



Longboat Key News

October 20, 2023 *Serving Longboat Key, St. Armands, Downtown Sarasota & Anna Maria Island* FREE

InsideLook



Lido tops sales at \$4.5 million ...page 8



How espresso became a threat ...page 6



51 ways to leave your lover ...page 7



Please obey the trailer rules on LBK

Longboat shopping center hits market for \$7.59 million

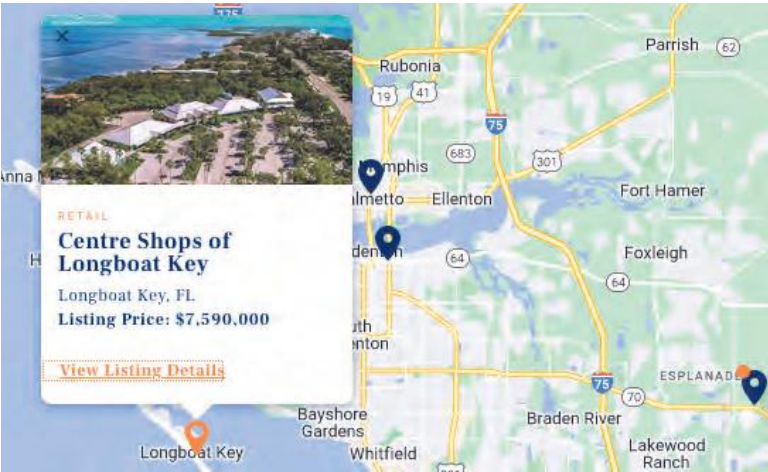
The five-building, 37,880-square-foot shopping was built in 1986. It is currently 95% occupied.

The Centre Shops of Longboat Key, home of the Lazy Lobster and Blue Dolphin restaurants at 5730 Gulf of Mexico Drive, is on the market for \$7.59 million.

The five-building, 37,880-square-foot shopping was built in 1986 and renovated in 2015. It is currently 95% occupied with 60% of the tenants in place for more than seven years.

Marcus & Millichap is the commercial real estate firm selling the

See Center, page 2



Legacy Trail Downtown expansion on agenda

Bicyclists and the public in general are invited to a meeting about the City of Sarasota's plans to connect bicyclists, pedestrians and others from The Legacy Trail's termination at Payne Park to downtown Sarasota and other points west, city staff announced.

The meeting will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the SRQ Media Studio in the City Hall Annex, which stands at 1565 First St. in downtown Sarasota.

The project is designed to
See Trail, page 2

A Perfect Putt for Vets



The Town and the Longboat Key Club joined forces last Friday to help raise funds to award a check to SRQ Vets. The Longboat Key Mayor, commissioners, Town staff and Key Club employees and Owner Mark Walsh all participated in a putting contest fundraiser. Longboat Key Fire Chief Paul Dezzi won the most for the cause and is shown nailing a one-putt. The grand total raised was \$25,000. SRQ Vets is a 501(c)3 organization led by Veterans in the Sarasota area. These are local Veterans helping local Veterans. The organization is 100% volunteers.

Legacy, from page 1

increase connectivity and safety for users who want to travel from The Legacy Trail to downtown Sarasota, and for those who wish to proceed on to St. Armands Circle and Lido Key.

A 14-foot-wide Multi-Use Recreational Trail (MURT) will be constructed as the connector from south Payne Park to The Legacy Trail/School Avenue junction, the release notes. That will enable the MURT to tie into protected bike lanes on the Ringling Trail in downtown Sarasota “and offer shorter travel distances for those bicycling, walking or using mobility assistance devices,” the release adds.

The project will include amenities such as a shade shelter, a drinking fountain, benches, tables, a bike rack, lighting, landscaping and informational signage.

The meeting will be conducted with an open house format, which will include a looping video presentation played at 5 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m., the release says. Attendees also will have the opportunity to review diagrams and talk with the project team.

Meeting materials will be posted by Monday, Oct. 23, on the project website www.Sarasotafl.gov/LegacyTrailPaynePark, the release notes.

Comments about the project may be submitted four ways:

- In person during the Oct. 26 meeting.
- Via email to Project Manager Corinne Arriaga at Corinne.Arriaga@sarasotafl.gov
- Telephone — 941-263-6362.
- Mail sent to Corinne Arriaga, 1761 12thSt., Sarasota, FL 34236.

Comments must be submitted by Nov. 6 to be included in the public record.

In the latter part of August, Mayor Kyle Battie announced that the city was awarded a \$400,000 federal grant to construct the MURT. The city is matching that with \$375,000, to build The Legacy Trail-Payne Park connector. Construction is slated to begin in late 2024, the news release says.

For more information visit www.Sarasotafl.gov/LegacyTrailPaynePark or email Project Manager Corinne Arriaga at Corinne.Arriaga@sarasotafl.gov.

Center, from page 1

center and says

a significant number of businesses at this location have thrived for over a decade.

Currently, the property enjoys a 90% occupancy rate.

According to Manatee County property records, the center is owned by an LLC named FH Centre Shoppes.

At 4.7 acres, Marcus & Millichap says the center is one of the largest parcels of land currently for sale on the island. But at \$200 per square foot, it is “significantly below its replacement cost, promising immediate value.”

Under the current ownership’s stewardship, enhancements have been made to all structures, including the installation of new roofs, a revamped parking lot, and upgraded exterior lighting. The property also includes deeded beach access.

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Seaplace, Longboat Key

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Let's chat about getting your home market-ready for the upcoming selling season.

My team of vendors, including stagers and home improvement professionals, are here to get you the best \$\$\$.

GULF FRONT NEW CONSTRUCTION



LONGBOAT KEY • 6489 GULFSIDE DRIVE **\$16,900,000**
Fabulous Gulf front lot offering nearly 100 ft. of sandy beach, this gorgeous DSDG Architect designed home is a rare find. Boasting almost 6,000 AC/SF, this spectacular home is custom built with the finest details throughout. Architect designed landscaped exterior and 4-car garage.

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LET'S CHAT!

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EditorLetters



Longboat Key News and Sarasota City News encourages Letters to the Editor on timely issues. Please email to: letters@lbknews.com or mail to PO Box 8001, Longboat Key, FL 34228. We also print letters sent to Town Hall that address Longboat Key issues. We reserve the right to edit.

