



Longboat Key News

December 20, 2024

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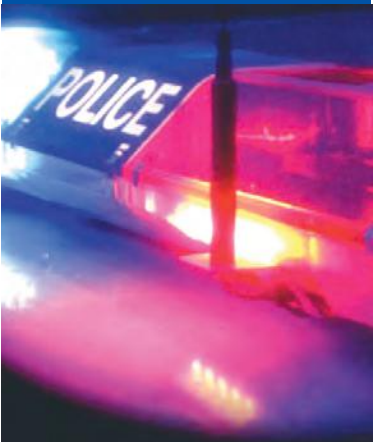
Holiday wine ideas uncorked ...page 6



LBK waterfront nets \$8.7 million ...page 11



Are Banyan trees still legal? ...page 4



Please arrest that man! ...page 10

Longboat Police Chief ousted as Manager seeks ‘New Direction’

Town Manager’s memo offered little in the way of reasoning for letting Turner go with the exception of stating, “There will be a leadership transition.”

STEVE REID
Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton says that although Police Chief George Turner is a hard worker and made significant accomplishments for the Town, he is moving in another direction and announced in a Dec. 12 memo to Police Department personnel that Turner’s last day as Chief will be Jan. 10 of next year.

Tipton’s memo offered little in the way of reasoning for letting



Turner go, with the exception of stating the fact that “there will be a

leadership transition within the Police Department. Effective end of day January 10th, Chief Turner will be stepping down from his role as police chief.”

The rest of Tipton’s memo explained that the manager will engage in conversations with members of the police department, town government as well as the public to help shape a path forward.

Tipton told Longboat Key News that he plans to conduct a national search for the position.

Deputy Chief Frank Rubino will assume the role of Interim Police Chief until the position is filled permanently. Rubino will not apply for the position.

Chief Turner followed Tipton’s email with a memo of his own to the Town Commission stating he wished to “share the facts” of his departure.

“I truly regret not having the opportunity to continue with you all in our pursuit of excellence, our future Florida Re-Accreditation

See Chief, page 2

Sea turtles crawl their way into unpredictable future



We take the sea turtles for granted. They are predictable and the volume of hatchlings has been strong. But not all is going swimmingly in a world fraught with escalating environmental challenges.

Each March, sea turtle nesting season begins. The season peaks around late spring to summer before tapering off in October, meaning Florida’s thousand-mile stretch of coastlines becomes home to hundreds of thousands of potential hatchlings during the worst of hurricane season. Now, those nurseries are threatened by increasingly stronger storms.

Hurricane season lasts from June 1 to November 30, overlapping with the bulk of the sea turtle nesting window. The 2024 season saw the earliest Category 5 Atlantic hurricane on record when Beryl formed in July. Later in the season, Hurricanes Helene and Milton made landfall in Florida within 13 days of each other, devastating the state’s Gulf Coast.

Heavy rains, winds and storm surges pile on the threats to sea turtles. Nests can drown or wash away — as hundreds did after Hurricane Debby in August — while the erosion of beaches may leave future sea turtles with less area to nest.

Scientists link increasing hurricane intensity, along with sea rise that causes higher coastal inundation, to climate change. Warming temperatures allow tropical disturbances to draw more power from the oceans. Hurricanes have always interfered with the incubation of turtle nests tucked in the sand, but stronger storms mean stronger interference. The changing conditions raise questions about the future of sea turtles, an endangered animal that has played a crucial role in marine ecosystems for the past 100 million years.

They usually come at night — because temperatures are cooler then, mother sea turtles are less likely to overheat as they crawl up the shore. Some settle for low areas by the high-tide line; others inch their way to the base of the

See Turtles, page 2

Longboat Key Among ‘Top 12 Destinations For 2025’ In World

Longboat Key landed on Forbes Travel Guide’s list of “Top 12 Destinations for 2025.”

The barrier island is split between both Sarasota and Manatee counties though the Forbes listing focuses on the island’s Sarasota side. It also emphasizes the new St. Regis Longboat Key Resort.

“Unless you are a local, you might not know about this tranquil barrier island off the coast of Sarasota. Here, visitors will discover 12 miles of soft white-sand beaches, turquoise waters and nature preserves,” the Forbes’ listing reads. “But the secret is out with the opening of The St. Regis Longboat Key Resort, the only hotel from the brand to debut in the U.S. in 2024 and the largest development on the island in 50 years.”

The 18-acre beachfront hotel has more than a half dozen restaurants, a 20,000-square-foot spa, and a 500,000-gallon lagoon wildlife experience for snorkelers with 40 rays, 2,800 local reef fish and resident Aldabra tortoises.

Forbes’ full list includes global destinations from Amsterdam to Monaco to Bhutan in South Asia.

Sarasota to resume paid parking on barrier islands next year

The City of Sarasota will begin to enforce paid parking on Lido Key and St. Armands Key on Jan 2, after a several-month pause due to a particularly intense storm season.

Parking at the Fillmore Lot, the John Ringling Blvd terminus, and along Ben Franklin Drive is \$1 an hour. A spot at the St. Armands Garage is free for the first hour, then \$1 an hour up to \$23. Street parking on St. Armands Circle is \$1.50 an hour.

