

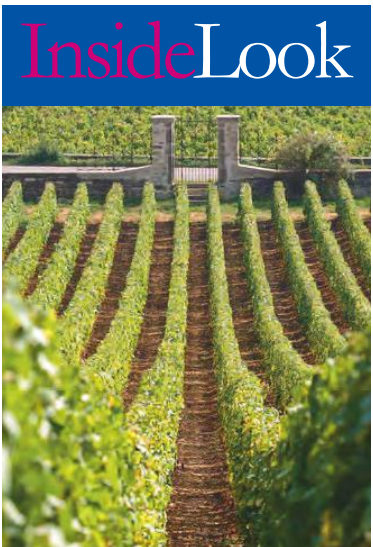


Longboat Key News

May 12, 2023

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InsideLook

From vineyard to the glass
...page 13



Longboat beach leads the market
...page 7



The garage is the issue on LBK
...page 4-5



The vulgarity of air conditioning
...page 10

Investigation into Quay development continues

Alleged relationships and communications between the developers of One Park Sarasota and public officials who vote on the controversial project continue to be investigated by law enforcement.

Opposition by neighbors continues at the Sarasota Quay development site. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement has reopened an investigation into alleged relationships and communications between the developers of One Park Sarasota, a downtown condo, and public officials who vote on the

controversial project. The decision to reopen the investigation came after FDLE notified Sarasota authorities that investigators found “no evidence of a crime” between the development group for One Park Sarasota and a city planning board member and city commissioner.

This means the inquiry into the \$500 million One Park Sarasota development will continue. The opposition from the condo board of the neighboring Ritz-Carlton Residences charged that the project has suffered “improper influence” and “collusion” in an attempt to gain approval.

Red tide hanging around southern Sarasota, avoids Longboat and Keys

Medium amounts of red tide are still being reported in southern Sarasota County.

Red tide continues to linger in southern Sarasota County and around Clearwater and Dunedin.

State environmental officials said a medium amount of red tide was reported this week at Blind Pass Beach, near Englewood. Low amounts were also reported in Sarasota at Manasota Key Beach, Manasota Beach and Caspersen Beach in South Venice.

In Pinellas, only very low amounts of the toxin were reported along the Dunedin Causeway, Clearwater Beach and offshore of Tarpon Springs.

Fish kills and respiratory irritation were reported in southern Sarasota County.

For additional information about red tide, including information on how to report a fish kill or other wildlife effects, consult health authorities about human exposure, or locate other resources, visit the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s Red Tide-Related Hotlines and Information Sources article.

Siesta Key Beach build ramps up

Work on the South Siesta Beach Repair project began two weeks ago, and will run through June 30.

The project will fix beach erosion caused by Hurricane Hermine in 2016 that erased earlier renourishment of South Siesta and Turtle Beach. The erosion reduced the volume of sand along the beach and natural habitat.

Mote Marine Laboratory and Sarasota Audubon Society continue daily sea turtle and shorebird monitoring at the project site.

After the second week of sand delivery, about 14,000 cubic yards of beach compatible sand have been delivered to the South Siesta Beach Repair project site. See this video update with Sarasota County

See Beach, page 2

Sunset Stroller



Sheila from FollowMeToLongboatKey on Instagram.Buffett

Community Foundation Partnership boosts MOTE’s STEM programs

Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium is pleased to announce a three-year strategic partnership with the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. With a grant of \$150,000, Mote will launch Ocean Guardians, a new program designed to increase access to STEM education for underrepresented and underserved students in Sarasota County. The grant will also support several donor and member engagement events during the grant period.

Through Ocean Guardians, local students will have opportunities to build the knowledge, confidence, and skill needed to become career-ready and to consider careers in STEM. “Hands-on, STEM-focused educational opportunities are critical for every student. We’re thrilled that the Ocean Guardians program will allow us to expand upon what is taught in the classroom in ways that fully engage students and invite them to consider marine science as a possible career path,” said Aly Busse, Mote’s Associate Vice President for Education.