Whitney Plaza / North End Space Team (NEST)

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
Thanks Ken for the note back to all. Everyone involved appreciates your efforts, along with Tip's and the Commission's, to get this initial step completed before the opportunity is lost to secure the space at Whitney Plaza for LBK residents. Wishing all of you a productive, and long overdue, meeting with the County.
Maureen merrigan
Longboat Key

Whitney Plaza / North End Space Team (NEST)

To: Maureen Merrigan
Maureen et al: We are making slow but steady progress towards finalizing the Manatee County presence at Whitney Plaza, including recent conversations with the County School Board Chair. This is important as the County sees this as a joint project with the Schools, so we need to have them in the loop and on board. As for a water taxi stop at that site, while it has been mentioned, it is not the best option for LBK and is unlikely to move forward; but our primary objective now is to get agreement on the lease and the use of the space.
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Whitney Plaza / North End Space Team (NEST)

To: Town of Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
Hmmm. Thanks for the info. Well Longboat Key north and the Whitney Plaza NEST team have consistently communicated that we don't want Whitney plaza to be a water taxi spot (for a number of reasons but the sensitive nature of the area back there - manatees, dolphins - is primary). Logistically is a tricky area too as the taxi would have to navigate a very long no wake area to get there from the ICW.
Coquina, Town docks off Broadway, Bayfront and the farthest point south on Longboat Key all seem more practical. I believe the water taxi discussion might continue when our Longboat Key Commissioners meet with Manatee County in the next few weeks.
Am copying our Mayor as he was on a call with Longboat Key North when water taxi options were discussed and may have more insight to provide everyone after the meeting.
Maureen Merrigan
Longboat Key

Whitney Plaza / North End Space Team (NEST)

To: Maureen Merrigan
I just read an article in the newspaper about Sarasota County Library plans among other items. They mention a water taxi behind Whitney Plaza as a possibility. I'm keen to know if the Town of Longboat Key is offering alternatives to Whitney Plaza. Why not Bayfront Park?
Deborah Di Carlo
Longboat Key

Whitney Plaza / North End Space Team (NEST)

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Hi NEST (north end space team). Just a quick update on the community space at Whitney Plaza. It appears the bureaucracy of government (Manatee County Commissioners and School Board) is moving slower than any of us would like and we are still waiting on an inter-local agreement to be signed and a lease agreement to be formalized with Whitney Plaza. The LBK Commissioners will be meeting with the County at the end of this month and hopefully they can get this to the next step (before the space is leased to someone else for the next few years). In the meantime, please continue to think about topics below and design needs. We will have another task team meeting in November after the County-Longboat Key meeting. Made a few updates in green highlights
Maureen Merrigan
Longboat Key

211 service

To: Longboat Key Fire Chief Paul Dezzi
Are we promoting 211 service? Is SRQ up and running with 211. At White House meeting they believe it is available in all 67 counties.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

211 service

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
I am with the understanding this system is up and running in Sarasota and Manatee.
Paul Dezzi
Fire Chief
Town of Longboat Key

211 service

To: Longboat Key Fire Chief Paul Dezzi
We need to get some info out on this.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

A Huge Thank You

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons
Thanks to all who participated today in the school field trip. I don't think there was a minute the kids weren't engaged and seemed eager to learn!
Special thanks to Vice Mayor Haycock for being the storyteller, Isaac for leading the future government employees through the halls of Town Hall, PZB, and Tennis Center, and Stephanie who worked tirelessly on putting this event together and all her work today!
Again – thanks for making Florida City Government Week special for 30 young children. Please share with your staff our appreciation for their efforts and interaction with the students.
Trish Shinkle
Town Clerk
Town of Longboat Key

Longboat Cycling Association to Bike MS: Suncoast Challenge

To: Longboat Key residents
This is the first announcement of the Multiple Sclerosis bike ride in April. The event starts in Lakewood Ranch but comes through Longboat Key, so you could join and just ride Longboat.
Thank you for your time this summer to talk to us. I'd like to officially invite you and Longboat Cycling Association to Bike MS: Suncoast Challenge. I've tried to include as much information about the ride below in an inviting way that you could perhaps use to invite other team members. It is only \$20 this week to register, on Monday October 23rd the price rises to \$35.
New Ride Details
New Name: Bike MS: Suncoast Challenge (Formerly Bike MS: The Citrus Tour)
Date: April 20th 2024
Location: Lakewood Ranch Main Street, 8100 Lakewood Ranch Blvd, Bradenton, FL 34202
Minimum fundraising: \$250
Discover the Beauty of the Brand-New Coastal Cycling Adventure from Bike MS! Bike MS: The Citrus Tour becomes Bike MS: Suncoast Challenge!
Route concept for 2024 ride (100 Miles)
-White arrow within the green circle is start location.
-Shorter distances will be based on this route structure. For example, Longboat Key and back to Lakewood Ranch as a shorter distance.
Route concept for 2024 ride (100 Miles)
-White arrow within the green circle is start location.

See Letters, page 11

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\$1,995,000



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

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

KeyOpinion

How espresso nearly destroyed a family

eBay for me is a miracle of the modern marketplace. Take the frenetic otherworldly energy of the Medina in Fez Morocco and combine it with the ability to switch between worlds like Steve Jobs wanted us all to do and even the Dalai Lama risks an addiction to hunting and buying.

STEVE REID
Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

You know you are aging when you increasingly think not only do they not build anything as well as they used to, but they don't cut people out of the same fine and disciplined cloth as the old days. That is also true in my mind of even such specialty items as an espresso machine.

The espresso machine at my family home hisses in the corner. It is like a high culture meth lab sizzling on 220-volt power with its own dedicated water supply and drain.

It all started when one morning my wife insisted our espresso cappuccino machine of about six years had finally given up the froth.

But my wife made a tactical error when without much thought as she headed out the door said, "If you find yourself on one of your eBay searches — get us a good cappuccino maker."



STEVE REID

Ebay: where Steve Jobs meets Dalai Lama

And eBay for me is a miracle of the modern marketplace. Take the frenetic otherworldly energy of the Medina in Fez Morocco and combine it with the ability to switch between worlds like Steve Jobs wanted us all to do and even the Dalai Lama risks an addiction to hunting and buying.

So I went online and soon other parts of my personality consumed the hunt.

"I can either get another consumer grade espresso machine, or perhaps I can get a used really well made machine that is worth fixing," I thought to myself.