Turtles, from page 1

dunes. Each leaves her eggs, about 110 per nest, buried two-feet-deep in the sand.

Their eggs, soft, porous and the size of ping-pong balls, develop into male or female offspring depending on the temperature of incubation. Once the hatchlings emerge, their frenzy toward the water begins, guided by the silky reflection of moonlight on the waves.

Their path to the sea presents its own threats: Hatchlings risk dehydration (from taking too long to reach the ocean), disorientation (from other sources of light on the beach) and predation (from ghost crabs and night herons hungry for their next meal).

Just one in 1,000 hatchlings will survive to adulthood. Those that do become stewards of a healthy ocean.

As a keystone species, sea turtles influence multiple levels of marine food webs, balancing the populations of jellyfish, crustaceans, seagrass and algae, which different sea turtle species consume.

Their eggshells, hatched or unhatched, supply nutrients that cycle through the beach's ecosystem. Dune vegetation, which thrives off high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus, grows in the egg-nourished sand.

When storms hit, sending surges as high as 15 feet onto the beach, these plants stabilize the dunes, limiting beach erosion and lessening potential flooding.

Such environmental impacts become a cycle of harm: Less beach means fewer sea turtles. Fewer sea turtles mean fewer sand dunes. Fewer dunes leave beaches more vulnerable to erosion.

Rising global temperatures, which scientists say helped intensify the recent storms, are a concern on land as much as in water — even nests that make it on the sand aren't guaranteed proper development in a warming world.

Because the sex of sea turtles is determined by their incubation temperature, researchers expect the increasing heat to induce more female than male hatchlings.

Already, the climbing temperatures are threatening the viability of all hatchlings. Research on loggerhead sea turtles in South Florida suggests a link between hotter air and a decline in emergence success, meaning fewer eggs produce hatchlings that leave the nest.

Since 1989, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute has measured trends in nesting counts based on a subset of nesting beaches. According to the index, observed numbers of loggerhead turtle nests have widely fluctuated by year. The period overall, however, shows a stable trend — and “many more years of standardized nest counts are needed” to determine whether

the fluctuation patterns are natural or worthy of concern, the index says.

Sea turtle conservation policies took off in the 1970s and '80s, with fishing gear regulations, fines for harming nests and a ban on sea turtle hatchery. Loggerhead and green sea turtles were listed as endangered in 1978. The following year, Florida's wildlife agency launched its annual statewide nesting beach survey, an effort that coordinates conservation groups, researchers and municipal agencies to amass data.

While local turtle monitoring in the state began in the late 1950s, many aspects of conservation work on the beach haven't changed. Researchers and volunteers follow the turtle tracks in the sand, count and tag the nests and tape them off with wooden stakes.

Hatchlings that survive because of these conservation efforts might outlive the people doing them. The lifespan of a sea turtle is 50 to 100 years. By the time the creature begins reproducing, at 20- to 30-years-old, a new generation of researchers and volunteers will likely be waiting for them on the sand.

Chief, from page 1

goal, and our continued high level of professional police services we provide to our great community,” wrote Turner.

The Longboat Key Police Department was awarded accreditation by Florida for the first time ever in February 2024 under Turner's watch.

Accreditation was the greatest achievement he had working at the Town and has been a goal for the community for many years. Turner spoke in his memo of how the Town as a team successfully responded to Hurricanes Debbie, Helene and Milton.

“My goal when hired as your Chief in 2021 was to leave the agency better than I found it. I am comfortable knowing that to be true,” wrote Turner.

Turner closed in saying that the Town is in good hands under the watch of Deputy Chief Rubino and he encouraged the commissioners to reach out if they needed anything and said that being Chief of Police on Longboat Key was the highlight of his 47-year career.

Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon said in an email to Turner, “The island benefited greatly from your time at the helm and I know your influence will have a lasting effect.”

Turner has worked twice for the Longboat Key Police Department. First, he served as Captain from 2001-2007. In 2021, former Town Manager Tom Harmer hired Turner to replace former Police Chief Kelly Smith who resigned after less than six months on the job.



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Contact: Tracey Stetler 941-266-9001



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6489 GULFSIDE ROAD | LONGBOAT KEY

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Contact: Patrick DiPinto 941-323-0033



109 N WARBLER LANE | BIRD KEY

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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.