Throughout the academic year, Ocean Guardians will participate in an afterschool program with hands-on educational and interactive activities that build upon Mote research and are facilitated by Mote educators. The goal is for participating Guardians to increase their science literacy, develop positive attitudes toward science, gain a basic understanding of available careers in STEM, and deepen their appreciation of marine and coastal environments. All programming supports the five C’s of 21st century career readiness, which are communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, and character.

Program activities include exploring the local marine environments through kayaking and dip netting in Sarasota Bay as well as learning about marine animals and marine taxonomy through various methods including squid and shark dissections.

Guardians will also learn to fly drones much like those used by Mote’s Manatee Research team to conduct aerial manatee identification surveys, and will learn how such studies provide vital data that help local and county officials manage manatees – and other wildlife - in ways that balance human activities and the sustainability of marine animals and their habitat.

“All activities are designed to provide students with an opportunity to learn through hands-on experience while also reinforcing the idea that anyone can become a marine research scientist if they want to,” Busse said. “As these students are in high school, they may be preparing for college and starting to develop a career interest, so this is a critical time to provide exposure to fields they may not have considered.”

During the summer, Ocean Guardians will receive a stipend and work together as a group to design and host educational events that engage members of their own communities and younger peers in science. Students will also work with Mote Educators to assist with community outreach programs, gaining valuable experience in translating and communicating science



to audiences of all ages. Summer stipends are a critical program component as they help to ensure the full participation of students who might otherwise need to obtain summer employment. The Ocean Guardians program serves as an example of Mote’s commitment to supporting community-focused engagement in science.

Mote’s Education Department provides STEM education through a wide variety of on-campus, regional outreach, and virtual education programs. This grant will allow Mote to take its science programming directly to underserved and underrepresented audiences after school and during the summer at regional organizations. During this inaugural year of the program, Mote is partnering with students and teachers at Booker High School with hopes to expand the program to other organizations in the future.

“We are honored to partner with the Community Foundation of Sarasota County to engage our community in meaningful programming that supports equality in STEM education,” said Andria Piekarz, Chief Development Officer at Mote.

Beach, from page 1

expect occasional limited access to parking areas and the potential for traffic delays or lane shifts. Community members are asked to pay attention to the signage in the project area and allow for additional drive time.

Sand is being placed along the beach to the north of the stockpile. Some areas of the beach and beach access points near the northern part of Turtle Beach may be closed for safety.



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\$ 15,000,000

Modern marvel overlooking New Pass in Lido Shores! Step into this tropical escape through the hidden courtyard that connects the three-bedroom main home to the secluded, two-bedroom guest house with an expansive sundeck, 60-foot wet-edge lap pool lined with royal palms and unique fire bowls, as the perfect introduction to a contemporary masterpiece.



Boasting all the amenities required for luxury living, this SMART home's inspired style highlights spectacular water views that stretch out to the Gulf of Mexico from just about every room of the nearly 6,600 square-foot interior.



The reverse-style layout places the main living areas on the second level, optimizing the best of the views. The open concept of this level comprises the gourmet kitchen with its poured terrazzo waterfall edge island and Miele appliances, as well as the family room, living/dining room, and secluded master suite.



Stacked glass sliders create a seamless transition to outdoor living, opening to the glass-railing terrace, summer kitchen, built-in grill, and spiral staircase that leads down to the waterside hot tub. Boaters will appreciate the deep-water dock with multiple lifts.