And that thought morphed into a research project. My wife, Melissa, looked at me strangely later that night when I walked into the bedroom and said, "You know, you really need 9 bars of pressure and 190 degrees to extract the true essence of a good espresso bean."

I mistook her befuddled look as enchantment and a desire for me to tell her more.

Then I got what my wife later described as my usual maniacal glint. I poured out the entire strategy and tactics to achieve



the strategy.

"Honey, I have done my research. We need a real Italian-made espresso machine — not some stainless Chinese-crafted knock off. We need a 220-volt machine with a dedicated water supply and drain and I am following several on eBay."

I actually ended with: "Honey, You are gonna love it — this is a whole new level of coffee drinking that will be going on around here."

Then Melissa looked at me and said I had been hanging around Town Commission candidates too long — "You sound like a lunatic," she said gently and softly.

As I tried to drift off to sleep, I realized in an espresso meets existential crisis that I was truly on my own on this quest. My sales pitches would not overcome all the resistance.

Electrical work without drinking Corona

I pictured the house and the electric panel in the garage and the circuitry and wondered if my wife would mind if I cannibalized an outlet in the Kitchen for my project. I turned to my wife and asked her if she minded if we lose an outlet somewhere along the acres of granite countertop in the kitchen. I told her I needed one dedicated outlet and was going to convert it to 220 since it used 12-gauge wire and I was going to convert the neutral in the panel to another hot lead and isolate the ground.

"Don't worry Hun, I told my wife; I have my hotgloves for when I work on the panel live."

I also drink a lot less Corona than I used to, so my electrical work has grown exponentially safer over the years I reasoned to myself.

I then rolled over and before sleeping, I picked up my eBay-enabling device — my android phone. I scrolled down to my watched items. Like a lover in the moonlight, the La Spaziale Commercial espresso machine listing beckoned me. Time was running out. It sat in Fort Lauderdale with the seller demanding local pickup only.

I looked at my wife. "I will get that Ghirardelli chocolate

and the best espresso beans and blow her mind with some home made mochas. Yeah; screw Starbucks," I said to myself somewhat rudely.

I then pictured my wife and I on the back patio during crisp nights drinking cappuccino.

I saw myself inviting guests and beckoning with espressos and a tiny lemon peel.

I even fantasized of rum and espresso drizzled ladyfingers and the finest Tiramisu we could make.

"She will love it. The family will thank me."

I turned to the phone and bid \$800. I fell off to sleep the high bidder — a real player in the used espresso machine market.

Morning becomes Electric

In the morning I zipped off to breakfast with my long-time tennis freinds. I told them what I was doing much the way a man confesses when he is tired of holding his crime inside his aching mind.

Bruce counseled me not to take my BMW coupe to Fort Lauderdale to buy the espresso machine because it may not fit in the front seat. Hal looked at me and said something about how I sounded crazy.

After breakfast, I did not go home and I did not go to work. Like a Buddhist I took the middle path and followed my cappuccino dream.

I told nobody as I drove south on I-75 toward Alligator Alley. I was heading at 90 mph toward a failed and vacant Italian restaurant on some commercial strip in Fort Lauderdale to meet Sergio who said he lived "but moments away."

The whole way I suspended all critical thought. I did not think about how to fit it in the car. I did not truly gauge my wife's reaction. But single-minded focus at the exclusion of all distractions rendered me like a cliff diver focused on a tiny destination.

Read next week for the conclusion of how an espresso machine unraveled an entire household.

Longboat Key News
Sarasota City News

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KeyOpinion

51 Ways to leave your lover

Even though we have been married almost 32 years I am still impressed with her ability to vent.

Editor's Note: This is a reprint of one of Tom Burgum's classic columns. His wife forgave him it is rumored.

TOM BURGUM
Contributing Columnist
burgum@lbknews.com

Some years ago Paul Simon popularized a song entitled, "50 Ways to Leave Your Lover." Well, I've got number 51 if anyone is interested. The 51st way to leave your lover was discovered inadvertently during a Thanksgiving trip to Washington, D.C. It is very simple. I left my lover, in this case my wife Mary, at a convenience store and gas station along route 301. We were driving to Reston, Va. to join my son John and his family, and my son Jim for one of those story book family Thanksgivings. Story book indeed. If our trip was a story book trip the book was written by Stephen King.

It is a simple story. We had stopped for gas at a station on 301 and, unbeknownst to me, my wife had awakened and left the car. When she emerged from the station only a few minutes later she was greeted with the wholly unwelcome sight of our car reentering 301. I not only left her, I left her without cell phone, money, or purse. As you know doubt can imagine, this only makes a bad situation worse.

It took Mary about an hour before she was able to contact friends who then contacted my son John as he actually knew my cell phone number. That didn't help immediately as I didn't have it turned on. Meanwhile my wife had managed to engage the sympathy and assistance of the owner of the facility and she was being plied with strong drink, salty snacks, and chilly-dogs on a vague promise of payment once her idiot husband returned. (He even provided cigarettes as she had started smoking again.) Fortunately, as it turned out, the gas station was connected with a liquor store and a convenience store. She can now testify a handy liquor store and some credit help one over the rough spots.

Meanwhile I was happily motoring north. This was the best period for making good time as Mary always slept in the back seat and we could avoid time consuming stops. I was listening to a book on tape recording of Smiley's People and the miles were rolling by. About noon I decided to call my son and report our progress as we had just entered Georgia. (The pronoun "we" is still appropriate as Molly the family dog was still sleeping happily in the back seat.) I fired up the trusty cell phone and was greeted with, "where is Mary?" After inquiring what the hell was he talking about, I was informed I had left her at the service station some 2 ½ hours and 160 miles ago. No one, not Mark Twain, not Herman Melville, not even William Shakespeare ever had a command of the language sufficient to describe my feelings at that moment.

I turned the car around at started to retrace a 2 ½ hour drive. The return drive can only be described as a miserable experience. I was possessed with the ambivalent feeling one gets when you have the urge to drive faster so as to arrive at your execution sooner. Despite feelings of dread I continued on and finally arrived at the station that had been Mary's refuge for some 5 hours.

She, of course, greeted me with open arms and a shout of, "I knew you would come back." Actually, she didn't. I can't repeat what she said but as you may imagine the first few moments were rather intense. Mary has her faults but being passive aggressive is not one of them. A small crack in our windshield bares mute testimony to that fact.