Windward Bay Resident

To: Longboat Key Commission
Good Morning all, We will and are working through our list and I put on my to do list for Monday to process these. I have this residents' contact information and will reach out to them as well.
Patti Fige
Building Official
Town of Longboat Key

Windward Bay Resident

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle
Villa 24. Please approve our permits for drywall installation. This is unbelievable that you are delaying the process. I have just paid \$13,000 for taxes to help this town and spend countless monies when we are down there. We would like to start
Villa 24. Please approve our permits for drywall installation. This is unbelievable that you are delaying the process. I have just paid \$13,000 for taxes to help this town and spend countless monies when we are down there. We would like to start putting our lives back together.
Seth Kalinsky
Longboat Key

Windward Bay Resident

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons
Before our afternoon meetings Jane had alerted us that they commenced work without a permit and there were other issues, not just us holding them up. Because we were in meetings all afternoon I had not gotten the outcome of Janes visit after we all spoke in late morning. I will pass along information I as get it.
Patti Fige
Building Official. Town of Longboat Key

Windward Bay Condominium Drywall Permit Application

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle
I am the 44 year owner of a villa, water damaged at Windward Bay Condo by the two hurricanes. It was necessary to remove the lower drywall by 4 feet to do the remediation by a licensed and approved Contractor , then to have a mold company come in and thoroughly certify that no mold existed. All these steps were done by careful engineering planning .Now due to delays by the town's code permitting , the work has been suspended and my villa sits there with furniture and fixtures piled, all water and electrical shut off and what hurts most of all I can't use it and enjoy it, but the carrying expense which is considerable continue. Every villa at Windward Bay, two years ago was completely rehabbed with new roofs, hurricane rated windows, new support studs and siding all done to code. I might add that we are one of the first Condos on the Key to have updated our buildings to the new Florida building codes at considerable expense by all our owners. I ask you to examine our current permit request and expedite it, so us 25 villa owners can get back to the job of restoring our units. I have faith in the Town which I have enjoyed for 44 years.
Bob Ryall
Longboat Key

Windward Bay Condominium Drywall Permit Application

To: Longboat Key Commission
All, I wanted to respond that I have read this but is not part of the purview of the Building side. Let me know if there is something I can be of assistance with further here.
Patti Fige
Building Official, Town of Longboat Key

Banyan tree confusion

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
The grounds Committee at the Seaplace Condominium complex has been discussing the possibility of replacing the Banyan trees recently lost in the hurricanes. The committee has received conflicting information about whether these can be included in a post-storm landscaping plan, or if Banyan trees (ficus benghalensis) are considered invasive and restricted on the Island.
Do you know whether Banyan trees can be replaced on Longboat Key? If not, is there someone I can reach out to help settle the matter?
Penny Gold
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 8



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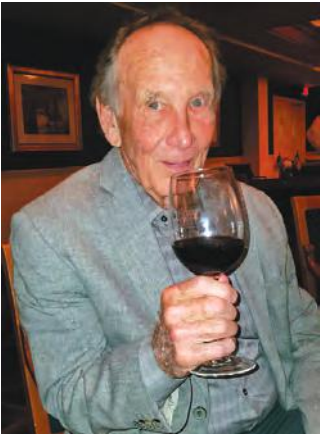
WineTimes

Holiday wines as gifts

As gifts, wines give a person selecting a gift a variety of options at different cost points to match the individual preferences of the recipient. An experienced wine drinker will be sure to enjoy a simple table wine with a weekend lunch or weekday dinner. Anyone will enjoy a novel wine that enhances the tastes of her or his favorite dish.

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

Wines have multiple roles during the holiday season. In the traditional role of a festive drink, hosts serve Champagne and other sparkling wines to arriving guests. At lunch or dinner, wines complement holiday dishes. After hors d'oeuvres, lunch, or dinner, guests enjoy dessert wines with cheese and pastries. Wines also complement food served at more formal or family dinners. Large parties or family gatherings make pouring different wines with different courses convenient and an expression of good taste.



another layer of tastes to dark chocolate. The fresh raspberry and cherries taste of young Pinot Noir, say the 2023 La Crema from Monterey in California (\$19), with nutty flavors of Le Gruyere cheese. Or combine a gift of a Zinfandel with a bar of dark chocolate or the Pinot Noir with a wedge of Le Gruyere, to leave no doubt about its purpose.

For lovers of bivalves such as mussels and oysters, a bargain Muscadet Sèvre et Maine wine will go to the top of their wine list. This region in the Loire Valley or France grows the unique Melon de Bourgogne grape to make the dry and highly citric acid Muscadet. The 2022 Domaine de la Potardiere Muscadet Serve et Maine Sur Lie Cuvee Speciale (\$18) brings forth the briny essence of delicacies of the sea.

Friends and family who may break out a wine to enjoy with fried fish or chicken, hamburgers, BBQ ribs, or grilled beef-steak will enjoy a gift of a basic wine: for fried fish or chicken, the 2022 King Estate Pinot Gris Willamette Valley (\$15) will stand up to crusty exterior but no overpower the lighter flesh inside, or for the more savory meat dishes, the 2020 Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon (\$20) draw out the savory flavors.

As gifts, wines give a person selecting a gift a variety of options at different cost points to match the individual preferences of the recipient. An experienced wine drinker will be sure to enjoy a simple table wine with a weekend lunch or weekday dinner. Anyone will enjoy a novel wine that enhances the tastes of her or his favorite dish.

Many varieties of wine have classic pairings with foods. The Zinfandel variety, say the robust and spicy red 2022 Cline Ancient Vines (\$19) from Contra Costa County in California, adds

Shopping for high end wine gifts tends to be easier. Prices range from a hundred dollars more or less to thousands of dollars. A wine aficionado who drinks wines in the price range will likely add a recent vintage of a premier wine to her or his cellar and hold it for several years. Consult the owner of a wine shop before selecting a premier wine as a gift.

