



# Longboat Key News

August 23, 2024

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**InsideLook**  
*Drink in life's happiest hour ...page 11*



*Orchestra's new Director arrives ...page 2*



*Grand Bay leads the way ...page 9*



*Complaint has no bite nor bark ...page 10*

## Longboat Manager faces floods, erosion, boat noise and funding

*Longboat was already on the map, the St. Regis just made our star that much brighter. Next year when the St. Regis is reassessed for the tax rolls, the economic impact on the town as well as the entire county will be very positive.*

**STEVE REID**  
Editor & Publisher  
sreid@lbknews.com

Forget the cliché: in today's accelerated world, the new idiom is "What a difference a week makes."  
That certainly held true for Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton who returned from a brief visit to South Africa with his wife, Marion, whom he married in 1985 in Cape of Good Hope.  
Within a week, the St. Regis Hotel and Condominium opened marking the end of one singularly contentious era and the embodiment of the area's real estate renaissance.  
The counterpoint from a Town Manager's point of view was yet another deluge of more than eight inches of rain that highlighted the flood prone vulnerabilities of our barrier island.  
Longboat Key News spoke with Tipton upon his return about the issues facing Longboat now and in the very near future. Here's what he had to say:

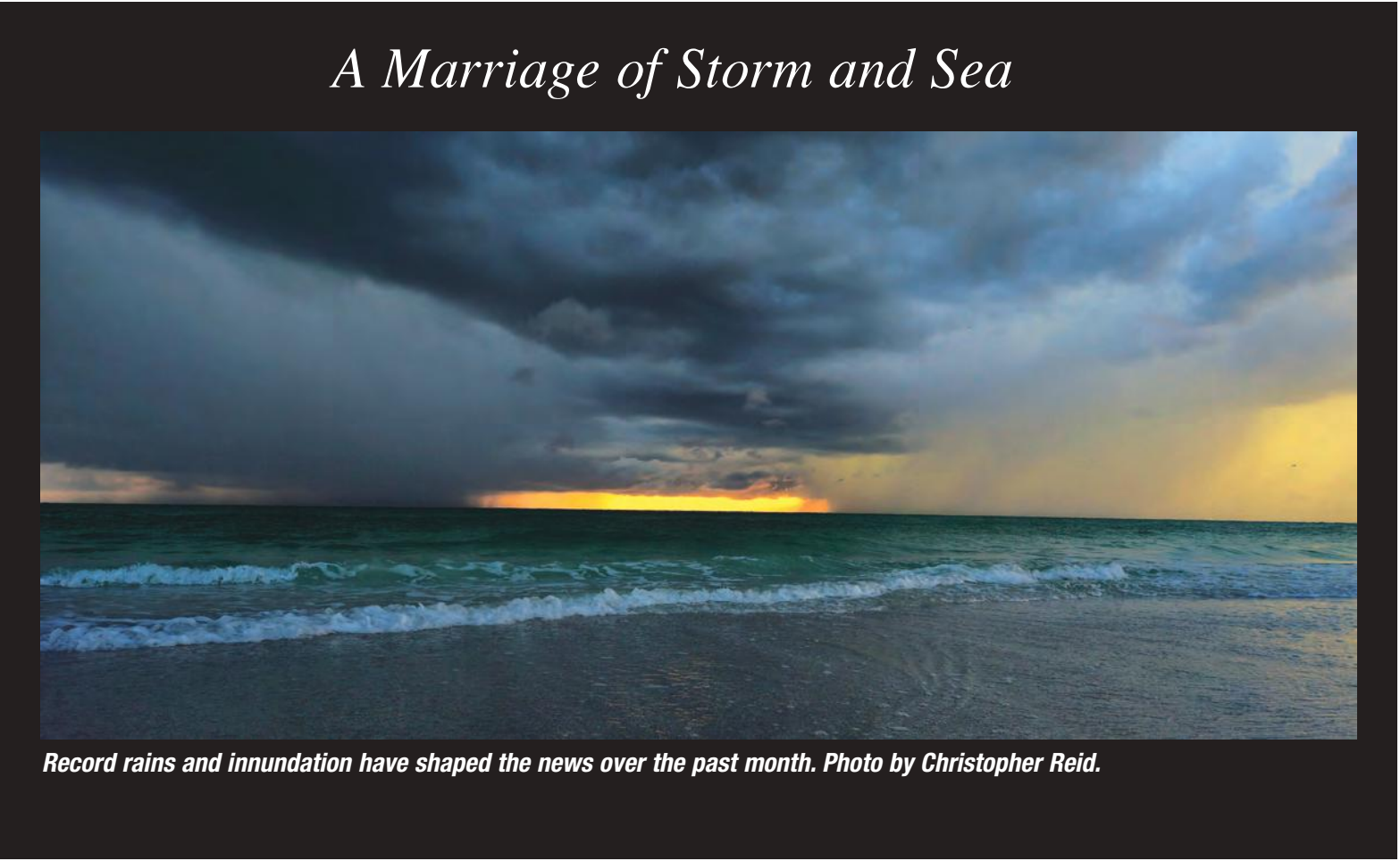
**What areas on Longboat Key were most impacted by the recent rain?**  
Things generally went well. We had 12-13 inches on the island over three or four days in ground that was already somewhat saturated. We lost some sand on the beach, the Town's largest investment, but some of the sand will wash back over the next few months. It is still in the near shore system. We also had damage to the Linley Street Boat Ramp. Ironically, we fared a heck of a lot better than inland communities where the water had nowhere to go. We are facing another 8-10 inches over the next week. FEMA personnel have come out to see if we could make a claim for some of the damages.

**What is the Town's position on the degrading water quality in the Bay after the storms?**  
I've been watching Dave Tomasko's reports from the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program. He is saying that the wastewater is the number-one threat to the health of the Bay. Runoff from the storm is second. This inundation is over-running the wastewater system and the nutrients and impurities are entering the Bay bringing algae reactions and blooms, low oxygen levels, fish kills and other deleterious outcomes. We didn't have a cloud in the sky this time last year.



Marion and Howard Tipton on the road.

**What is the Town doing to address sea level rise and the cost of infra-structural improvements?**  
The Gulf waters have risen faster than the upper parts of the U.S. coastline. This is compounded when rain has nowhere to go, tides get higher and when super moons are present. We are looking at raising roads and making structural changes. We are in the planning stage not the building  
**See Manager, page 15**



Record rains and innundation have shaped the news over the past month. Photo by Christopher Reid.



### County opens sandbag stations ahead of storms

With more rain on the way to the Tampa Bay area over the next several days, Sarasota County has opened two sandbag stations to help residents protect themselves from flooding. The sandbag sites are at Twin Lakes Park on 6700 Clark Road in Sarasota and South County Fleet Services on 4571 SR-776 and Englewood Road in Venice. The sites are open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Residents are limited to 10 bags per vehicle.

### Gruters Proposes Total Public Smoking Ban in Florida

A Sarasota County senator wants to outlaw all public smoking since marijuana use may soon be legalized in Florida. Legislation that would outlaw all forms of smoking in public areas is planned to be proposed by state senator Joe Gruters, a Republican from Sarasota. Cities and counties in Florida are already able to control smoking in parks and on beaches because to existing legislation. “Amendment 3 is going to pass,” Gruters said. “I think it’s going to move forward in November and the question that people have is what does that mean for every day individual Floridians walking around the street.” Paul Armentano, deputy director of the pro-marijuana group NORML, stated that the group is in favor of laws prohibiting the smoking of marijuana in public areas. Armentano countered that there is no reason to expect that Amendment 3 will result in the widespread use of cannabis by the general public, citing the fact that Florida’s medicinal cannabis use has not. Gruters stated that while he agrees with Amendment 3, he also wants to set limits to safeguard the general public. He said that, “Over 50% of the country has legalized recreational adult use of marijuana. Some states have done it better than others.” Gruters stated that although there is currently bipartisan support for the proposal, it is still in its infancy and subject to change as it moves through the legislative process. In the spring legislative session, he intends to introduce it.