After she had addressed defects in my ancestry she told

me of the good Samaritan owner of the facility. "Give him a \$100.00 tip because he saved my life," was I think the exact quote. For some reason I inquired if maybe \$40.00 would not suffice to thank the gentleman. This was a mistake. It is not a good idea to tell a woman so recently ill treated that her safety is worth only \$40.00. It was now obvious I was not having a good day. Bad decisions outweighed the good ones by a wide margin.

Once on our way it immediately became apparent she had a lot to say. I have heard it is a good idea to let angry people vent their feelings. Still, even though we have been married almost 32 years I am still impressed with her ability to vent. I remember thinking if venting were a sport she would represent this country in the Olympics. She opened with what can best be described as a dramatic recitation of my faults. Since I have many faults this required some time especially since she integrated the review of my delinquencies with many helpful hints about how to improve as a husband and a human being. I have to admit if anybody had a right to be a bit cranky it was her. At the same time listening to a list of ones faults, complete with examples from the past, is a bit like reading an anthology of O'Henry short stories in one sitting -- a bit much.

The next stage of what I would later realize was the recovery of good feelings was for her to start telephoning every person



BURGUM

she had ever known. This includes friends from high school, college, and her social and working life in Washington. The calls all went the same. She would start with, "You can't believe what Tom did." Obviously they couldn't believe what I did because she immediately commenced a detailed description of her ordeal. After several minutes of explanation liberally punctuated by laughter, she would hand the phone to me. I would be greeted with, "how could you?" I learned very quickly they really didn't care "how could I" because when I tried to explain they would laugh hysterically. This only ended when it was her turn to drive but she took up the task the next day and by the time we arrived in Washington everyone we had ever known had been duly informed that their long held suspicions were correct -- I was an idiot and had married far above myself.

It cost her five hours and some nervous moments but she came out ahead in the game. The general consensus in our circle of friends and acquaintances is that Mary is nothing short of a saint for having lived with me for over three decades. The Good Samaritan even observed she should get a presidential medal for having lived with me all those years. Yes, move over Joan of Arc, make room for Mary of Arc. While she has been elevated to a new divine status I find people looking at me with a kind of curious grin as if they are wondering just how I managed to become the "poster husband for spousal abuse."

That, my friends is the 51st way to leave your lover. Frankly, I can't honestly say I would recommend it.

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KeyRealEstate

Bird Key, Lido Key, Longboat Key latest sales

Address	Sq. Ft.	List Price	Bed/Bath/Half Bath	Days On Market	Sale Price
436 S POLK DR	4,038	\$4,685,000	5 5 1	191	\$4,500,000
3554 FAIR OAKS LN	4,493	\$4,200,000	5 4 1	58	\$3,825,000
816 JUNGLE QUEEN WAY	2,568	\$1,599,000	3 2 0	129	\$1,425,000
5201 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#104	1,184	\$1,200,000	2 2 0	35	\$1,090,000
380 N SHORE RD Unit#4	512	\$565,000	1 1 0	0	\$565,000
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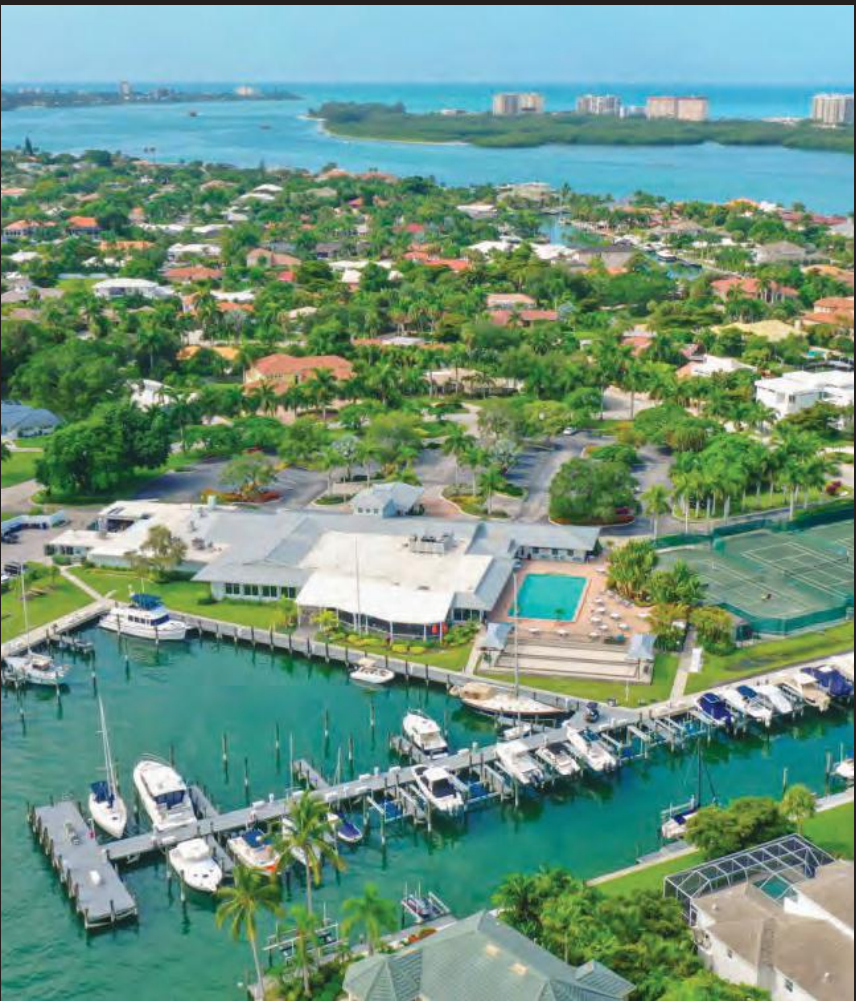
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OnPatrol

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

Oct. 13 Boating citation

1:00 p.m.
Officer Connors while on marine patrol west of Jewfish Key observed a personal watercraft operating on plane with an excessive wake in a posted, “Slow Speed, Minimum Wake” zone. Also observed were the two occupants not wearing the required personal floatation device. Marine Officer Pescuma activated the blue lights and eventually caught up to the personal watercraft in the area to the entrance of the marina and the south of Sister Keys. Marine Officer Pescuma advised the operator the reasons for the stop and requested the operators license and registration paperwork. Officer Connors issued the operator a citation for failing to wear the required personal floatation device and a warning for the additional violations.