... and one more role for wine during the holidays. Stock up wines that fill the role of digestifs. The rich foods and drinks during the holidays will build up and increase the need for sherries and amori. Take time to sit back, sip a digestif, and enjoy a holiday 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 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 4

Hurricanes

To: Peggy Otto
I am following up with the Planning office now, but I hope you realize thousands of homes are seriously damaged on this island and our staff has been working nonstop since the multiple hurricanes.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Windward Bay

To: Longboat Key Commission
I own a seriously damaged (guttered) condo at Windward Bay that has been awaiting drywall replacement since early November. This two-month (to-date) replacement delay is due to the Town of Longboat’s edict that drywall replacement requires the Town’s inspection prior to drywall replacement. Longboat inspectors have been and continue to be unavailable for this process.
Be aware that this Town inspection fiasco has resulted in the total loss of rental revenue for my condo (and all other condos in this same circumstance on Longboat Key) for the entire 2025 season. This affects the financial health of the entire island’s economy. There are those island owners who simply may be unable to recover from the impact of this delay.
I am hereby requesting that the Town of Longboat’s pre-replacement drywall “inspection” (prior to drywall permit approval) be waived immediately for all island owners’ hurricane-damaged property.
Your inspector will simply confirm that damaged drywall has been removed - nothing more. This is a pointless exercise of your authority that serves all island owners very poorly indeed. Your Longboat constituency is relying on you to do what is best for the entire island.
Peggy Otto
Longboat Key

Windward Bay

To: Seth Kalinsky
Talked with Planning Office. Permit applications came in December 10. Town Manager is meeting with staff in Planning at 3 p.m. to see what can be done to expedite. If it were just drywall you would not need a permit but with other work (kitchen, electrical, plumbing) permit required.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner

Town of Longboat Key

Windward Bay

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
So sorry to hear that, hopefully you are making progress. I am in a bad situation too, no kitchen, no bathrooms, it’s studs and a roof. We had to trash all of our belongings and years of memories out as well. Our contractor is ready and has the supplies and workers, just need the town’s approval on the permits. Thank you again for responding and hopefully you can push this through.
Seth Kalinsky
Longboat Key

Windward Bay

To: Seth Kalinsky
Big hurricane - I lost my home, so you are further along than me and my neighbors.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Windward Bay

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
It’s through Windward Bay HOA for the 24 Villas onsite. Thank you for responding. It’s been a very long process.
Seth Kalinsky
Longboat Key

Windward Bay

To: Seth Kalinsky
Are you only reinstalling drywall with no electrical or plumbing work? If so, no permit is needed. If other work is being done when did you file for your permit?
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Windward Bay

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
Villa 24. Please approve our permits for drywall installation. This is unbelievable that you
See Letters, page 12



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LAmbianceA608.com



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Beyond imagination with ultimate views of sunrises and sunsets, enjoy casual elegance from this epic southwest corner residence in the south building of L'Ambiance within the gates of the Longboat Key Club. This residence has been recently reconstructed and custom-designed to take full advantage of the spectacular sites. Three bedrooms with ensuites, plus a bonus room or children's wing with bunk beds.

LAmbianceA801.com



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5941GulfOfMexicoDr.com



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OnPatrol



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

Dec. 13

Noise

7:29 p.m.

Officer Ericsson was dispatched to Roundtree Drive on a noise disturbance. Upon arrival, Officer Ericsson observed a commercial van parked in front of a home. The van had a long hose leading inside the residence and a noticeably loud vacuum running. Contact was made with the employee running the vacuum equipment. Officer Ericsson advised the worker of the town ordinance regarding noise and issued a written sound regulation ordinance warning. The worker turned off his equipment and ceased his work. Case clear.



Water

10:00 a.m.

Officer Maple was dispatched to Buttonwood Drive for a water main break on the edge of a property line. Upon his arrival, Officer Maple witnessed a large amount of water escaping from an underground water source. Officer Maple contacted Public Works and they said they would check into the source and secure it if possible. Case clear.

Citizen assist

12:12 p.m.

Officer Tillman responded to the 1900 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a citizen assist. Upon arrival, it was determined that a security guard was merely doing her job by not giving contractors any access. The contractors were waiting at the gate. The homeowner did not agree with the HOA rule and stated that he would take the issue up with the HOA president. Security didn't let the contractors have access. The homeowner was told that this is not a law enforcement issue and rather an HOA issue. Case clear.

Dec. 16

Driver's license

8:46 a.m.

Officer Mathis while on patrol on Gulf of Mexico Drive observed a white Kia Soul obstructing the bike lane. Officer Mathis activated his emergency equipment and conducted a traffic stop on the Kia. Officer Mathis made contact with the driver and introduced himself and said the reason for the traffic stop. Officer Mathis then requested the man's driver's license, registration and insurance. The driver provided the vehicle's documentation and then handed the officer a Honduras ID card. Officer Mathis then ran the information through ELVIS which returned that the man was unlicensed. The driver explained that he was supposed to get his license this coming Friday. Driver was cited for driving while unlicensed and stopping and obstructing the bike lane.