### Orchestra’s new music director won 6 Grammys

The Sarasota Orchestra has a new music director — Giancarlo Guerrero. Sarasota Orchestra CEO and President Joe McKenna called him the obvious choice. “He’s a perfect fit in terms of chemistry and his rapport with the musicians the week he was here was just fantastic. He was very energized and engaging and we just think it’s a real coup to have landed Giancarlo,” McKenna said. Guerrero was a Sarasota guest conductor with the orchestra last winter. “I am pleased to become Sarasota Orchestra’s next music director,” said Guerrero. “From my first rehearsal with them last winter, I was instantly impressed with this orchestra, filled with terrific musicians who take tremendous pride in their orchestra. It was clear that everyone was prepared and ready to play, displaying a palpable joy in music-making.” Guerrero is the Nashville Symphony’s music director. He will have been at the helm 16 years at the end of the coming season. He will transition to Music Director Emeritus of the Nashville Symphony after the 2024-25 season. In Nashville, he’s fostered the music of contemporary composers. Including one who you might recognize from the “hair band,” Winger. C.F. “Kip” Winger has reinvented himself as a serious orchestral composer. The symphony premiered Winger’s First Symphony last spring. Guerrero has won six Grammy awards.

### Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport withdraws land deal from FAA

Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport has withdrawn a request to the Federal Aviation Authority for the sale of land to New College of Florida, Airport CEO Rick Piccolo confirmed. The two sides originally struck a deal where New College would buy the 31 acres they currently lease from SRQ for \$11.5 million dollars. Their plan was to build athletic facilities, redo the dorms, and build public restaurants on the land as part of their ongoing expansion. The land sale was rejected by the FAA, then appealed by the airport, but now it has been withdrawn.



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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](mailto: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.

## Lighting

To: Longboat Key Human Resources Assistant Lori Gubernat  
Thank you for the invite to take more pictures, but Mr. Drake was gracious enough to let us take photos from inside and outside his home. Based on the site inspection, which included multiple vantage points and locations, the investigation is being closed with a finding of no violation due to the very limited location in which the commercial property’s lighting is visible. The commercial property has complied with the Special Magistrate’s Correction Order with the installation of shields and upon inspection they all appear level and in proper working order.  
Bryan Wisnom  
Code Enforcement Officer Planning, Zoning & Building Dept.  
Town of Longboat Key

## Lighting

To: Longboat Key Commission  
These photos were taken just this morning around 6:45 a.m. from our kitchen and dining room...I am asking you to please have the lights covered better than they currently are.  
Michael and Amy Drake  
Longboat Key

## Infrastructure

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
I just left you a voicemail. When you have a moment today, please call me to discuss your email. The outage was not related to the underground infrastructure, and I’m happy to discuss it further with you in more depth so you feel prepared to answer any questions or concerns you receive from your constituents.  
Devaney Iglesias  
Longboat Key

## Infrastructure

To: Devaney Iglesias  
Not sure you received my email from Tuesday. I am continuing to receive phone calls and comments at Pilates and Tennis about the massive power outage on August 20. I am being questioned on the \$28 million expense of undergrounding and this failure on a sunny afternoon — I need a why to provide to our residents.  
The other issue that came up is more information being provided by FPL about the outage would have eliminated the hundreds of calls that were received at Town Hall.  
Look forward to hearing from you.  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

## Greenfields Outdoor Fitness

To: Longboat Key Commissioner B.J. Bishop

Thanks for stopping by the Greenfields booth at the FLC conference last week, it was a pleasure meeting you. I’d be glad to assist with adding fitness equipment to the City of Longboat key. Did you have a specific park in mind?  
As you may know, we offer custom gym design as a free service - this is a great way to help others catch your vision for an outdoor fitness area! Please take a look at the example I’ve attached.  
Here is a link to our Florida project portfolio that I’d like to share with you: Florida Project Portfolio - Greenfields Outdoor Fitness  
Here is a quick recap about Greenfields Outdoor Fitness:  
We offer various equipment options to create inclusive, multigenerational, and multifunctional fitness opportunities for all communities.  
Our complete product line can be found on our website at [greenfieldsfitness.com](http://greenfieldsfitness.com).  
We have several cooperative purchasing contracts to help make the purchasing process easier. I am excited to hear from you. Thank you!  
Edward Escamilla  
Project Manager  
Greenfields Outdoor Fitness

## Greenfields Outdoor Fitness

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman  
Not that we are doing anything more at Bayfront but this equipment was impressive.  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

## Sarasota Bay update

To: Longboat Key Commission  
Over the past two weeks, we’ve been giving you regular updates on the health of the lower portion of Sarasota Bay, to document its response to the passage of Tropical Storm Debby. We’ve focused our efforts on the lower bay, because it is viewed as being more susceptible to impacts from such storms. For example, the lower bay has a much higher watershed-to-open water ratio than the upper bay, which means more stormwater runoff drains into each acre of the lower bay. In fact, the watershed-to-open water ratio of those portions of Sarasota Bay south of Siesta Drive is about ten times higher than the ratio for the upper bay. Also, the lower bay, particularly Little Sarasota Bay, has much longer residence times, than the upper bay. For example, about 60 to 80% of the water in the upper bay is exchanged with the Gulf of Mexico over 10 days, while in Little Sarasota Bay, there is only about a 27% water exchange over the same 10-day period. Assuming the lower rate in the upper bay (60% over 10 days) that would mean that after 20 days, we’d expect 76% of the water to be exchanged with the Gulf of Mexico, while in Little Sarasota Bay, it would take more than a month to have a similar amount of water exchange (see Table 3 of Chapter 5 in SBEP’s “Framework for Action” - Sarasota Bay FFA).  
But thanks to our friends at the Gulf Shellfish Institute, specifically Dr. Stephen Hesterberg, we have data on the amount of phytoplankton (expressed in units of chlorophyll-a) from a regularly sampled location around Longbar Point, in the upper bay. The data, provided earlier today – portray a different pattern than what some might have anticipated -  
On this graph, the dots represent the average value for two depths at each of three locations

See Letters, page 6

*Growing in Jesus’ Name*



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# Editor Letters



**Letters, from page 4**

in the upper bay, inside of Longboat Pass. The red line represents the chlorophyll-a value in the Numeric Nutrient Concentration (NNC) criteria that were developed by the SBEP in 2013, and then reviewed and adopted by FDEP and approved by EPA.

Two events are included along the timeline. The first is the huge rain event of June 11th, when we had the most intense hour of rainfall recorded in over 50 years - Director's Note: And, a setback... (sarasotabay.org). The data show a fairly substantial and immediate increase in the amount of phytoplankton in the bay after that event, The data also show that phytoplankton levels increased to peak values 10 days after the rain event, followed by a decline in values in the following weeks. This generally was what we expected, and is in line with our summary of the bay's condition in the weeks after that intense rain event - Director's Note: Two weeks later...how's the bay? (sarasotabay.org).

What's interesting here is that the data collected by GSI, at that location, does not show a similar increase in phytoplankton levels in response to the passage of Tropical Storm Debby – as chlorophyll levels continued to decline after Debby passed through, albeit from an elevated prior level.

What was interesting, after Debby came through, was how low the water clarity was in the upper bay, but for different reasons. The photo from below was taken on Monday, August 5th, along the Cortez Road Bridge, looking southwest towards Longboat Pass. It shows two distinct water masses –dark, lower salinity and tannin-stained stormwater runoff, and turbid, salty water that came into the bay on an incoming tide, bringing with it suspended sand from the beaches and nearshore areas of the Gulf of Mexico. Between the two water masses, water clarity was reduced quite substantially in the days following Debby's passing.