NEW CONSTRUCTION TO BE BUILT



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\$6,999,000

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GULF FRONT NEW CONSTRUCTION



SEAWARD HOMES

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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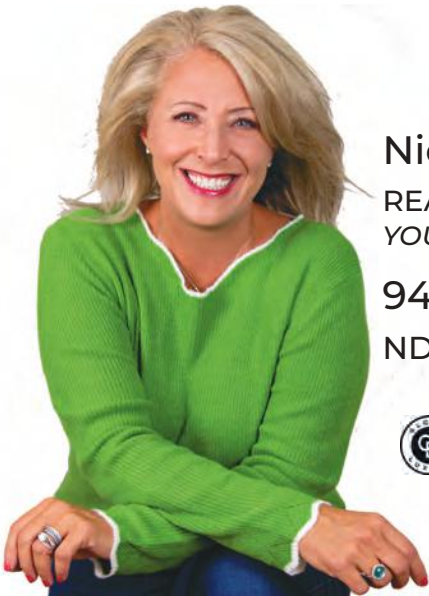


SEAWARD HOMES

SIESTA KEY • HIGEL AVE.

\$16,995,000

Currently under construction and scheduled to be ready Fall 2023, this breathtaking 8,964 AC/SF residence is one of a kind, designed by DSDG. Gulf front property on one acre and offers a 2,000 SF roof terrace. Separate guest house and 8-car garage. No expense spared on this remarkable home.



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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.

St. Regis Parking Garage

To: Longboat Key Commission

Attached are two photos of the proposed multi-level garage site from the sidewalk and one from sidewalk across Gulf of Mexico Drive. As you know the garage is planned with only a 57-foot set back from Gulf of Mexico Drive between the road and the large mechanical equipment and back of house existing new building.

Some have said the garage will disappear like the Publix development. However, CVS and Publix are well set back from Gulf of Mexico Drive and there is an elevated earth berm with the landscape screen planted on it and on top of it between Gulf of Mexico Drive and the CVS parking lot. Apples vs. tomatoes.

Please personally take a look at the site from both Gulf of Mexico Drive sidewalks and envision the garage sandwiched in between the existing new building and Gulf of Mexico Drive. Of course, there will be landscaping but...

There are also large fresh water supply pipes and valves and a transformer in the set back to "hide".

Again, please table this decision and get some operating experience with the already approved plan. Any concerns should first be fixed operationally, not adding structural mass to the site if at possible. The already approved plan will work IF you work it. Thank You for your consideration.

Bob Gault
Longboat Key

Unsafe Structure Declared

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

This morning the Building Official and Fire Marshal inspected the damage associated with a deck that collapsed this past Saturday (5/6) night at 7140 La Lenaire Dr. (on Jewfish Key). The deck collapse resulted in serious injuries for one of the occupants and less serious injuries for the other occupant. The deck was constructed of wood & is likely part of the original house constructed in 1993. The inspection of the collapsed deck also revealed noticeable deterioration of wooden components of the home itself (lower two photos below). The clearly visible deterioration led the Building Official to declare the structure unsafe for habitation, until demonstrated otherwise. The house, which is presently unoccupied, was posted as being unsafe for occupancy and the owners are being notified.

Allen Parsons
Director Planning and Zoning Department
Town of Longboat Key

Disaster Preparedness Seminar

To: Longboat Key Commission

We have been sharing details of the Annual Disaster Preparedness Seminar on all Social Media platforms and the Town's website this week, and will continue pushing out through e-mail blasts and other methods. The Town Manager has also been filmed in a short video highlighting the importance of attending this event that will be shared beginning Monday (we are in final editing). That video will go out on social media, website, and mass e-mail blast.

We just received this flyer from the Longboat Key Chamber and wanted to share to enhance distribution and public awareness. Thanks for your support, and anything you can do to further share this information.

Susan Phillips
Assistant to Town Manager
Longboat Key

Keeping Longboat Key, Longboat Key

To: Longboat Key Town Commission

I have been a resident of Longboat Key for 26 years having visited Longboat with my parents in the late 1950s and dreaming at that time that perhaps one day I might live on beautiful Longboat Key and here I am, proof that dreams can come true.