Trespassing

2:09 p.m.

Officer Mathis was dispatched to the 2600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a disturbance. Upon his arrival, he spoke with a staff member who advised that the facility is closed due to recent hurricane damage and no one is allowed at this time. The staff member further explained that the guest evidently had a reservation through a third party vacation rental company that did not inform him that the hotel was closed due to storm damage and had not reopened. Officer Mathis spoke with the woman who had trouble understanding that the facility was closed and not open yet for a guest. Officer Mathis assisted the guest in speaking with hotel staff to better explain the situation and relay that he needed to contact the third party company to reschedule his vacation or possibly place him at a different property that is open. The woman apologized for the misunderstanding and left the property without incident. At the time of this report, the staff member did not want to criminally trespass the guest from the woman from the property. Case clear.

Dec. 17
Kayak

12:00 a.m.

Officer Mathis was dispatched to the 5400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to meeting with a subject in the lobby of the police department to report a missing kayak. Upon his arrival, Officer Mathis met with the complainant who explained that prior to the hurricanes he had left his 12-foot Hobe Pro Angler fishing kayak near the dock of his residence located at the 4200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive, and further explained that sometime during the hurricanes the dock and launch area for his residential complex was destroyed and his kayak was lost. The complainant was unable to provide serial numbers or any specific identifying marks for the missing kayak. The

complainant was given a case card with his contact information and report number. Officer Mathis asked the complainant to look through his records and attempt to locate any useful photographs or serial numbers associated with his kayak. Case clear.

Reckless

5:48 p.m.

Officer Mathis was dispatched to the area of 6000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a reckless driver. The caller left the area and refused to answer phone calls. Officer Mathis had dispatch reach out to the complainant to return to the scene. Once the complainant arrived, he began to explain that he was travelling south on Gulf of Mexico Drive at an appropriate speed when a commercial vehicle began to tailgate him. The driver further explained that he slammed on brakes in front of the commercial vehicle. The commercial vehicle was gone on Officer Mathis' arrival. Officer Mathis explained to the driver the importance of letting law enforcement handle the situation instead of slamming on brakes or brake checking other drivers and the safety risk involved for all involved and other drivers and pedestrians on the roadway. The driver had no information for the commercial vehicle involved. Officer Mathis spoke with the driver about aggressive driving. Case clear.

Dec. 18

Driver's license

4:29 a.m.

Officer Butler while on patrol in the 400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive, observed a red Ford sedan traveling at a high rate of speed from the south end of Gulf of Mexico Drive traveling northbound at 48 mph. Officer Bugler queried the FCIC NCIC database and the return identified the car. Officer Butler activated emergency lights and conducted a traffic stop at the 500 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Butler contacted the driver who only spoke Spanish. The occupant and driver's cousin provided translation for the encounter. Officer Butler advised the driver and occupant the reason for the stop and asked for the driver's license, registration and proof of insurance. The driver said he didn't have his driver's license, registration on him and that there was no insurance on the vehicle. Officer Butler explained that he needed the man's driver's license and he said after conferring with her that she had forgotten it at home. Officer Butler asked if she had an image of her license on her phone and she began to search through her phone. She then provided a picture of her united states Permanent Resident Alien Card. A query of DAVID and ELVIS showed 'no results' for her name and address for driver's licenses. The driver then advised that she did not have a Florida driver's license. She had a driver's license from Spain, but it is not in her possession. The driver explained that he switched the tag. The driver explained that he switched the tag from one of his other vehicles earlier in the day as he had just brought the car. He said he didn't register the vehicle or have insurance. Based on these facts, Officer Butler issued citations for operating a motor vehicle without a valid driver's license, no proof of insurance and no certificate of registration. Case clear.

Dec. 19

Burglary

10:13 a.m.

Officer Smith was dispatched to Sands Point Road for a report of a possible burglary and made contact with the unit owner who was out of town and had been informed that her closet was found open. The woman stated she was sent a photo and it appeared a play station and two baskets were missing. Upon arrival, Officer Smith made contact with the executive assistant for unit owners at the resort, she indicated that she had been informed of the incident and had sent the picture. Officer Smith went to the unit and called the woman on the phone at which time she provided the code to the closet. Officer Smith opened the closet and located all the items the woman had reported were missing. Officer Smith observed no damage to the closet door and it appeared to be working properly. It was unknown how the closet door was opened but there appeared to be nothing tampered with. Case clear.

Windshield

3:39 p.m.

Officer Tillman responded to Bay Isles Parkway for a report of property damage. Upon arrival, Officer Tillman spoke with the driver, who stated that he was passing the gate guard shack on Bay Isles Parkway when he heard and saw the right gate come into contact with the windshield on the upper right side of the vehicle. The man stated that the right gate is currently having work done and partially blocked by a van. Officer Tillman also spoke with the person working on the gate. The person said that the right gate was in the down position when the damage was observed. The security guard observed the same and provided a written statement. Due to conflicting statements and video cameras not available. Due to conflicting statements and video cameras not available, the exact cause of the damage could not be determined. Case clear.