It could be, although we don't know for sure, that the bay was so turbid after Debby came through that there wasn't enough water clarity for phytoplankton to respond that strongly to the influx of nutrients from Debby's rainfall.

Regardless of the reason, it does appear that the upper bay's water quality was more adversely impacted by the high rainfall event of June 11th, than after the passage of Tropical Storm Debby. However, this shouldn't give us a false sense of comfort, as June 11th's record hourly rainfall and Tropical Storm Debby's intense rainfall amount were two sides of the same coin – our rainfall appears to be getting more intense the last few decades than was the situation for most of the 20th century.

When you hear "once-in-a-century" rainfall event, remember that we appear to have good rainfall data – on a daily basis – for about 100 years. And it appears we only have good hourly rainfall data for about 50 years. Most of our stormwater infrastructure is based on a "design storm" of 10 inches of rain over 24 hours. That amount was so high that it was expected to happen only about once in a century. Instead, we've had two events over the past two years (Hurricane Ian in 2022 and Tropical Storm Debby in 2024) that appear to have produced rainfall amounts greater than that threshold. And we've also had the most intense hour of

rainfall – on June 11th of this year - recorded over the past 50 years.

These events are capable of flooding our neighborhoods, overwhelming our stormwater and wastewater infrastructure, and adversely impacting our bay's water quality and ecosystem health. But, hopefully, getting our more chronic stressors under control – which we've done over the past few years - will allow us to better handle the impacts of these episodic events. Because it looks like what were thought to be fairly rare extreme rainfall events – they just might be happening a bit more frequently than we were expecting.

Dave Tomasko  
Executive Director  
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

**Local funding levels**

To: Longboat Key Vice Mayor Mike Haycock

I hope all is well with you. We are putting our budget together for the upcoming SBEP Policy Board meeting, and we were wondering if the Town has decided to increase its contribution to the SBEP from its current \$15,000. We had discussed how we would use additional funds if the funding level was to increase to \$25,000 – which would allow us to do more applied research and more habitat restoration efforts. Could you give us an update on the funding levels we're likely to receive from the City?

Dave Tomasko  
Executive Director  
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

**Local funding levels**

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Can you confirm that this increase is in the budget?

Mike Haycock  
Vice Mayor  
Town of Longboat Key

**Local funding levels**

To: Longboat Key Vice Mayor Mike Haycock

Confirming that the \$25,000 amount for the SBEP is in the proposed budget.

Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

**Shoreline construction**

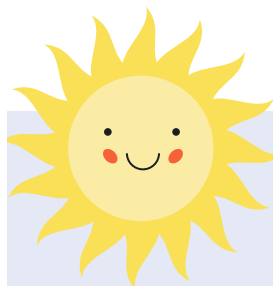
To: Longboat Key Commission

Yesterday, the Town's Planning and Zoning Director received an appeal of a shoreline construction departure for properties located at 582 and 592 Ranger Lane, a copy of which is attached. Consideration of the property owners' application is quasi-judicial. The Town Commission will hear the departure at a future meeting date that is still being determined. Based upon communications that have already been received by the Town from interested parties, we expect there may be public interest and attendance at the scheduled hearing. As with every quasi-judicial hearing, please be mindful that any ex parte communications or experiences (i.e., site visits) associated with this particular application will need to be disclosed at the commencement of the hearing. It is with this disclosure requirement in mind, that I generally recommend that board members avoid and minimize situations that create a need for ex parte disclosures in quasi-judicial hearings. If you do not, then there is a risk that certain interested party participants (in the quasi-judicial hearing) may attempt to cross-examine individual board members about their ex parte disclosure(s) to ensure that all information, evidence and potential bias is fully disclosed on the record. When board members have nothing to disclose, there is nothing to be cross examined on and potential due process challenges are minimized.

I am re-circulating a Memorandum to the Town Commission dated March 1, 2021 relating to quasi-judicial best practices. While it was prepared in anticipation of a different quasi-judicial application and hearing, the advice in navigating unsolicited communications about a pending application remains applicable. As always, if there are any questions about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Maggie D. Mooney  
Town Attorney  
Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 7




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# Editor Letters

Letters, from page 6

Appeal of Departure Request Denial - 582 & 592 Ranger Lane Seawall construction

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons  
Please see the attached notice of appeal filed on behalf of Mr. Halliday and Florida Shoreline and Foundation regarding the seawall construction at 582 & 592 Ranger Lane.  
Please let me know if you have any questions or require any additional information.  
Cori Coser  
Bently, Goodrich, Kison, P.A.

ManaSota League Meeting

To: ManaSota League of Cities Admin Coordinator Gail Loeffler  
I am out of town on September 12 and will miss the Manasota League of Cities Meeting. There are several things I was going to bring forward - the breakfast at the FLC Annual Meeting. For the cost I am not sure we received much benefit. I would be interested in hearing from the rest of our Board on how they feel about this event.  
An idea which was discussed with other Commissioners was a mentoring program between experienced commission members and new members from other cities. Due to the restrictions of our Sunshine Laws this may be a way to provide a sounding board for new members of elected bodies.  
If I can help you reach out to candidates after the election tomorrow please let me know. We have to get alot of pr out in a very short period of time. I have not seen where we are hosting this event. I want this to be the best State Legislature Candidate Forum in the State.  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

ManaSota League Meeting

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
Thank you for letting us know you are unable to attend.  
Will place on the September agenda discussion about whether the breakfast meeting is beneficial enough to continue participating. Likely there will be other Board members who will like to speak about that also.  
Mentoring of newly elected commission members sounds interesting. We do send out a letter to each when they are elected to provide information about MSLC, its background, and learning opportunities provided by FLC on many topics and encourage them to participate.  
It is likely others are not receiving information about some of the offers by FLC or ManaSota

League unless it is being forwarded by City Clerks. Will address that also and request learning opportunities be provided to their respective Commission/Council members.  
I will be following election results tonight and tomorrow morning for our Manatee/Sarasota areas. Sending you a copy of the invitation which will again be sent to those running for legislature in our areas once primary results are confirmed. We sent by email and postal service information to candidates running for office about the Candidate Forum. It does specify it is for those who move on after the Primary Election.  
Candidate Forum will be held on Friday, September 13, 2024, beginning at 1 p.m. at Doubletree by Hilton, 8009 15th St. E., Sarasota. It is located near Bradenton/Sarasota airport. We have reserved the meeting room at the venue. Hope this information helps and if you have other questions, please let me know.  
Gail Loeffler  
Admin Coordinator  
ManaSota League of Cities

ManaSota League Meeting

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Penny Gold  
As the alternate on ManaSota League Board would you be able to attend in Commissioner Bishop's absence?  
Trish Shinkle  
Town Clerk, Town of Longboat Key

ManaSota League Meeting

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle  
Unfortunately, I have plans to be out of state on Sept. 12. So sorry; I would have loved to attend the ManaSota League meeting.  
By the way, I found the FLC conference breakfast to be a valuable use of my time. In addition to learning more from leaders of other Florida cities, I picked up some important home rule information from my table mates.  
Penny Gold  
Commissioner, Town of Longboat Key

ManaSota League Meeting

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Penny Gold  
Your table was better than mine.  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longobat Key

See Letters, page 8



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# Editor Letters

Letters, from page 7

SBEP Follow Up

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin

Thank you for reaching out to us regarding the impacts of Tropical Storm Debby on water quality and local wildlife. I'm glad I could provide some insight into why the manatees may not be behaving as usual. Dave agrees they are likely seeking refuge in areas less impacted by the storm. They are smart animals and seek shelter together by hiding in mangrove channels and coves. Perhaps they got cozy and haven't made their way back to their usual spot!

