasota

**City Manager Search Update**

To: Sarasota City Commission  
Following our conversation with Warren earlier today, I’d like to share a brief update on the City Manager search. The initial review of resumes is underway as of Friday December 12th, officially launching Sumter’s evaluation process. To date, Sumter Consulting has received 76 applications. The position will remain open until filled, which will allow the firm to consider additional strong candidates who may apply after today. Warren anticipates that the initial report will be ready within the next week or so.  
Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need further information.  
Shayla Griggs  
City Clerk  
City of Sarasota

**Street Lighting**


To: Sarasota City Manager Dave Bullock  
On Friday, a couple approached me concerned about inadequate street lighting. The woman had tripped on broken, uneven sidewalk at Coconut and either 4th or 5th where the street lights were out. I tried to deflect it to The Modern Hotel. I usually recommend Click-2-Fix. I also cited problems arising from construction.  
Last night, walking home from the Boat Parade, I recognized that almost all of the street lights along Coconut from Fruitville to BotA are out, including along the McCown perimeter. (I don’t know if there are supposed to be lights on 4th and 5th west of Coconut; if there are,

they aren’t working either and the area is very dark.)  
Why do street lights stop working next to construction sites? Do they cut the lines? Can we restore power / reroute power lines so that lights are not out for a year or more during construction? ...and at least make sure street lights are not off on both sides of the street.  
There are random street lights out in other locations. I learned many years ago that residents need to report these outages, because the City doesn’t know otherwise. Maybe a periodic PSA to that effect would be useful, especially in the winter months after Daylight Savings Time ends and more activity occurs after dark. Thanks for looking into this.  
Debbie Trice  
Mayor, City of Sarasota


**Limelight District – Flooding Concerns and Drainage Coordination**

To: Sarasota City Public Works Director Nik Patel  
My biggest concern for flooding is the new construction across the street from The Bazaar. We were assured that water that fell on that property would all go towards the ditch.  
The front part with the new driveway has everything going directly to our front door. It won’t be a matter of if we flood, it will be when.  
The new driveway is all blacktop and the rain will have nowhere to go but towards us with the way that it is positioned. The entire length of the driveway slants towards us. You can tell when there are trucks parked and they all lean. Needless to say, we have concerns.  
Kim Livengood  
Sarasota

*Come Find Your Joy...*



**18 South Blvd. of the Presidents**  
**St. Armands Circle**  
**(941) 388-6402**



**DRIFT**  
KITCHEN & BAR



**Top-Ranked for a Reason**  
Perched on the eighth floor of **Lido Beach Resort**, Drift ranks #1 among 900 Sarasota restaurants on TripAdvisor for its unrivaled views and unforgettable flavors.  
[opalcollection.com/lido-beach](https://opalcollection.com/lido-beach)  
941.388.2161



**Ads that work...**  
**941.387.2200**



# Business Directory

Professional Home Watch & Concierge Service



CERTIFIED • BONDED • INSURED • TRUSTED



- Detailed Interior & Exterior Home Checks
- Time & Date Stamped Reporting & Photos
- Concierge Services to Fit Your Needs
- Home Maintenance Coordination



WELCOME HOME  
CONCIERGE

The Home Watch Experts

941.915.1248

www.whcsarasota.com



SCAN ME

Loved again

Boutique

UPSCALE WOMEN'S CONSIGNMENT STORE



SALE

HIGH END CLOTHING, SHOES, AND ACCESSORIES

- JOHNNY WAS
- CHANEL
- HERMES
- JIMMY CHOO

4141 S. Tamiami Trail #8 • Sarasota

BESIDE TRADER JOE'S

941.702.8159



GREENWICH INTERIORS, LLC

Creating beautiful, functional  
residential and commercial spaces.

- New construction
- Remodeling
- Project management

We bring your vision to life.

NANCY O'ROURKE, Principal

(941) 279-7500

nancy@greenwichinteriors.com

Greenwichinteriors.com



MesaAesthetics

wellness

BE WELL WITH DR. MESA!

- Direct Primary Care
- Weight Management
- Anti-Aging Care
- Now Offering: The HydraFacial

Dr. Nathalia Mesa

941-251-0600

www.mesaesthetics.com

Wildewood Professional Plaza  
3645 Cortez Road West, Suite 110  
Bradenton, FL 34210

Hablo español



Cortez Bait & Seafood

Fresher than Fresh!

Local Florida Seafood

Oysters • Shrimp • Clams

Fish Spread • Smoked Mullet



MON - SAT: 10 AM TO 6:30PM | SUN: 10AM TO 5PM

941.794.1547

12110 Cortez Road West

Cortez, FL

www.cortezbaitandseafood.com

SEE US ON FACEBOOK



Call for a  
FREE Evaluation!