Oct. 14 Traffic

12:44 p.m.
Officer Montfort while on patrol, initiated a traffic stop on a tractor trailer in the safety zone in the 200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. The traffic stop and the complaint. The traffic stop and the complaint being one in the same person. Officer Montfort made contact with the operator who was actively unloading a vehicle. Officer Montfort advised the operator that he was in a safety zone where stopping, standing and parking were prohibited. The operator was issued a uniformed traffic citation and sent on his way. Case clear.

Oct. 15 Noise

12:22 p.m.
Sgt. Montfort was dispatched to an anonymous complaint of noise coming from the 6000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. It was reported a generator was running in the area. The caller did not provide any contact information. In regard to anonymous code violations, the matter was not investigated. Case clear.

Abandoned 911 call

7:55 p.m.
Officer Ramsaier responded to Broadway in reference to a 911 call. Upon arrival, Officer Ramsaier called the phone number and met with them outside the restaurant. The person said she accidentally called the emergency number on her phone. Case clear.

Oct. 16 Citizen assist

3:58 p.m.
Officer Nazareno while on patrol at Bayport Drive observed a disabled vehicle parked at the right turn lane partially obstructing traffic. Officer Nazareno made contact with the driver and had him move the vehicle to the 500 block of Bayport Way which was less travelled. Officer Nazareno then gave the driver a courtesy ride to the gas station at 400 Gulf of Mexico Drive. The driver was able to start and get the vehicle back in normal running condition. Case clear.

Noise

8:09 p.m.
Officer Maple was dispatched to Outrigger Lane for a noise complaint. Upon arrival, Officer Maple made contact with the individual and informed him of the complaint. The man agreed to keep the noise down. Case clear.

Oct. 17 Unsecure premises

9:30 p.m.
Officer Maple was dispatched for an abandoned 911 call at Bayport Way. While checking premises, located unsecured door leading to gym room. A search conducted of the building with negative results and no signs of forced entry. The building was secured and contact information left with the office. Case clear.

Oct. 18 Suspicious vehicle

7:36 a.m.
Officer Mathis responded to Harbourside Drive in reference to a suspicious vehicle that had been in the driveway of the residence running unoccupied since last night. The vehicle was a gray Infinity. Upon his arrival, Officer Mathis met with the occupant of Harbourside Drive and he explained the suspicious vehicle call and advised that in fact the Infinity was running in the driveway. The occupant explained that he had arrived home very late and entered his residence carrying items and had intentions of returning to his vehicle to turn it off but failed to do so. The occupant apologized for the inconvenience of the matter. Case clear.

Noise

7:00 p.m.
Officer Maple was dispatched to Bayou Circle for a noise complaint. Upon arrival, a concrete truck and workers were actively engaged in construction work and causing loud construction noise two hours after work curfew in violation of Town noise ordinance. Officer Maple spoke to the general contractor for the residence. Work was being performed under a permit. The property owners were not on scene but listed on the permit paperwork. The worker was unaware of the noise ordinance and stopped work. A warning for violation of Town Ordinance sound regulations was issued. Case clear.

Oct. 19 Suspicious vehicle

3:33 a.m.
Officer Butler while on patrol at Publix, noticed a car parked in front of CVS. At the time, CVS was closed for business and there was no access to the building. When he turned and pulled behind the vehicle, it began to leave the location abruptly. Officer Butler activated his emergency lights and sirens and conducted a traffic stop. The operator stated he was delivering newspapers to the location. In plain view Officer Butler saw newspapers in the rear of the van. Case clear.

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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 4

-Shorter distances will be based on this route structure. For example, Longboat Key and back to Lakewood Ranch as a shorter distance.

Attention all cycling enthusiasts! The Bike MS Florida team are thrilled to extend a heartfelt invitation to our brand new and exhilarating “Bike MS: Suncoast Challenge” on April 20th 2024!

Prepare to embark on an unforgettable journey that blends picturesque coastal views, breath-taking bridges, and an exciting start/finish venue in Lakewood Ranch Main Street that will leave you wanting more! Here’s what you can expect from this epic adventure:

Scenic Coastal Views: As you pedal along, you’ll be greeted with the awe-inspiring beauty of the Sarasota coastal landscape. Feel the gentle sea breeze on your face as you cycle through charming coastal towns, picturesque coastal roads including Longboat Key & Casey Key and experience the tranquility of the ocean’s vastness.

Bridge Crossing Scenery: Get ready to conquer some beautiful local bridges on this route! Experience the rush as you ride across these Floridian engineering marvels, offering you an unparalleled perspective of the surrounding waters and landscape. It’s not just a cycling ride; it’s an exploration of gorgeous waterways also.

Exciting Start/Finish Venue: To kick off this event in style, we’ve chosen an electrifying start/finish venue on Lakewood Ranch Main Street that will fuel your excitement from the moment you arrive. Picture yourself surrounded by fellow cyclists, vibrant music, and a jubilant street party atmosphere, setting the perfect tone for an incredible adventure ahead.

It’s a challenge but should be worthwhile.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Septic

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman
Just confirming that we have no septic systems operating anymore on Longboat Key? I am at White House for Sustainability meeting.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Septic

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
Good afternoon Commissioner Bishop, except for Jewfish Key, no other septic tanks on island itself.
Isaac Brownman

Public Works Director
Town of Longboat Key

Septic

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman
Thank you.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Great work

To: Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Executive Director Dave Tomasko
Great work. Let us know how we can help ensure this stays on track.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Great work

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
Thanks! The town has been a steady partner with the SBEP long before I came here, and will be after I’m gone.
Good news indeed, and our Water Quality Protection Plan and our ongoing projects with LBK and others are key to making sure we don’t let this good news slip away from us.
Dave Tomasko
Executive Director
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

Why pursue a Water Quality Protection Plan?

To: Manatee County Commissioner Kevin Van Ostenbridge
I wanted to take a moment today to keep everyone up to date and aware of recent developments, and our proposed pathway forward. First off, FDEP’s draft de-list list (covered in the last update) is not official until after public
First off, FDEP’s draft de-list list (covered in the last update) is not official until after public input, and after the FDEP secretary signs off on it. But...we don’t anticipate too much push-back on either of those two steps. The basis for FDEP taking this step is that our water quality has improved recently, to the point that we no longer have chlorophyll-a levels (an indicator of the amount of algae in the water column) that exceed regulatory criteria that were set by

See Letters, page 12

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SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Editor Letters

Letters, from page 11

SBEP and then approved by both FDEP and EPA. This graph displays the trends over time of chlorophyll-a in the four bay segments that are proposed for de-listing, based on FDEP’s analysis period of 2015 to 2022.