We expect most of Sarasota Bay to return to pre-storm conditions in a couple of weeks. In the meantime, we are conducting monitoring in our lower bay segments, and documenting observational data in our northern segments. Here is a link to our recent updates: <https://sarasotabay.org/about-sbep/news/>

Please keep us posted if you have any other concerns.

Megan Barry  
Public Outreach Manager  
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

Update

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Penny Gold

It has been a very hectic few weeks. In lieu of multiple emails I will try to summarize some of the most important issues that have come up.

Tuesday August 6, our rep with Florida Power & Light invited Ken Schneier and I to the Sarasota Fairgrounds where they had their Mobilization Operation for Tropical Storm Debby. The staff walked us through the operation from A to Z. They also shared drone coverage from the badly flooded areas in Sarasota and east of I-75. Their ability to assess damage with power outages and determine when equipment can be safely brought in was amazing. They also have someone at the County Emergency Center who communicates needs from and to the County. We also had the opportunity to meet the CEO of FL Power & Light, Armando, who is well aware of our undergrounding project and also stated it is a high priority for FPL to have it completed ASAP.

On August 13 Congressman Steube's staff, Sami Aroghobi and Erica Gregory came to LBK. Sami had asked me to arrange meetings with department heads to discuss how they can help LBK with grants and appropriations, as well as other issues in the federal government. It was a very productive meeting. I did a brief tour of LBK and lunch with them following a group meeting with most department heads and our Grants person, Kaylee.

August 14 was the start of the FLC Annual Conference. Penny and I were included in a dinner with Waste Management. Had the opportunity to spend time with Lisa McNeight the legislative director for FL for Waste Management as well as Tim Bowers, our immediate contact for Waste Management.

Our first session on the 15th was cybersecurity. FL statute states that by 1/2/2025 each town/city must adopt standards consistent with best practices. I am not sure we have done this.

Further FS282.3185 states all government staff with network access must have cybersecurity training and professionals must have annual advanced training that includes role-based training.

Government must protect sensitive info, prevent financial loss and ensure continuity of service. We must understand what we must deliver in the cyber world and what is nice to deliver. Ransomware legislation FS282.3186 makes it illegal to pay ransomware.

CyberFlorida is funded by state. They have over 50 courses for technical staff to recertification at no cost. They also offer ad- hoc on site training. They also offer general awareness courses. In addition to this is quarterly webinars. only FL and one other state have this program. I do not know how much we are using this program.

CyberFL in conjunction with FIU offers courses for elected officials on general awareness and executive level courses.

Question we were told to ask our police department is: do you know how to conduct a cyber crime activities investigation?

My next session was the Legislative Policy Committee. FLC has revamped most of the policy committees to reflect mutual issues. The former Land Use is now Development, Code Compliance & Redevelopment. Intergovernmental Relations was Mobility. Utilities & Natural Resources remains unchanged. I brought the 2024-2025 list of committees back along with the sign-up form if you wish to serve on a committee.

Artificial Intelligence Seminar was a basic what it does and what it can do. If you use AI voice transcription remember you must provide notice you are recording.

AI can simulate creativity. AI cannot add subjective experiences needed for rich storytelling.

Sachs media poll showed that 1/2 of Floridians use AI. 65% of those are under 45.

My first session on the 16th was FAST - Federal Action Strike Team Meeting - issues that were priorities on our 118th Congressional Session remain - National Flood Insurance Program, PFOS, Simplifying Grants. Added to this will be Beach Renourishment as it deals with the Corp of Engineers requiring perpetual easements - This legislation has passed in the House and Senate, but remain in Conference to iron out the differences in this legislation. A major push by NLC that we are also addressing is Development Block Grants and Tax Exemption for Municipal Bonds.

FLC staff has asked for any reports of cost of clean-up on PFOS, if we have had to do this.

This Task Force does not believe we will go to Washington til after the election and Inauguration on January 20th, but we will meet in Orlando December 4-6.

We attended a very interesting session on Disaster Preparation - Best Practices for Natural Disasters - A Guide for Elected Officials. One of the first things the presenters stated was elected officials must be in one location - especially if you are evacuated from your community. This ensures communication is done one time and all elected officials are being provided the same information .

Municipal responses are to be shared with the elected officials. Be sure you, as an elected official are communicating and receiving communication from the Town Manager.

Getting info right the first time it is put out is critical.

See Letters, page 12



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Sherry 'Nef' Price is a USPTR certified professional. She played at IMG and Division 1 College.  
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# KeyRealEstate

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500 S WASHINGTON DR Unit#10B	1,034	\$665,000	2 2 0	4	\$653,000
2600 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#B-16	N/A	\$495,000		13	\$425,000
1930 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#111	1,442	\$699,000	2 2 0	107	\$665,000
4500 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#PH4	1,312	\$775,000	2 2 0	197	\$755,000
614 BUTTONWOOD DR	2,132	\$1,225,000	3 2 0	5	\$1,225,000
3040 GRAND BAY BLVD Unit#244	2,550	\$1,695,000	2 3 1	186	\$1,450,000



3040 GRAND BAY BLVD Unit#244



**JEFF  
RHINELANDER**  
941-685-3590  
Jeff@jeffrhinelander.com



**COURTNEY  
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**PALMER FARMS**  
2651 GERRY ROAD | SARASOTA, FL  
JUST SOLD - \$2,400,000

Represented the buyer of this just under 11-acre expanse of property, located at the very end of a canopy road, centrally located in Sarasota. Large portions of this land remain primarily untouched, however it does include two barns with seven stalls and three private paddocks, a 25' x 30' covered parking area (all with water and electric) and a pond.



**GRAND BAY IV**  
3010 GRAND BAY BLVD., #422 | LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
NOW PENDING - \$1,145,000

Representing the buyer of this 2BR/3.5BA residence with sweeping water views of Sarasota Bay. Grand Bay is a gated community with a 24-hour manned gatehouse. It features 2 heated swimming pools with spas, tennis courts, clubhouse for meetings and parties, state of the art fitness center plus Beach access at the exclusive Bay Isles Beach club.



# OnPatrol

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

## Aug. 16 Boat

11:20 a.m.  
Officer Barrett while on patrol, observed an abandoned sailboat that had drifted into the Longboat Pass Bridge and was striking the bridge due to the waves and current. Officer Barrett contacted the U.S. Coast Guard Station in Cortez and they removed the vessel to prevent any damage to the bridge or future hazards. They towed it to a safe location just east of the Mar Vista Restaurant. Further investigation revealed that the current owner did not have the funds to have it properly towed and secured nor have it properly registered. The owner was warned that he only had 30 days to register the vessel from the date of purchase and that it had to be properly anchored and secure. The owner advised that he contacted a salvage company and that they would respond later today and take possession of the vessel. He advised that he has the title and that he will relinquish ownership of the vessel to the salvage company. Case clear.

## Beach

6:26 p.m.  
Officer Mathis was dispatched to the 1500 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a dog on the beach. Upon his arrival, Officer Mathis met with the dog's owner and advised her K9 was a certified service dog. The owner insisted on providing the officer with the K9's service credentials and license. Officer Mathis thanked the owner for the information and returned to his patrol unit to contact the complainant. The complainant advised that it was completely unacceptable for the lady to have her dog on the beach. Officer Mathis then advised the complainant the K9 was in fact a registered service animal. The complainant became argumentative and refused to provide any further information. Case clear.