SERVICES

- Personal Care
- Respite Care
- Alzheimer's Care
- Light Cleaning
- Med Administration
- Meal Preparation
- Errands & More

ROSA TORRES, OWNER

941-536-6372

epichomecareprovider@gmail.com

KAREN & ANGELO POMPETTI

Two Generations of Master Barbers

Traditional & Cutting Edge Barbering

38 Years in Business



200 CENTRAL AVE. SUITE 11

ACROSS FROM WHOLE FOODS

484-889-8991 • menshaircutsarasota.com

Steff's Stuff

ANTIQUES AND TREASURES

ESTATES & CONSIGNMENTS ARRIVING DAILY

5380 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE

IN THE CENTRE SHOPS • 941.383.1901

CLOSED THROUGH MID-OCTOBER

SteffsStuffLBK.com

ANTIQUE ORIENTAL RUGS.COM



FOR OVER 40 YEARS...  
ALL HAND CHOSEN  
ALL ONE-OF-A-KIND  
BOUGHT • SOLD • APPRAISED

Visit our Sarasota Gallery

Call Robert Mosby

941.925.1025

By appointment only

DESIGN  
DESIGN  
DESIGN  
DESIGN  
DESIGN

00002

Celebrating 27 years  
on the island!

EXCELLENCE  
AND EXPERIENCE  
IN HAIR AND NAIL DESIGN

941-387-9807

Welcoming the clients and  
stylists after the closing of  
David Gregory Salon!

6840 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE  
AT WHITNEY BEACH PLAZA

www.design2000longboatkeyfl.com



18 HOLES

OPEN 9am-9pm

7 days a week

COME PLAY  
a ROUND!

115 BRIDGE STREET  
BRADENTON BEACH, FL  
34217

PHONE: (941) 778-3388

www.THEFISHHOLE.com

Angelo Pompetti Bonetti

Professional men's barber services.

At our salon or at your residence  
on Longboat or Lido Key.

Call or text for appointments.

200 Central Ave. Suite 11

941.297.8991

www.menshaircustsarasota.com

SARASOTA  
PAINTING

INTERIOR / EXTERIOR / CABINET

FULLY INSURED • OWNER OPERATED

CALL OR TEXT 941-900-9398 TODAY!

OWNER: DON HUBIAK

Instagram Page: @SarasotaInteriorPainting

Taxes and Accounting

5370 #202

941-387-0926

CPA

GMD

Bob and Mary are @

5370 #2020 Gulf of Mexico Dr



Art Ready To Hang  
Sale





# BreakPoints

## The “Safe” Sport Fallacy: Why Pickleball is Sending More Seniors to the ER Than Tennis

*The narrative that pickleball is “safer” is crumbling under the weight of ER statistics. Orthopedists are finding that the “old guard” sport of tennis, particularly on Har-Tru surfaces, offers a refined biomechanical advantage that the frantic, stop-start nature of pickleball simply cannot match.*

It was supposed to be the gentle alternative—a lower-impact pastime for those “aging out” of the grueling demands of the baseline. But as millions flock to converted hardtops, a startling medical reality is emerging: Pickleball, the darling of the retirement community, is actually the wolf in sheep’s clothing.

While “true” tennis on clay remains the gold standard for sustainable senior fitness, the plastic pop of pickleball is filling emergency rooms with fractures and tears at a rate that has doctors longing for the days of the clay court slide.

The narrative that pickleball is “safer” is crumbling under the weight of ER statistics. Orthopedists are finding that the “old guard” sport of tennis, particularly on Har-Tru surfaces, offers a refined biomechanical advantage that the frantic, stop-start nature of pickleball simply cannot match. For the over-50 athlete, the choice is becoming clear: stick to the clay if you want to save your joints.

### The “Safety” Paradox

“It’s a massive misconception that lower impact means lower risk,” says Dr. Elena Ross, a sports medicine specialist who has seen her patient roster shift dramatically. “Tennis injuries are usually battles of attrition—wear and tear from a lifetime of sport. Pickleball injuries, however, are violent, sudden, and often catastrophic.”

The statistics paint a damning picture. While injury rates among tennis players over 50 have plateaued—likely because the sport naturally selects for fitness—pickleball injuries have skyrocketed, increasing by nearly 90% in recent years. The majority of these traumas occur in players over 60 who were promised a “safe” game and found a surgical boot instead.

### The Breakdown: How You Get Hurt

The fundamental difference lies in the sophistication of the movement. Tennis requires fluid, rhythmic motion. By the time a player is 65, if they are still playing singles tennis, they possess a baseline of agility that protects them. Pickleball, conversely, lures deconditioned players onto a hard court to perform high-risk, explosive movements from a dead standstill.