The advertisement for LBK Liquors features a central graphic of a pink flamingo standing on its left leg, with its right leg tucked up. The text "LBK" is in a large, black, serif font, and "Liquors" is in a black, script font, both positioned to the left of the flamingo. To the right of the flamingo is the phone number "941.953.1835" in a black, sans-serif font. Below this, the text "The Island's largest selection of Beer, Wine & Spirits" and "Come check out our competitive prices!" is centered. Further down, "Discounts on cases of wine | Special orders welcome" is centered. Below that, "Locally owned & operated" is centered. At the bottom, the address "Whitney Beach Plaza" and "6854 Gulf of Mexico Drive | Longboat Key, FL" is centered. On the left and right sides of the bottom section are illustrations of three colorful liquor bottles (yellow, teal, and pink) in each corner.

KeyRealEstate

Bird Key, Lido Key, Longboat Key latest sales

Address	Sq. Ft.	List Price	Bed/Bath/Half Bath			Days On Market	Sale Price
156 N BLVD OF THE PRESIDENTS	1,804	\$1,250,000	2	2	2	10	\$1,100,000
6877 GULF OF MEXICO DR	4,820	\$9,750,000	5	4	1	307	\$8,700,000
1591 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#510	3,130	\$5,277,100	2	2	1	0	\$5,277,100
1581 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#506	2,347	\$4,633,000	2	2	1	0	\$4,633,000
1241 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#401	3,400	\$4,375,000	3	5	0	180	\$4,000,000
1591 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#416	1,556	\$2,423,850	1	2	0	0	\$2,423,850
3030 GRAND BAY BLVD Unit#346	2,925	\$2,195,000	3	3	1	70	\$2,100,000
771 BINNACLE POINT DR	2,685	\$1,900,000	2	2	0	0	\$1,900,000
775 LONGBOAT CLUB RD Unit#804	1,602	\$1,695,000	2	2	0	183	\$1,500,000
1045 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#302	1,392	\$1,439,000	2	2	0	121	\$1,410,000
1955 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#G6-311	1,492	\$1,165,000	3	2	0	14	\$1,000,000
4310 FALMOUTH DR Unit#A302	1,072	\$619,000	2	2	0	4	\$615,000
605 SUTTON PL Unit#203	992	\$550,000	2	2	0	49	\$510,000
4330 FALMOUTH DR Unit#C202	1,072	\$549,000	2	2	0	68	\$528,000
707 SAINT JUDES DR S Unit#1	630	\$270,000	1	1	0	15	\$259,000



6877 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE



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BIRD KEY

NEW CONSTRUCTION

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 8

are delaying the process. I have just paid \$13K for taxes to help this town and spend countless monies when we are down there. We would like to start putting our lives back together.

Seth Kalinsky
Longboat Key

Beach

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon

Thanks so much Sarah. The groins and renourishment will hopefully resolve some of the issues. Depending on the amount of sand that is replaced, we are hopeful that our beach will be restored to a point that will allow us to walk South along the sandy shore. Most of the older sea walls eventually eroded, including ours at Whitney Beach which we only discovered recently after the last hurricane that was well buried in the sand. Our hope is that the sea walls that still exist, especially those that extend beyond the ECL into the Gulf, should not be allowed to continue to be repaired. The town currently does not have an ordinance that would prevent it, owners can just go to the town hall and pay for a building permit. So my hope is that we can deny such permits in the future. In the meantime, property owners should not be allowed to prevent beach walker access along the sandy beach front. I appreciate your time and concern.

Patricia De Chiara
Longboat Key

Beach

To: Patricia De Chiara

Dear Patricia, thank you for sharing your thoughts. Ohana's sea wall has been a problem in search of solutions for so long. As a step in the right direction, our shoreline consultants' current proposal for a series of new groins along Gulfside Road has strong potential for stabilization -- the Town and commissioners will continue to discuss in the new year. As for new

or amended ordinances, perhaps our Public Works folks will share their expert insights when discussions resume (cc-ing Isaac Brownman here).

Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Beach

To: Longboat Key Commission

Those of us who live on the North end have witnessed the terrible devastation of the homes on Gulfside Road due to the recent hurricanes. There is no sand South of the Ohana seawall and I can't help but wonder whether the seawall contributed significantly to this devastation. Ohana was also severely damaged and the seawall looks like it suffered as well.

What can citizens do to ensure that seawalls extending beyond the mean high tide margin will not be repaired, rebuilt or allowed to be built in the first place? Is there an ordinance that can be amended? If so, how would one advocate for such?

I have noted that the town is considering altering the boat lift height ordinance as a result of knowledge gained from our experience with this hurricane season and wonder if now is an appropriate time to pass further ordinances to protect our beautiful beach.

As a homeowner, I would like to do whatever I can to help preserve the beauty of our island and allow access for walkers along the Gulf to be restored. Thank you for your service to our community.