## Aug. 17 Permit

12:35 p.m.  
Officer Pescuma was dispatched to the 3600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference for a suspicious man with a tent set up renting out electric water equipment. Upon arriving on scene, Officer Pescuma observed a canopy tent with multiple life jackets hanging from the frame. Officer Ramsaier and Officer Pescuma approached two men who said they worked for an e-foil company and they provide a pre-arranged class for those that signed up on line and were not open to the public. They choose a location to meet which changes based on water condition. Although, Officer Pescuma did not observe any signs of advertisement for rentals. Sgt. Butler, Officer Ramsaier and Officer Pescuma told the man of the town ordinance. Additionally within or on town parks, public beaches, public beach accesses, public bay accesses, or other public places, commercial vendors are prohibited from the sale, rental, display or solicitation of any product, service or activity, including the sale of food, unless the commercial vendor has a valid concessionaire agreement with the town. The man was issued a verbal warning told to cease services. Furthermore, he was instructed to engage the town for proper



approval and permitting moving forward. Case clear.

## Aug. 18 Motorcycle

1:05 p.m.  
Officer Butler received a camera alert regarding the vehicle traveling northbound from Bay Isles Parkway with the registered owner having a suspended/canceled/revoked driver's license. Officer Butler queried and confirmed that the registered owners driver's license was suspended. The vehicle is a black motorcycle and was located traveling northbound on Gulf of Mexico Drive. A traffic stop was conducted at the 7000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. The supervisor made contact with the driver who was the registered owner of the motorcycle. Officer Butler advised her that her driver's license is suspended in which she said she didn't know. Officer Butler asked her for her registration and insurance and she said she left them at home. Upon review of her driver's license it was found that she possesses a Class E driver's license and it was not motorcycle endorsed. Officer Butler asked the woman why she was driving the motorcycle without the endorsement and she acknowledges not having one and said she always rides them without the proper license. She was told by Officer Butler that she cannot drive a motorcycle nor a car and was issued two citations and three warnings. Case clear.

## Noise

11:05 p.m.  
Officer Maple was dispatched to the 4200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a noise complaint. Upon his arrival, Officer Maple heard music playing at a louder than desired level from the pool area of the hotel. Officer Maple made contact with three men in the pool and informed them of the noise ordinance. The man said they were just visiting the hotel for a few days and was unaware of the ordinance violation. Music, playing from a portable stereo was immediately turned down and the man said they wouldn't make any additional noise. They were informed of any repeat law enforcement notification will most likely result in a fine. The man was given a warning. Case clear.

## Aug. 20 Electricity

11:28 a.m.  
Officer Pescuma was dispatched to the area of Buttonwood Drive and Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a power line arcing and parking creating a fire in the bush. Upon arriving on scene, Officer Pescuma didn't observe a fire or any arcing and sparking from a wire. Officer Pescuma did locate a powerline on the ground in front of the 3000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Longboat Key Fire Department was dispatched and FPL was notified with 30 minute ETA. It was identified that the powerline from utility pole took out power on the south end of Longboat Key and Lido Key. Officer Pescuma conducted traffic control without incident. Case clear.

## Aug. 21 Suspicious person

12:58 p.m.  
Officer Pescuma was dispatched to Bayou Sound in reference to a suspicious person incident. Upon arriving on scene, Officer Pescuma met with the complainant who said she observed two men wearing bright shirts in the vicinity of her backyard 15 minutes prior to being dispatched. The woman stated that they didn't speak English and they got their supervisor on the phone. The supervisor stated that they work for Metro Cable. They are subcontracted out by comcast and are in the are in the area working on cable. They are subcontracted out by Comcast and are in the same area working on cable. Officer Pescuma observed the cable equipment they were working in the far corner of the backyard. The back yard is not secured with a fence. Officer Pescuma met with the men and validated their claim to be working on cable. Additionally, Officer Pescuma advised the woman that the men will have to return to inspect the work done on the cable box. Case clear.

## Rain

7:15 p.m.  
Officer Mathis was dispatched to Companion Way in reference to a construction noise disturbance. Upon his arrival, Officer Mathis met with the site manager who explained to him that his construction crew was in the process of completing emergency structural repairs to the rear of the residence where the recent rainfall had added to the washout from the Tropical Storm Debby. The site manager escorted Officer Mathis to the rear of the residence and showed him where the rain had caused dangerous erosion under the home's footer causing serious structural issues. The site manager explained that if the repairs were not completed as soon as possible there was a possibility the back portion of the residence would collapse into the washed out pool area. Officer Mathis then spoke with the homeowner who said he had spoken with the town's building department earlier and explained the situation and the emergency repair needed. Due to the situation at hand work was not stopped in fear of the rear portion of the home collapsing into the washed out pool area. Officer Mathis attempted to contact the complainant to advise him of the situation was unsuccessful in my relationship. Case clear.

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# WineTimes

## Happy Hour: Find your hangout and enjoy the moment

*During the 1919-1933 era of Prohibition in the USA, the Happy Hour evolved as an interim stop between work and home at one of the illegal purveyors of alcoholic beverages.*

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

During the 1919-1933 era of Prohibition in the USA, the Happy Hour evolved as an interim stop between work and home at one of the illegal purveyors of alcoholic beverages. The 18th amendment to the Constitution attempted to shut down the production and sale of spirits, wine, and beer.



Speakeasies emerged by popular demand (and the winking eyes of local law enforcement) to serve cocktails, sparkling wines, and schooners of beer to legions of factory and office workers during the Roaring Twenties. Today the Happy Hour continues to serve as an interlude between work and home that often bridges work and family societies.

Except that now the “Hour” in “Happy Hour” has stretched to much longer intervals.... Even before the pandemic, and even more so after, meal times have strayed from breakfast in the morning, lunch at noon, and dinner in the evening to late brunches, afternoon dinners, and late suppers. Restaurants and bars have discovered commercial advantages in catering to anytime dining instead of rushed lunch and dinner hours.

Of course some of the drift toward meals at odd hours may result from diners looking for traditional hours for meals in other countries. The Italian espresso and biscotti or French cafe au lait and croissant mid morning, the Spanish and Mexican comida during mid afternoon followed by late evening tapas, and English tea and Scandinavian coffee during the late afternoon. Whatever the meal times, Happy Hours either serve apéritifs before these meal times or digestifs afterwards.

So we now have Happy Hours stretching from 2-6 or 4-7, or even from 11 to 7 on Fridays and weekends. For the after dinner drink or digestif, we have the Happy Hours beginning at 9-10PM and continuing until closing.

We enjoyed one such extended 9PM to closing Happy Hour at the venerable Café L’Europe on St. Armand’s Circle in Sarasota Florida. Acquired in 2022 by Amanda and John Horne, owners of the Ana Maria Oyster Bar restaurants, the Café L’Europe offers a Wine Down special 50% off wine bottles price on Wednesdays and a special Bar Bites menu featuring chilled lobster salad sliders, arancini (rice balls), and other

tasty items on small plates. Tyler, behind the bar makes craft cocktails, but on this night we chose a bottle of the 2022 Stoller Pinor Noir from the Dundee region of the Willamette Valley of Oregon. The light and bright fruit flavors of this wine at the discounted price of \$25, very close to retail, matched perfectly to the steak tartare and blue cheese arancini.

Happy Hours offer many options beginning during the early afternoon, and some before noon, for casual dining until late in the evening.

In our experience, Happy Hours attract interesting and sociable crowds Most bars and restaurants set aside an hour or so each day for a Happy Hour. Find your favorite hangout and enjoy the moment.

S.W. Hermansen has used his expertise in econometrics, data science and epidemiology to help develop research databases for the Pentagon, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Agriculture, and Health Resources and Services. He has visited premier vineyards and taste wines from major appellations in California, Oregon, New York State, and internationally from Tuscany and the Piedmont in Italy, the Ribera del Duero in Spain, the Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale in Australia, and the



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

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

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### 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

Columnists  
Susan Goldfarb, Sig Hermansen,  
Greg Rusovich, Blake Fleetwood

Sales  
Lillian Sands  
Steve Reid  
ads@lbknews.com

Graphic Production  
Dottie Rutledge



# Editor Letters

Letters, from page 8

Staff quick assessment of post disaster also critical, but remember Safety First.