It’s important to note that SBEP does not collect these data (they are collected by Manatee and Sarasota Counties and Mote) and we didn’t do the analysis shown here (FDEP did it by themselves). But it does fit our narrative of what was happening in the bay – that reductions in nitrogen loads had brought about reductions in both phytoplankton (the microscopic algae that give the water a greenish tint and reduce water clarity) and also a reduction in the amount of macroalgae in the bay. These results have led many to ask an expected question – “isn’t this due to the recent lack of rainfall?”. Well, here’s the rainfall trend over those same years, also on an annual time step:

The red line represents the average annual rainfall in the Sarasota Bay/Lemon Bay watershed during the period of 1915 to 2022. As you can see, there is no trend in rainfall that matches up the substantial declines in chlorophyll-a over the same eight-year period. It’s been dry in 2023, but the water quality data set examined by FDEP ends in 2022, and five of these most recent eight years had rainfall above the long-term average (also two of the last four years as well).

Based on these results, FDEP has proposed “de-listing” those areas (and also Hudson Bayou) for nutrients. As such, there is no regulatory requirement for anybody to do anything about nutrients for the open waters of Sarasota Bay. We are under no threat of an imminent TMDL (since we don’t have nutrient impairment determinations) and we therefore don’t need to pursue a Reasonable Assurance Plan (RAP) anymore.

Why then, with this good news, does the SBEP propose to shift our efforts from doing a RAP to developing a Water Quality Protection Plan (WQPP)? Precisely because these improvements in water quality did not occur because of a lack of rainfall. These widespread improvements in water quality are not seen across Tampa Bay, or in Lemon Bay (at all) or in Charlotte Harbor. There is no news like this in the Indian River Lagoon or Biscayne Bay. We believe these results happened here mostly because our local governments have already started to implement very expensive retrofits of wastewater treatment plants and have invested millions of dollars on large-scale stormwater retrofits. By our estimate, the last few years have seen infrastructure investments of around \$300 million, including Manatee County’s upgrades to the Southwest WWRF, Sarasota County’s upgrades to its Bee Ridge WWTP, the recently completed stormwater retrofit project in Hudson Bayou, and the nearly complete Bobby Jones Golf Course stormwater treatment project. Add in what we believe is a substantial increase in awareness of our local stakeholders about how to live a more bay-friendly lifestyle, and you have the basis for such improvements.

So why would we want to let this slip away from us? Why spend all that money to attain good water quality if you don’t take the time to maintain this good water quality? We’ve done that before – we had substantial improvements in water quality in the early to mid-1990s, and we let it slip away from us, due to the combination of population growth, aging infrastructure, and the impacts of wetter weather and warmer water.

Instead, our proposed plan is to work with FDEP, our local stakeholders and our consultants to develop a plan that will allow us to maintain these hard-fought and expensive improvements in water quality, by anticipating what we need to do over the next few decades, so that the cleaner bay that is out there for anyone to see for themselves does not become a future memory. So that we don’t have to do this all over again.

We are fairly unique in Florida, as far as showing such an improvement in water quality, and my bet is that our 2024 seagrass maps will show multiple hundreds of acres of increased seagrass meadows, when the seagrass maps for 2024 are finalized (likely in 2025). Specifically, if we see more than an 800 acre increase in 2024 seagrass maps, my friend owes me a 12 pack of Cigar City Jai Alai. If less than 800 acres, I have to buy him the same.

As I stated in my interview three years ago, I thought that it was possible to turn this system around, and our goal here at the SBEP has been to work with the TAC, CAC and Management and Policy Boards to help facilitate the bay’s recovery. We are starting to see accumulating evidence that this is happening. To make sure we don’t have to do the re-re-restoration of Sarasota Bay in future years, we believe it is in all of our best interests to pursue the development of a WQPP for Sarasota Bay’s water quality, with a 30-year timeline. Please contact me at your convenience if you have any questions or comments.

Dave Tomasko
Executive Director
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

Congressional information

To: Longboat Key Finance Director Susan Smith
Congressman Darren Soto reminded us today that each House member has access to 15 community budget requests. They vary in size from \$200k to \$2million. These are successful if they are bi-partisan. If we are not utilizing these, we need to.

BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 15

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WineTimes

Hip Flask and the evolution of Marriott corporation

A showcase venue, the Hip Flask bar, overlooks the neighborhood of the old Hot Shoppe.

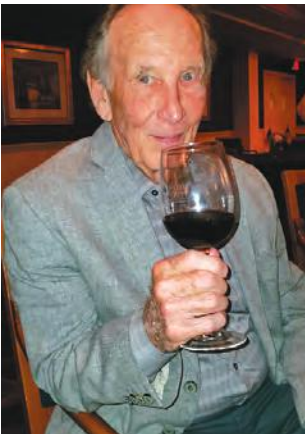


S.W. and Rich Hermansen
Guest Writers
wine@lbknews.com

The evolution of the Marriott Corporation stretches the imagination of anyone who witnessed its middle age during the early 1970's. The Marriott Hot Shoppes came to life in 1927, north of downtown Washington DC, as a fast-food joint serving hamburgers and root beer. From there it added locations throughout the DC area. During early in the 1970's, its location near the beginning of Old Georgetown Road in Maryland was thriving within the inner suburb of Bethesda.

Flashing forward to today, the 12-story Marriott Downtown Bethesda Hotel towers over the location that its Hot Shoppes forbearer occupied. The 21-story Marriott Corporation HQ building in turn towers over the hotel. Oddly enough, the one-story Tastee Diner, another fixture in Bethesda during the 1970's, has held out against the surrounding towers. It occupies a notch in the northwest corner of the Marriott campus. The owner refused the Marriott offer to buy the location, so he continues operating the diner, although it now closes at 10 PM instead of remaining open for 24 hours a day.