Patricia DeChiara
Whitney Beach

Windward Bay

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons

Town staff are working through our pending plan review list and if your permits have not been processed by Monday I

will process them on Monday for the windward bay permits even though the towns offices will be closed for the holiday. We are working diligently to add additional qualified staff to meet the needs of Town and appreciate your patience. If you have any questions let me know and I apologize for any all inconvenience this has caused.

Patti Fige
Building Official
Town of Longboat Key

Windward bay

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle

I know u. have heard from owners at Windward but we really need your assistance and expedience on getting our permits approved. I know u have many such problems on LBK but what we are asking is fairly simple, a green light on installation of

I know u. have heard from owners at Windward but we really need your assistance and expedience on getting our permits approved. I know u have many such problems on LBK but what we are asking is fairly simple, a green light on installation of our drywall. All us unit owners are handicapped for the season unless we get the drywall in. As a developer in Pittsburgh and a long time boro official there are times when we need to bend over to help those in need which is all us villa owners. I appeal to your sense of helping your neighbor in this time of need.

John C Baun
Wexford, PA

Inspections

To: Longboat Key Commission

While we all applaud the rate at which the city cleaned up GMD, it's also inexcusable that structural items like drywall inspections can't be temporarily waived in order to get people back in their homes/villas/condos. I certainly understand structural items, but a 4x8 sheet of drywall isn't that. Not to mention, the revenue lost for the community of Longboat Key from these residents and renters. This is exactly the kind of bureaucratic small-mindedness that will waste all the goodwill that has been built so far.

Respectfully yours,
Brett Zachary
4900 Gulf of Mexico Dr.
BlueWater ChemGroup/Sanco Industries

Inspections

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons

I suspect you have received a number of notes from Windward Bay about permitting but have learned not to "assume". An explanation of their issue might be helpful to others awaiting permits. Thanks.

Ken Schneier
Mayor

See Letters, page 15

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www.lbknews.com

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Larry Moskowitz has practiced law in Florida for more than 35+ years, beginning his career as an Assistant State Attorney/Prosecutor in Broward County, FL. He is an accomplished trial attorney with over 150 jury trials to verdict.

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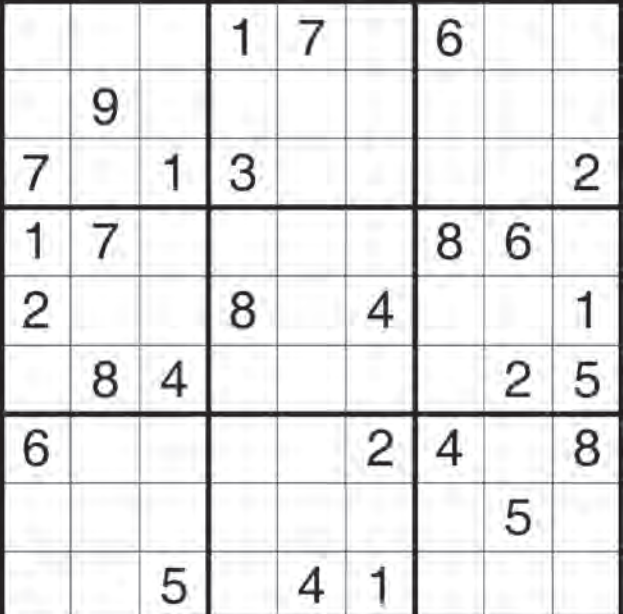
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Art Ready To Hang Sale



Letters, from page 12

Town of Longboat Key

Island Traffic Study

To: Maureen Merrigan

Thanks, Maureen. Tip and I addressed these issues most recently with Dave Hutchinson of the MPO on Monday at the Sarasota Legislative Delegation hearings and yesterday at a meeting with Manatee Administrator Charlie Bishop and new Manatee County Commissioner for the island communities Tal Siddique.

Ken Schneider
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Island Traffic Study

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

As promised - email from Eddie Abrams / LBK North re traffic citing concerns about timing of traffic study (point 1 below) and Coquina lot egress (point 5).

Maureen Merrigan
Longboat Key

Drywall Inspection Extensive Delay

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

After looking into the email from Ms. Otto below, our records indicate that the permit for the storm repair at this address was submitted on 12/10/24. It is currently pending review. Staff here have reached out to the general contractor for information that will assist with speeding the review along. Inspections will be able to be performed within a day or two of the permit's approval.

Allen Parsons
Director Planning, Zoning & Building Department
Town of Longboat Key

Drywall Inspection Extensive Delay

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons

I suspect you have received a number of notes from Windward Bay about permitting but have learned not to “assume”. An explanation of their issue might be helpful to others awaiting permits. Thanks.

Ken Schneider
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Banyan tree confusion

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Thanks for checking. Banyans are not among those prohibited as nuisance/exotic species. Please let the committee know they are free to replace any that were lost. They're beautiful trees.

Allen Parsons
Director Planning, Zoning & Building Department
Town of Longboat Key

Banyan tree confusion

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Penny Gold

We'll have an answer for you shortly.

Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Banyan tree confusion

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

The grounds Committee at the Seaplace Condominium complex has been discussing the possibility of replacing the Banyan trees recently lost in the hurricanes. The committee has received conflicting information about whether these can be included in a post-storm landscaping plan, or if Banyan trees (ficus benghalensis) are considered invasive and restricted on the Island.

Do you know whether Banyan trees can be replaced on Longboat Key? If not, is there someone I can reach out to help settle the matter?

Penny Gold
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Fences

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider

Thanks for passing the query along. The brief answer is, six feet height fence is allowed along the side yard, but would need to go to 3 feet in height within 20 feet of the waterfront (i.e. pond-front) and street front yards. Please feel free to have them follow-up with staff here directly.

Allen Parsons
Director Planning, Zoning & Building Department
Town of Longboat Key

Fences

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons

No rush, but when one of yours has a chance: A neighbor in Sabal Cove asked what are the Town's height, length or other requirements/limitations for him to build a side yard fence down to the golf course pond that forms the rear of his property (the HOA By-laws require Architectural Review Board approval but contain no dimensional limits). The Code has numerous fence provisions but I'm not sure which if any apply to a side yard fence to a backyard pond in an HOA.

Ken Schneider
Mayor, Town of Longboat Key

Thank you

To: Longboat Key Police Chief George Turner

I want you to know how much your service to the Town was appreciated. In addition to leading the certification effort, you have been a calming and reliable representative of the police force at Commission meetings. Thank you for all you have done. I wish you well in this new chapter of your life.

Penny Gold
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

New Year’s Eve at Oshen - Beachfront Event

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

Thanks BJ. The project is being occupied under a TCO (Temporary Certificate of Occupancy). The Building Official extended the TCO (for an additional 90 days to 3/19/25), at the applicant's request (“due to exigent circumstances created by the recent Hurricanes that the impacted the Town and St. Regis property”).

Allen Parsons
Planning and Zoning Director, Town of Longboat Key

New Year’s Eve at Oshen - Beachfront Event

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons

Have they received an O.C.?

BJ Bishop
Commissioner, Town of Longboat Key



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3BR/3BA • 2,100 SF • Gulf & Bay views
Offering a 3% buyer broker compensation.

JUST LISTED



HARBOR OAKS • \$699,000
2215 HARBOURSIDE DR., #304 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL
3BR/2BA • 1,906 SF • Updated
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JUST LISTED



ISLANDER CLUB • \$799,000
2301 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #85N • LONGBOAT KEY, FL
2BR/2BA • 1,235 SF
Offering a 3% buyer broker compensation.

NEW PRICE



WEST OF TRAIL • \$2,580,000
1886 PROSPECT STREET • SARASOTA, FL
4BR/4BA • 3,444 SF • Built in 2016
Offering a 3% buyer broker compensation.



COREY'S LANDING • \$2,800,000
3444 MISTLETOE LANE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL
4BR/3.5BA • 2,836 SF • Upgraded • Waterfront
Offering a 3% buyer broker compensation.



WINDING OAKS • \$995,000
3455 WINDING OAKS DRIVE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL
3BR/2BA • 2,112 SF • Furnished • Waterfront
Offering a 3% buyer broker compensation.



COUNTRY CLUB SHORES • \$5,999,000
596 YAWL LANE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL
5BR/5.5BA • 7,374 SF • 275' of Seawall • Large lot
Offering a 3% buyer broker compensation.



PLAYERS CLUB • \$1,095,000
1485 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #201 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL
3BR/2.5BA • 1,551 SF • Gulf views • Furnished
Offering a 3% buyer broker compensation.



THE MARK • \$1,499,000
111 S. PINEAPPLE AVE., #1004 • SARASOTA, FL
2BR/2.5BA • 1,513 SF • Sleek, modern interior • City views
Offering a 3% buyer broker compensation.



COUNTRY CLUB SHORES • \$2,795,000
597 CUTTER LANE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL
3BR/2BA • 1,963 SF • 103' of Waterfront
Offering a 3% buyer broker compensation.



FAIRWAY BAY • \$675,000
1932 HARBOURSIDE DR., #242 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL
2BR/2.5BA • 1,192 SF • Bay views
Offering a 3% buyer broker compensation.



BAYPORT BEACH & TENNIS CLUB • \$949,000
520 BAYPORT WAY • LONGBOAT KEY, FL
2BR/2BA • 1,456 SF • Gulf to Bay Community
Offering a 3% buyer broker compensation.



SUTTON PLACE • \$479,000
569 SUTTON PLACE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL
3BR/2BA • 1,198 SF • Furnished • Gulf to Bay community
Offering a 3% buyer broker compensation.



BEACHPLACE III • \$799,000
1065 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #104 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL
2BR/2BA • 1,503 SF • Private walk-down
Offering a 3% buyer broker compensation.



ISLANDER CLUB • \$649,000
2301 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #25N • LONGBOAT KEY, FL
2BR/2BA • 1,235 SF • Furnished • Covered Parking Space
Offering a 3% buyer broker compensation.

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