### The Surface: The Grace of Clay vs. The Grind of Asphalt

- The court surface is where tennis claims its superiority.
- True Tennis (Har-Tru/Clay): The granular surface of a clay court is an engineering marvel for the aging body. It allows the foot to slide slightly upon impact. This slide acts as a release valve for torque, sparing the knees and ankles from the jarring force of a dead stop.
- Pickleball (Hard Court): Most pickleball is played on converted asphalt. When a senior player lunges, the surface offers zero forgiveness. The friction is absolute. If the body momentum keeps moving but the foot is stuck, the kinetic energy has nowhere to go but into the bone, causing snaps and fractures.

### The Fall: Controlled Momentum vs. The “Backward Stumble”

- Tennis: Injuries here are predictable—Rotator Cuff Tears or Tennis Elbow.<sup>2</sup> You rarely see a tennis player fall backward; their momentum is forward or lateral, trained over years of practice.
- Pickleball: The court is deceptively cramped (20x44 ft), tricking players into thinking they can backpedal to retrieve a lob. This is the deadliest movement in the sport. The “backward stumble” leads to a loss of balance, resulting in the number one traumatic injury: the Wrist Fracture.

### The “Pop”: The Achilles Trap

In tennis, players are in constant motion, keeping tendons warm and elastic. In pickleball, the game involves standing stationary at the “kitchen” line, followed by a sudden, explosive reaction. This “cold start” snaps the Achilles tendon in men over 50 with frightening regularity.

### The Pickleball Defense: Where the Paddle Wins

- However, to call pickleball entirely dangerous is unfair. While it poses higher risks for the lower body, it offers a distinct sanctuary for the upper body.
- The Shoulder Savior: The mandatory underhand serve is a biomechanical blessing.<sup>3</sup> It eliminates the violent overhead

motion of the tennis serve, which is the primary cause of rotator cuff tears. For seniors with impingement issues, pickleball is undoubtedly superior.

- The Cardiac Sweet Spot: Tennis often pushes heart rates into Zone 4 or 5 (high intensity), which can be risky for those with underlying cardiac conditions. Pickleball keeps most players in Zone 2 (moderate), offering a safer cardiovascular workout for those building back their endurance.<sup>4</sup>
- Lighter Load: The paddle weighs a fraction of a tennis racquet, significantly reducing the torque on the elbow if proper mechanics are used.

### The Verdict: A Question of Risk Profile

Ultimately, declaring a winner in the safety debate requires looking at the type of risk a player is willing to accept. Medical experts generally agree that for the over-50 athlete, Har-Tru (clay) tennis is mechanically superior for the skeletal structure. The granular surface allows for sliding, which acts as a release valve for torque, absorbing the jarring shocks that would otherwise rattle the spine and knees. However,

tennis demands a high baseline of fitness; without it, the risk of overuse injuries like rotator cuff tears and chronic arthritis remains high.

Pickleball, while celebrated for accessibility, presents a sharper, more immediate danger. Because it is played on unforgiving hard courts, every step transmits shock directly to the joints. Furthermore, the sport’s deceptive “low impact” label often masks the high risk of acute trauma—specifically fractures from falls and Achilles ruptures from explosive starts.

In short: Tennis tends to wear the body down slowly through exertion, while pickleball is far more likely to break it suddenly through impact. But if your knees are strong and your shoulders are shot? The paddle might just be your best friend.

### Expert Takeaway

“If you value your joints and want to avoid the ER, stay on the clay,” implies Dr. Ross. “But if you must play pickleball, never backpedal, wear eye protection, and treat the plastic ball with the same respect you’d give a tennis serve—because it can do just as much damage.”

# KeyCrossword

## Color Captions

Edited by Linda and Charles Preston

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	14		15	16	17			
18						19					20		21				22					
23					24							25					26					
27										28					29							
				30					31					32								
33	34	35	36					37	38				39	40			41		42	43	44	
45								46				47				48						
49					50			51				52			53				54			
55					56	57			58					59				60				
61				62				63			64		65				66					
				67						68		69			70	71						
72	73	74						75			76		77					78	79	80		
81						82	83				84		85				86		87			
88						89					90				91			92	93			
94				95						96			97					98				
99								100				101				102	103	104				
					105		106			107	108					109						
110	111	112						113						114	115				116	117	118	119
120								121					122									
123						124					125							126				
127						128						129						130				