Remember constituents need a listening ear and while you assure them there will be follow through - that must happen.

Remember municipal staff in disasters are under tremendous pressure - they need appreciation, understanding, support. In many cases they are leaving their homes and loved ones to deal with the disaster.

Relationships with State and Federal people to assist in moving recovery from a disaster forward is critical. Do not get in the way of these important relationships staff have maintained over the years. If your staff does not have these relationships now, they need to address that before a disaster.

In days, weeks, months & in some cases, years after a disaster remember staff has taken on additional tasks on top of their regular job. Be sure that is being recognized and appreciation extended to those people.

Elected officials must work with Tallahassee and DC for Grants and appropriations to assist with recovery for the community.

Be sure that your PIO is providing ongoing info to the community on recovery efforts. It is sometimes appropriate for the Mayor to be the face of those communications.

All elected officials must know what the Emergency Plan is for their municipality and that plan must be kept up to date and easy for all elected officials to address 365 days a year.

Remember, constituents do not see elected officials as someone impacted by a disaster. How does it affect you, your family? You are wearing two hats - one as an elected official of a community impacted by a disaster and one as a member of a family that may be impacted, as well.

Be aware of evacuation burnout - those of us in communities that have evacuated and not had severe damage have to remind our citizens - "It only takes one storm" - do not be part of the problem - if there is an evacuation order - evacuate.

Our first general session had two purposes. First, the awarding of the Defender of Home Rule Award. This year's recipient was Senator Jason Pizzo. In his acceptance remarks he urged us "Demand more of elected officials for home rule."

Urbanist, Richard Florida (yes, that is really his last name) talked about the importance of communities. He stated people don't move to Florida, they move to a community. The reality in the past few years is some urban areas have lost population (Miami, Dade). We have 4 million creative class workers in FL - the 4th largest state for this group. These individuals can live where they want. As at home workers they are at home in coffee shops, restaurants and libraries (yes, libraries) as comfortable remote places to work.

Downtowns of the future will be different. Vertical buildings are the last vestige of the old days - tall buildings with cubicles will be a thing of the past.

As you are looking at your community create gathering places. Arenas and stadiums are important to tourism and reviving downtowns.

Changing communities with the times - technology, assets, parks, sports facilities, social outlets. Be aware of changing demographics - just because you used to be a locale for retirees that may not be the case as younger people with families can live anywhere as remote workers.

For more info from this speaker go to [FLorida@CreativeClass.com](mailto:FLorida@CreativeClass.com)

Our last session on the 16th was Developing Good Commissioner/Manager Relationships. This must start at the very beginning with transition/education of newly elected commissioners.

Equally important is the process of finding a new manager - the right search for your community. Managers must listen and work with staff and staff must be willing to work with them. Good managers must have a plan.

You are an elected official, you are not staff. You represent the citizens.

Elected to develop policy and establish laws that staff must enact and enforce. If staff is not doing their job manager must rectify quickly.

Elected officials need six days to review an agenda with a time in that period to review with the manager. Managers must understand how commissioners' function when it comes to addressing issues coming to the dais. That knowledge is developed over time. Each person, both commissioner and manager, communicate differently. Know the difference and respect each person's style.

Staff should never surprise commissioners and commissioners should ask questions that need research before a meeting - don't blindside your staff and vice versa.

Thought this was interesting - it was stated that most elected officials have their own Facebook page as an elected official - separate from the Town communication on Facebook, X, Instagram, YouTube and press releases.

With Ken unable to attend the Conference I became the voting delegate. This is the new officers for FLC:

Michael C. Blake - President - currently Mayor of Cocoa  
Holly Smith - First Vice President - Commissioner, Sanibel  
Mark Franks - Second Vice President - Mayor of Shalimar

The League Breakfast held before the Voting for new officers did bring up an interesting opportunity for Florida newly elected officials - since Sunshine is so restrictive in FL, many communities in the local leagues have their more experienced commissioners volunteering to mentor or serve as a sounding board for newly elected commissioners. This will probably come up at the next Manasota League meeting.

The luncheon and swearing in of the newly elected officials also celebrated the 100th anniversary of the FL League of Cities and former Presidents of the League were invited to sit on the dais.

The new President Michael Blake gave a powerful speech. He will focus on the need to help our cities recruit and keep staff. As we have all seen, it is becoming more difficult to find individuals in many fields that are special to municipalities. Working with educational institutions is one step. Helping our towns and cities in FL with cooperative websites hosted by the league is another step.

Michael is a high school teacher, a football coach and the Mayor of Cocoa. His enthusiasm is contagious and I know from time I have spent with him on our DC trips that he will be a great President.

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

Update

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

Excellent overview of the conference BJ. You have covered most of the highlights. I will check my notes to see if there is anything left to add at the next Commission meeting.

Penny Gold  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

Sarasota Bay

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

We've been working with our partners from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and Sarasota County to sample water quality in response to the impacts of Tropical Storm Debby and we just received the latest data on bacteria earlier today.

First off, the areas we are focusing on are the parts of Sarasota Bay that we believed would be hardest hit by the extreme rainfall, due to the very high watershed-to-open-water ratio. This doesn't mean the upper bay hasn't been impacted - it has. However, the lower bay is more susceptible to high rainfall and runoff effects. This map shows the areas we've been sampling - three locations in each of the three lower bay segments.

The table below summarizes what we've found when analyzing Enterococci, the "fecal indicator bacteria" used for Class 3 - Marine waters, which is the classification FDEP has assigned to the lower bay. Values are compared against the appropriate threshold value of 130 / 100 ml. A lower standard of 70 / 100 ml is the upper threshold for bathing beaches, but none of these sites we sample are considered bathing beaches, which are separately monitored by FDOH.

Values that are higher than the Class 3 Marine standard are in red, and you can see that 16 of the 18 samples (9 locations sampled twice) exceeded that standard. However, the third row summarizes the change in bacteria levels between the two dates for each of the nine locations. Locations with an improvement in bacteria levels are in light blue, while those with higher values are in yellow. There are about as many areas with higher values (four) as lower values (five). However, there is some good news in Roberts Bay, where bacteria levels have declined by between 75 to over 99% from the first to the second sampling effort. The northernmost sample site in Little Sarasota Bay (closest to Roberts Bay) showed a 97% reduction in bacteria levels. Blackburn Bay remains problematic, as values continue to exceed Class 3 Marine standards, and levels have also increased from the first to the second sampling event.

It's important to note that the state of Florida has three "fecal indicator bacteria" - 1) enterococci (used for Class 3 Marine waters and bathing beaches), 2) E. coli (used for Class 3 Freshwater waterbodies, and 3) fecal coliform bacteria (used for shellfish harvesting areas). These are all useful indicators, but none of them are specific to humans as a source. They aren't even specific to animals as a source. So, while there have been sewage spills in the amount of millions of gallons in our watershed, that doesn't mean that the bacteria levels we are recording are from sewage spills. Elevated bacteria levels could be coming from sewage, but also from bird poop washing off of docks and pilings, dog poop from people who don't pick up after their dogs (in their own yards, for example), but also elevated bacteria levels could be from decomposing grass clippings, leaves and pollen, or decomposing seaweed. About a third of the bottom of Sarasota Bay is covered with seagrass meadows, and the blades on those plants replace themselves at a rate of about 3% a day in the summer months. Piles of decomposing seagrass blades aren't evidence of "pollution" it's how these undersea meadows replace their photosynthetic surfaces so that they don't get overgrown with algae and barnacles and the like. Also, as the oxygen levels were so low last week along much of the bottom of the bay, the decomposition of untold numbers of worms and clams and starfish and gobies and stingrays

See Letters, page 13



## Town of Longboat Key

# ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS

The Town of Longboat Key is accepting applications for appointment to the following boards:

**Zoning Board of Adjustment**

**Consolidated Retirement System**

**Board of Trustees**

All applications must be submitted to the Office of the Town Clerk by **12:00 p.m. on September 13, 2024**. All applicants must be registered voters of the Town of Longboat Key. Late applications will be held for one year for any future board/committee vacancies that may arise.