How far has the Hot Shoppes concept evolved? At the penthouse level of the Marriott Downtown Bethesda Hotel, a showcase venue, the Hip Flask bar, overlooks the neighborhood of the old Hot Shoppe. A long bar dominates the center half of a narrow expanse that extends from one side of the building to the other. More than a dozen contemporary barstools with backrests face shelves holding bottles in front of a wall of windows. Cushy chairs and benches fill spaces behind the bar. Tables surrounded on two sides by floor to ceiling windows at one



end of the bar, and an outdoor terrace at the other, complete the room. The atmosphere is moody blue and suave, evoking scenes private clubs in Manhattan.

Hotel guests have elevator access to Hip Flask. Other guests must circle the front desk and take the penthouse elevator directly to Hip Flask. This adds a speakeasy aspect to the Hip Flask experience.

Oh, don't forget the food and drink. The small plate of true Maryland crabcakes on a bed of simple greens turned out to be excellent. Bartender Roberto made excellent cocktails, and a small split of sparkling wine from the Jara region of France fit the bill.

S. W. Hermansen has used his expertise in econometrics, data science and epidemiology to help develop research databases for the Pentagon, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Agriculture, and Health Resources and Services. He has visited premier vineyards and taste wines from major appellations in California, Oregon, New York State, and internationally from Tuscany and the Piedmont in Italy, the Ribera del Duero in Spain, the Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale in Australia, and the Otago Valley in New Zealand. Currently he splits time between residences in Chevy Chase, Maryland and St. Armand's Circle in Florida.

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

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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 11

John Ringling Bridge Rehabilitation Project

To: Longboat Key Commission

Beginning in late October, the Florida Department of Transportation will begin a brief regular rehabilitation project on the John Ringling Causeway Bridge. Work will mitigate the effects of our aggressive coastal environment and severe weather along with strengthening the bridge structure. Work will also extend the bridge's service life and maintain its operational reliability.

To minimize the impact to our community and enjoyment of the area, the normal two lanes of traffic and the posted speed limit will be maintained with lane closures predominantly overnight, but day lane closures are allowed. The transit and bike lane will temporarily be closed for the duration so two lanes of traffic can be maintained. Marine traffic should be unaffected, although barges will be in the water so crews can work underneath the bridge. Alternating pedestrian detours will be needed when deck sealing is performed. Residents near the bridge can expect noise from equipment as well as lights during overnight hours. Attached is the project factsheet so you can share with residents or other interested parties. As ever, I am here to support you.

Barbara Catlin
Community Outreach Manager
Florida Department of Transportation

FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program FY 2025 – 2029

To: Metropolitan Planning Organization Members

The MPO has received the FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 – 2029. This also includes a summary of changes for each county that outlines any additions, deferments, or deletions from the work program.

FDOT's online Public Hearing will take place October 16th - October 20th, with the in-person meeting on Wednesday, October 18th, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon at both the SWAO Office and District One Headquarters.

The MPO will provide a report on the draft tentative work program at November's committees and board meeting. This will include an overview of changes to major projects as well as video outlining the work program process provided the department.

Additionally, we are expecting to see several TIP amendments to address funding changes to projects in the current year (FY24); this information will also be included in the November meetings.

As always please reach out to Ryan or David Hutchinson with any questions you may have regarding the work program or any other MPO related business.

Ryan Brown
Planning Manager
Sarasota/Manatee MPO

John Ringling Bridge

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider

Beginning in late October, the Florida Department of Transportation will begin a brief regular rehabilitation project on the John Ringling Causeway Bridge. Work will mitigate the effects of our aggressive coastal environment and severe weather along with strengthening the bridge structure. Work will also extend the bridge's service life and maintain its operational reliability.

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Barbara Catlin
Community Outreach Manager
Florida Department of Transportation

John Ringling Bridge

To: Florida Department of Transportation Community Outreach Manager Barbara Catlin

Is your "winter" completion date more like December or March? This makes a big difference to us on the islands, as our busy season runs from Christmas to late April. Thanks.

Ken Schneider
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

OHCD Success Stories Slides

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown

At the October 18 Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) meeting, Cindy Emshoff presented 16 slides illustrating how Federal, State, County and City funds have been deployed to improve homes, lives and community infrastructure in our area.

The images tell a powerful story which I believe needs to be widely shared. It's one thing to learn how much money Sarasota was awarded in various grants, but it is more impactful to see before-and-after photos with captions stating the number of homes that were similarly transformed, who is eligible for this assistance, and how to learn more.

Can a version of these slides be made available on the City's website, and the media alerted to it? Thanks.

Debbie Trice
City Commissioner
City of Sarasota

Commendation for Exceptional Service: Sergeant Travis Forrister and Team during Rocktoberfest

To: Christine Baer

On behalf of the Mayor and City Commissioners, the Chief and the SPD leadership team, thank you so much for your email recognizing the outstanding service of Sergeant Forrister and his team on the event. As you so aptly stated, safety plus enjoyment of the event is a critical priority of the City and the SPD team, not only for this event, but day in day out as they provided high quality similar service to our city. Again, thank you for taking the time to share this recognition. I am sure Sgt. Forrister and his team will humbly accept. Be safe and all the best.

Marlon Brown
City Manager
City of Sarasota

Bobby Jones

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown

I hope your day is going well. Please see the below email from Mr. Bartys on Tuesday, October 17. Mr. Bartys sent me an email with several questions pertaining to the Bobby Jones Golf Club fee schedule. Mr. Bartys copied Commissioner Alpert on the email.

I emailed Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Sparrow to assist with the questions from Mr. Bartys. Mr. Rhodes provided responses to the questions from Mr. Bartys. Commissioner Alpert was not copied on the responses.