### ACROSS

- 1 Fragrance base  
6 Aegean isle  
11 “Shane” star  
15 Benevolent brother  
18 Insect stage  
19 Actress Leachman  
21 Israeli port  
22 Easy as \_\_\_\_  
23 Aristocratic intellectual  
27 Inflames  
28 Green  
29 Jalopies  
30 Kindled  
31 Mister, in Mainz  
32 “The \_\_\_\_ Love”  
33 Office worker’s wear  
39 Mil. school  
41 Gallant musketeer  
45 Assistant  
46 Bahrain export  
47 Family outcast  
49 Slammin’ Sam  
51 \_\_\_\_ Pasha: Egyptian viceroy 1863-79  
53 Frenzy  
54 “Do \_\_\_\_ say...”  
55 Kite’s org.  
56 \_\_\_\_-Tin-Tin  
58 European capital  
59 Ind. mediator  
60 Kill or joy lead-in  
61 Anti-union canine?  
64 James \_\_\_\_: philanthropist  
66 Fred’s dancing sister  
67 Billed and cooed  
69 Sugar pill  
72 Paisley people  
75 Sailing  
77 Goof off  
81 Cronos  
82 Tom Hanks film  
84 \_\_\_\_ Rabbit  
86 Confusion  
87 Demure  
88 Augment  
89 Auction  
90 Public house  
92 Castor and Pollux  
94 Tenderfeet  
97 Environment: comb. form  
98 Pot starter  
99 Intuit  
100 Brandy gr.  
101 Lunch toter  
105 Singer from Nigeria  
107 Nashville music hall  
109 Wilder’s “\_\_\_\_ Town”  
110 Singer Neil

### DOWN

- 1 Between B.C. and Saka.  
2 Soft mineral  
3 \_\_\_\_-blue: faithful  
4 State  
5 Hoi polloi  
6 Diva Renata  
7 Healing plant  
8 London teenagers  
9 Sphere  
10 Scout’s stablemate

- 11 Bringing up the rear  
12 Perform  
13 Overwhelm  
14 Take away  
15 Majestic  
16 Cuff connection  
17 Hogsheads  
20 Litigant  
24 Secular  
25 Flynn, of films  
26 Actor Brian or David  
31 Legendary Bears’ coach  
32 Statuette for Streep  
33 Short-tempered  
34 Depend on  
35 Perfect  
36 Kind of party  
37 \_\_\_\_ Gatos: health resort  
38 French porcelain  
40 Water buffalo  
42 Toss  
43 Estonian island, German style  
44 Steeple  
47 Short single  
48 Soviet police  
50 Fumbles  
51 \_\_\_\_-Chinese  
52 Feeling poorly  
57 \_\_\_\_ Jima  
60 Repute  
62 WWII vessels  
63 Wild asses  
65 “Toledo” painter  
66 Head monk  
68 Notes outstanding  
70 Scots’ family group  
71 Teacher’s deg.  
72 Fetches  
73 Core group  
74 Poet Nash  
76 Macaw  
78 Baker’s topping  
79 French tale  
80 Bandleader Kay  
82 Humbug!  
83 “\_\_\_\_ a Parade”  
85 Each and \_\_\_\_: all  
89 Court wear

- 91 Hassle  
93 Droll one  
95 Attempt  
96 “Marriage is a \_\_\_\_”: Cervantes  
101 Stiff drink  
102 Public officer  
103 Totally defeat  
104 Semetic language  
106 Pythias’s pal  
108 1/8th gallon  
110 NCOs  
111 Part of QED  
112 Defy danger  
113 Over again  
114 Indian tourist town  
115 Walked on  
116 Last Supper depiction  
117 Little ones  
118 Buffalo’s waterfront  
119 6/6/44  
121 Wedding words  
122 Before poetically



EST. **M** 1922

MIRA MAR  
*Residences*  
SOUTH PALM AVENUE



A REIMAGINED JEWEL ON  
SOUTH PALM AVENUE

Discover the luxurious Mira Mar Residences. An intimate collection of 70 estate-style residences, offering an unmatched downtown Sarasota location, timeless interiors, exclusive services, private amenities, and breathtaking panoramic city and water views.



MIRAMARSARASOTA.COM    (941) 390-2955    |    53 S PALM AVE, SARASOTA, FL 34236



ORAL REPRESENTATIONS CANNOT BE RELIED UPON AS CORRECTLY STATING REPRESENTATIONS OF THE DEVELOPER. FOR CORRECT REPRESENTATIONS MAKE REFERENCE TO THIS BROCHURE AND TO THE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED BY SECTION 718.503, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO BE FURNISHED BY A SELLER TO A BUYER OR LESSEE. THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN FILED IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND NO OTHER STATE. THIS IS NOT AN OFFER TO SELL OR SOLICITATION OF OFFERS TO BUY THE CONDOMINIUM UNITS IN STATES WHERE SUCH OFFER OR SOLICITATION CANNOT BE MADE. PRICES AND AVAILABILITY ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE ANYTIME WITHOUT NOTICE.