All members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Consolidated Retirement System Board of Trustees are required to file a financial disclosure form within 30 days after appointment and annually thereafter for the duration of the appointment as required by Florida Statutes Chapter 112.

The Town Commission may schedule a Meet and Greet with applicants at a later date. Please call the Office of the Town Clerk at 941-316-1999 for an application or questions. Applications are also available online at: [www.longboatkey.org](http://www.longboatkey.org). Completed applications may be submitted to:

Town of Longboat Key – Office of the Town Clerk

501 Bay Isles Road

Longboat Key FL 34228

Stephanie Garcia, Administrative Assistant

Published: 08-23-2024, 08-30-2024



# Editor Letters



## Letters, from page 12

could be contributing to bacteria levels.

Whatever the source(s) of bacteria, it’s still a good idea to maybe wait a bit longer before going out into the bay to recreate. Boating itself is not a concern, but I would be cautious swimming in the bay – at least for a while. And it’s important to know that while a high value along a shoreline next to a stormdrain outfall doesn’t necessarily mean high bacteria are found in the waters further offshore, having high values in the middle of the bay – where we sample – does most likely mean that bacteria levels are higher along the shoreline.

Paraphrasing Churchill, after the Second Battle of El Alamein “Now this is not the end, it is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.” Not to equate Montgomery’s victory over Rommel (the first defeat of the Wehrmacht in WW2) with our bay’s recovery after Tropical Storm Debby, but it’s such a great quote that I try and find places to use it whenever possible. And maybe, just maybe, we’ll have good news when we present our Week 3 bacteria results, which will be collected this Thursday, weather permitting.

Hoping for a continued recovery,  
Dave Tomasko  
Executive Director  
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

## Great meeting

To: Military Legislative Assistant Sami Araboghli  
Thank you so much for coming out to LBK and meeting with me and our department heads to discuss how we can work together on issues that impact our residents. I believe our entire staff felt it was very helpful especially in reference to appropriations and federal grants. I enjoyed our lunch so much. Great getting to know you better. Anything we can do to help you or Congressman Steube please let me know. Our Town Manager, Howard Tipton, was sorry to miss this meeting. He is taking some well-deserved time off with family. Paul Dezzi and I will bring up to speed.

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

## Great meeting

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
Thank you again for your hospitality last week. I certainly enjoyed being able to meet with you and the rest of the LBK leadership team. Additionally, it was a pleasure catching up over lunch as well! Thank you again. Certainly look forward to continuing our conversations in the future and finding ways we can all support Longboat Key!  
Sami Araboghli  
Military Legislative Assistant  
Office of Congressman Greg Steube (FL-17)

## Great meeting

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
I was just thinking about you and the lovely visit to LBK earlier this morning and was going email you as well!  
Thank you so much for lunch. That was so kind of you to extend the visit and give us a chance to get to know you and the Town better. I really enjoyed and was so excited I spent night (that didn’t last long). I look forward to keeping in touch. Please let me know if there is anything we can do to assist you.  
Erica Gregory  
District Director  
Congressman W. Gregory Steube (FL-17)

## Drones

To: Bill Byrd  
There are no Town ordinances that would prohibit you from operating your drone for arial photography.  
Drone usage is governed by both FAA and Florida State Statutes (use of the unmanned aircraft system UAS). The FAA has a site (B4UFLY) that has mobile and desktop information regarding where recreational flyers can and cannot fly. Most of Longboat Key has a 400’ flight ceiling which can be found in (airspace link). You can also go on (avision) to see the areas that are controlled airspace.  
George B. Turner  
Chief of Police  
Town of Longboat Key

## St. Regis

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier  
I have been hearing reports from fellow Mote volunteers and staff that several nests in this area have disoriented over the last couple of months. I was curious to see how the lighting had hopefully improved since the last time I was out looking in the evening.  
I was shocked to see the numerous white lights coming from ground floor opening.  
These photos were taken at 10:30 p.m. starting from north end of property at waters edge aka wet sand. I walked to the groin and stopped.  
I will send a second email with photos showing one super bright light coming from the center of the property. It appeared to be pretty far east. It was as bright as the photo shows!  
Given the number of disorientations which likely resulted in dead hatchlings, what action is planned to resolve these lighting issues in common areas which management has control over? Once there are hotel guests and residents onsite there will be potential for more issues. Our town Marine Protection ordinance goes to Oct 31st. We might have nest without yellow stakes

but still viable and they do need our help!  
Appreciate your assistance once again to get action to correct lighting issues.  
Cyndi Seamon  
Longboat Key

## St. Regis

To: St. Regis Executive Assistant to the General Manager Jenny Quinn  
This came in our public mail - I do not think this is the image St. Regis wants. Please direct this to appropriate staff ASAP. Our wildlife are important to LBK.  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

## St. Regis

To: Longboat Key Turtle Watch Cyndi Seamon  
It has been an awkward start with St. Regis. Given the magnitude of the project, we need to get on the right path sooner rather than later. Thanks for your input.  
Ken Schneier  
Mayor  
Town of Longboat Key

## St Regis

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier  
Thank you. I know our code enforcement officers have both been working all summer to get this property in compliance with our Marine Protection ordinance. Appreciate your help to get whatever needs to happen next to actually get it into compliance.  
Cyndi Seamon  
Longboat Key Turtle Watch

## A question about Drones Photography on Longboat Key

To: Longboat Key Commission  
My wife and I have reservations for a two week stay on Longboat Key in January 2025. As an FAA licensed drone pilot, I would like to take some aerial photos and videos of your amazing area.  
So, I’m contacting you to ask about the drone photography regulations/restrictions on and around Longboat Key.  
I would also offer to take aerial photos and videos of Longboat Key for your media use if wanted. My website has examples of the kind of high-resolution images I can capture.  
Thanks for your response. We look forward to our January 2025 visit.  
Bill Byrd, Owner and Pilot, Eagle Eye Drone Shots, LLC  
Brownsburg, Ind.

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# NewsWorthy

## Manager, from page 1

stage. In detail, we are in the design phase in the Buttonwood and Sleepy Lagoon neighborhoods.

*What about Longbeach Village on the north end where flooding has been endemic for decades?*

In the Village we are reimagining how the drainage system could work. The Village is the oldest part of the developed island, the first neighborhood. It was not built or designed with storm water in mind or streets that flood regularly. When the tide is high, there's nowhere for the water to go. We need pumps or some way to put water into the Bay off of the streets. It is a major project.

*I am hearing road elevations, seawalls and large-scale sub aqueous pumps. This sounds like a multi-million dollar endeavor. Is there any federal money to help the town?*

This all comes under 'resiliency' and there is federal money available for these issues. But the federal money pays for public infrastructure and while raising roads can help it does not mean that houses aren't still low lying and flooding. We have to look at homes and what can be done to harden or elevate homes. The federal money comes out of the National Flood Insurance Program.

*When water accumulates in the roads, is it generally rainwater, saltwater or brackish?*

Sometimes it is all rain and then fresh water; if it is a tidal surge, it is salt water. But it can be both. Fresh water is okay to drive through but salt water can really corrode vehicles. The agencies that help pay for resiliency don't want to pay for the design work, that is on us. They want to pay for construction. There is a lot of money out there for this issue.