Jerry Fogle
Director Parks and Recreation
City of Sarasota

KeyCrossword



Echoes

Edited by Linda and Charles Preston

ACROSS

- 1 La Scala locale
- 6 Tizzy
- 10 Maugham's "Cakes and ____"
- 13 ____ of Pigs
- 16 Isaac of sci-fi
- 18 Wit
- 20 TN ball player
- 21 Kim's ex-spouse
- 23 Japanese mother?
- 25 Type of Asian rug
- 27 Unique person
- 28 Colombian city
- 29 Parsley cousin
- 31 A Polynesian people
- 32 Boa constrictor
- 35 Bell town taboo?
- 37 Peter Martins's milieu
- 40 Weasel relatives
- 42 "The Plague" setting
- 43 Dutch conductor de Waart
- 44 Sugarloaf Mountain city, briefly
- 46 ____ buco
- 47 "Have you ____ wool?"
- 48 Surgeon's org.
- 51 Texas dillard?
- 55 Old hat
- 57 Actress Claire and a Polynesian deity
- 58 "Lord's Prayer" close
- 59 Galaxies
- 61 Diane Sawyer specialty
- 63 German songs
- 65 Probe
- 67 General meaning
- 68 English actor Noël
- 71 WY county seat
- 73 Beach house
- 74 In reserve
- 75 Cheesecake
- 76 Shrew
- 78 Play times
- 80 Jud Fry portrayer
- 82 PDQ, politely
- 86 Biblical verb enders
- 87 Large sharks
- 89 South Sea Islands monkey?
- 91 "____ Hear a Waltz?"
- 92 Evergreen
- 93 Ideal of Hindu womanhood
- 95 Reg. east of the Yukon
- 96 Ignited
- 97 Pinball infraction

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DOWN

- 99 More chilling
- 102 Well-being
- 104 Nebraska fence?
- 107 Ones possessing special knowledge
- 109 Russian people
- 110 Go amok
- 112 Oversight
- 113 Weather forecast
- 117 Charles Kuralt specialty
- 119 Hawaiian wonder?
- 122 Locale
- 123 Work unit
- 124 Onset
- 125 Exempted
- 126 Motorists' org.
- 127 Pig's digs
- 128 "And ____ bed": Pepys
- 129 Declare
- 4 Without principles
- 5 Japanese drama
- 6 Peace, to Peres
- 7 Creative energy
- 8 "____ Little Teapot"
- 9 Male mousers
- 10 Shuns
- 11 Doone of cookie fame
- 12 Whiffenpoof
- 13 Kind of split
- 14 Pennsylvania granny?
- 15 Pine
- 17 Went on holiday
- 19 Writer Rama ____
- 22 Ad award
- 24 Brit's raincoat
- 26 Campus near Atlanta
- 30 Lord's house
- 33 Dweeb, to a tween
- 34 Talk nonsense
- 36 "____ taxes": a Bush promise
- 37 Lugosi
- 38 First family man
- 39 Knowledge
- 41 Honor
- 45 Father of Azariah
- 47 Suit to ____
- 49 Jokester Jackie
- 50 Ad ____ per aspera
- 52 Intertwines
- 53 Washington Monument, for one
- 54 Boxer Roberto
- 56 Fulminate
- 57 Sailor's winter craft
- 60 Fit into
- 62 All male
- 64 Angers
- 66 A wife of Augustus
- 68 Prepared apples
- 69 ____ a customer
- 70 Kansas farewell?
- 72 Relatively new name at the UN
- 73 Handsprings
- 75 Salad fruit
- 77 Checking item
- 79 Margaret Chase of ME
- 81 French pewter
- 83 Threshold
- 84 Busy
- 85 Tropical helmet
- 88 Ancient Italian
- 90 Roman road
- 92 SOS signal
- 94 Warp-knitted fabrics
- 98 King's "____ dream..."
- 99 ____ dog story
- 100 Debutante's date
- 101 Great White Way
- 103 ____ as a pancake
- 104 Mel or Christophe
- 105 Natalie Wood role
- 106 Nautical position
- 108 Actress Joanne
- 111 Christ's monogram
- 114 Ambience
- 115 "____ a song go out..."
- 116 Impolite
- 118 Guitarist Paul
- 120 Cape of eastern Spain
- 121 Times for bulls on Wall Street

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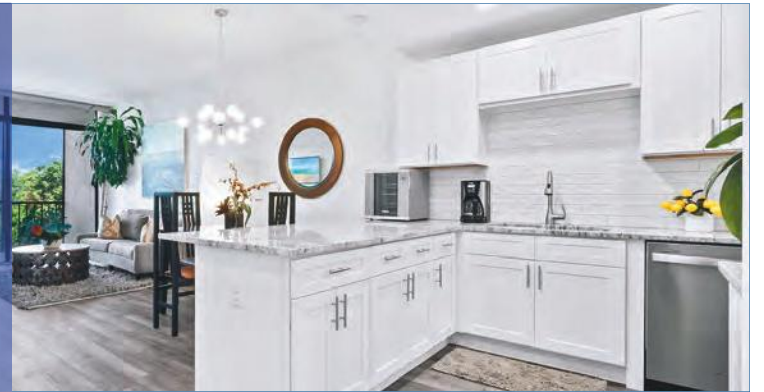
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SANDS POINT • 100 SANDS POINT RD., #211 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$1,595,000
2BR/2BA • Within the gates of the Longboat Key Club • Gulf views



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SEAPLACE • 1955 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #G6-402 • LONGBOAT KEY • \$695,000
2BR/1BA • Completely Updated • Gulf front Community

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3BR/3BA • 2,925 SF • \$2,395,000
Sweeping bay, golf & city views from this updated residence



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3BR/3BA • Walkdown to beach • Gulf views



SCAN FOR MORE



THE HARBOR • 511 HARBOR GATE WAY • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$3,995,000
3BR/3.5BA • Waterfront with private dock • 4+-Car garage



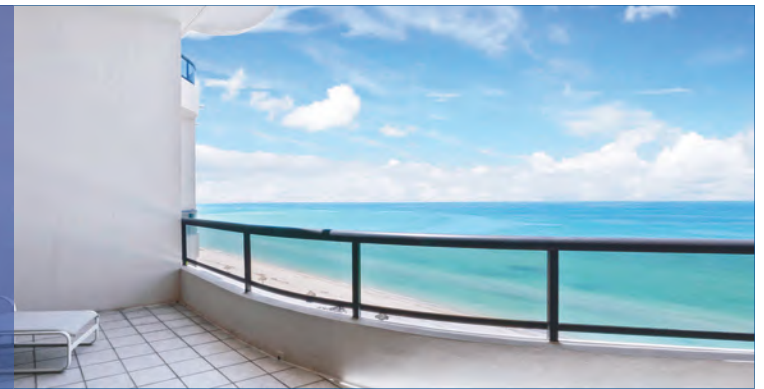
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QUEENS HARBOUR • 3590 FAIR OAKS LANE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$2,695,000
New Roof • Waterfront • 4BR/3.5BA • Private guest suite • Quick access to open water



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L' AMBIANCE • 435 L'AMBIANCE DR., #K905 • LONGBOAT KEY • \$3,995,000
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