*Let us pivot to Longboat's cultural corner. Earlier you said the future Longboat Key Public Library fundraising for the enhancements desired by the community had to be completed by now to meet Sarasota County's timeline. Has the money been raised?*

We don't have the money yet. We are having meetings with donors; it is still a work in process.

*What about the County deadline? I thought it dictated that if the funds for the expanded scope the town wants are not raised by the end of August that the County would build a more generic facility? Where does it stand?*

We expressed to the County we are going to need more time. It's a difficult time to reach out to residents. I am optimistic the County wants to build the right library for the community.

*If the funds don't come out of private philanthropy, will they possibly be imposed on taxpayers through the town budget?*

We have not had that discussion. The plan was and is to privately raise the additional funds. We are sticking with the plan we've had some good conversations, and I'm still optimistic. The timing originally was aggressive.

*You have been Town Manager for a year and a half, long after the St. Regis Hotel was approved. What has been your take on the process and your feeling about its completion for the community?*

When I came aboard it was under construction and had all the approvals. I was part of their desire for a parking garage. Otherwise, it has been an amazing project to watch. The Moss Construction team was extraordinary. They bussed the more than 800 people on the site everyday to minimize traffic. They limited dust and when we got complaints, they were very responsive. The St. Regis is truly a first class resort. Longboat was already on the map, the St. Regis just made our star that much brighter. Next year when the St. Regis is reassessed for the tax rolls, the economic impact on the town as well as the entire county will be very positive.

*What is the state of the beach and where do we stand with our canal dredging program?*

We're going to some beach work around Gulfside Drive it is highly eroded. As for canals, this fall we will bring the canal maintenance program back to the commission. We have shrunk the scope of the project and not all 80 canals on the island need to be maintained.

*What is the payment methodology going to be for canals? Will it be like the beach taxing districts? Will the canal front owners pay directly?*

That is what to be discussed. It will be a combination of

a town-wide millage and some special assessments for canal front owners who enjoy an additional benefit from the canals.

*And now for the unglamorous cost and future of the main sewer pipe that spewed millions of gallons into the bay a few years ago. When will it be replaced?*

We will have to decide in March how to pay for that. The cost has increased and will be north of \$20 million. There is no choice, we have to do it. The question is how do we want to finance it? If voters approve, there is a state revolving loan fund that has a lower interest rate. If not, there are traditional revenue bonds that the commission can issue against the projected income of the utility bills. The residents and taxpayers will pay and I hope they opt for the less expensive route that requires a referendum. Either way, it will be paid through increased rates proportional to usage.

*What about noise on the north end of the key and boaters on Beer Can Island?*

We will soon be getting a report on the scope of police activity on the north end. The Police Chief thinks people are generally following the rules and boaters are staying where they are supposed to and out of the swimming-only area.

*What about the goal of some Longboaters to move the no-swim zone west toward the Longboat Pass Bridge?*

We are work shopping this in the fall. The permitting effort to get where we are today took a Herculean effort. Manatee County has a say and has objected in the past. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are involved. The land belongs to Manatee County and what we have is a compromise. There will always be an idiot now and again, but people are following the signage out there.

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## KeyCrossword

### Ink, Inc.

Edited by Linda and Charles Preston

#### ACROSS

- 1 Emanations
- 6 Shoot the breeze
- 9 Halley's discovery
- 14 Flower holders
- 18 Keen
- 19 Latvian capital
- 20 Slavishly imitative
- 21 Carol
- 22 Sweet stuff
- 23 "Sleepy Time Gal" writer
- 24 Thick-headed
- 25 Poi root
- 26 French cuffs need?
- 29 Light-headed?
- 31 "\_\_\_ a Kick Out of You"
- 32 Carte or mode lead-in
- 33 Of the stars
- 35 Collector
- 38 Paradise
- 40 Obstruct
- 43 Spoil
- 44 Platform
- 47 Antiquity, old style
- 48 SASE
- 49 Tennis shot
- 51 Molly Ringwald flick
- 55 Travel fast
- 57 Mideast mount
- 58 Orderly
- 59 Contretemps
- 61 Sandbank
- 62 A votre \_\_\_!
- 64 Hwy.
- 66 Regrets
- 68 Sicilian volcano
- 69 Death Valley problem
- 74 Soliloquy start
- 77 Suit to \_\_\_
- 78 Fernandez of baseball
- 79 Sleigh driver
- 82 Federer and Roddick, often
- 84 Actor-director Alan
- 86 Promote
- 89 Nary a soul
- 91 "In \_\_\_ of the Night"
- 93 Fast as can be
- 96 Japanese coin
- 97 Mrs. Lennon
- 98 Boxcar traveler
- 99 Cork's country
- 100 Peggy or Michele
- 101 Repairs the lawn
- 103 Air attack
- 105 Veer off
- 108 Landi, of 1930s films
- 110 Farm info. Bureau
- 112 Snicker follower
- 113 Actress Berenson

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13		14	15	16	17
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122						123	124				125					126			
127						128					129					130			
131						132					133					134			

- 116 Everthing but \_\_\_
- 122 From \_\_\_: all the way
- 123 "California, Here I"
- 125 Leslie Caron role
- 126 Boxer Roberto
- 127 Drink
- 128 Actor Lloyd
- 129 Jeté
- 130 Overact
- 131 Hurried
- 132 NJ ex-governor's family
- 133 Almost so.
- 134 Freshen

#### DOWN

- 1 Exec. aide
- 2 Slangy refusal
- 3 "A \_\_\_ to Live"
- 4 One of the Musketeers
- 5 Small shoots
- 6 Lerner and Loewe musical
- 7 Capital of Guam

- 8 Bracelet
- 9 Muslim magistrate
- 10 \_\_\_-shut case
- 11 Luxury furs
- 12 Squiggle shape
- 13 On \_\_\_: bordering on
- 14 Not revealed
- 15 Horse of a different color?
- 16 Techy kid
- 17 \_\_\_ gin fizz
- 19 Pull on the reins
- 27 Run-down
- 28 Burdened
- 30 Knights' weapons
- 34 Show place
- 35 Elec. units
- 36 Roger, of the diamond
- 37 Sport enclosure
- 39 Benevolent order
- 41 T. S. \_\_\_
- 42 Italian native
- 45 Common chemical ending
- 46 Bandied words about

- 50 "Dracula" Lugosi
- 52 Leather workers
- 53 Yugoslav marshal
- 54 "Leave \_\_\_ Beaver"
- 55 Bond costar Adams
- 56 In \_\_\_: privy to
- 60 Manufacture
- 63 Seventh Greek letter
- 65 45 rpm records
- 67 Family member, for short
- 70 \_\_\_ for words
- 71 Farmer's milieu
- 72 Plains Indian abode
- 73 Anna Sten role
- 74 Makes lace
- 75 Shade of yellow
- 76 Designer Geoffrey
- 80 Sheer cotton fabric
- 81 Jackson and Bancroft
- 83 Bar seats
- 85 Greenish blue
- 87 Slope board

- 88 Privation
- 90 \_\_\_-out: manages
- 92 Calligrapher's need
- 94 Eskimo boat
- 95 482-mile French river
- 98 Breed of cattle
- 102 Grabbed
- 104 Looks for oil
- 106 Male or female
- 107 Start again
- 109 Roman garb
- 111 Farm enclosures
- 113 Former tennis great Wilander
- 114 Up on
- 115 Roundup gear
- 117 Poetic nights
- 118 Talon
- 119 Press
- 120 "\_\_\_ and Hayes": 1983 movie
- 121 Understood
- 124 Olympic runner Sebastian



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