The proposed parking garage request by developers of the St. Regis project however, is threatening that beauty and, if approved, would set a dangerous precedent for other developers to follow suit and erect similar structures on our island.

My husband (a past Chairman of the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce) and I are not against progress nor the St. Regis per se but we are absolutely against a concrete structure of the magnitude proposed by the developers and planned to be much too close to GMD. The renderings are deceiving as no way would there be space for the abundance of landscaping in their depiction. Already there is a much more massive footprint than I think any of us realized there would be and now the developer wants to increase the mass by erecting a 15,000 square foot parking garage? While Unicorp and their attorney couch the proposed garage as "two stories", in reality while it might be two stories, it is three levels of parking as there would be parking on each of the two levels and on the roof as well.

There is consensus among many of us that this move by the developer was deliberate and disingenuous knowing that, had the massive garage been part of the original plan, it likely would not have been approved as it should not now!

My husband and I spent the entire day of April 18th at Town Hall which was packed to overflowing with people there who are passionate about LBK and are against more concrete mass on the site of the former Colony Beach and Tennis Club. Only ONE person spoke in favor of the garage and that person lives in Aquarius where he boasted that he owns several condominiums but what he didn't reveal is the known fact that when the Town was in negotiations with the developer of the St. Regis and the developer was getting push back from contiguous neighbors who were becoming a thorn in the developer's side, the developer struck a deal with residents of Aquarius giving those residents lifelong access to amenities at the St. Regis.

You might recall the Joni Mitchell tune "Big Yellow Taxi" wherein the lyrics say, "Pave paradise and put up a parking lot you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone". Sounds like a dream shatterer to me.

We ask you to consider the will of the people of Longboat Key, taxpayers who elected you, over the greed of developers who will take their money and most likely not be seen here again

See Letters, page 5

GULF VIEWS

JUST LISTED

2109 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #1203
LONGBOAT KEY, FL
2BR/2BA | 1,463 SF | FURNISHED
\$1,300,000

LUXURY PENTHOUSE

JUST LISTED

2101 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #2504
LONGBOAT KEY, FL
2BR/2BA | 1,358 SF | UPDATED
\$1,599,900

CASEY KEY WATERFRONT

105 CASEY KEY RD., #34
NOKOMIS, FL
3BR/2BA | 1,170 SF | ASSIGNED BOAT SLIP
\$995,000

DIRECT BAY FRONT

3606 FAIR OAKS PLACE
LONGBOAT KEY, FL 34228
4BR+DEN/3BA | 3,842 SF | 24' DOCK
\$3,475,000

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50' X 105' CORNER LOT READY TO BUILD
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EditorLetters



Letters, from page 4

and ask you to reject this too close, too big and too late request.
Susan Gilmore-Clarke
Longboat Key

Keeping Longboat Key, Longboat Key

To: Susan Gilmore-Clerk
Thank you so much. I hope you will speak again at the Commission’s hearing on this issue.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Longboat Key

Keeping Longboat Key, Longboat Key

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
I appreciate your acknowledgement of my heartfelt email. I regret that we, as so many other LBK residents, shall no longer be here for the June hearing. As was stated in my email, there was a plethora of people who sat most of the day on April 18th hoping to be heard (finally at 4 p.m. ish) we were given that opportunity but alas, June is too late for us snowbirds who populate this island from November until mid-May or so. We read where you were silenced for expressing your opinion regarding the late date set and we, as do others, agree with you that most likely it was by design. It is our ardent desire that the commissioners listen to the residents of LBK and do not approve the parking garage proposed by the developers of the St. Regis.
Susan Gilmore-Clark
Longboat Key

2023 Legislative Summary

To: Longboat Key Commission
Good morning, Governing Board Members and Staff Directors. Attached are the end of Session Bill Tracker spreadsheet and the final list of member projects that were funded. The Department received a record funding level of \$15.2 billion. This includes \$402 million in General Revenue funds to support the member projects that were approved. For comparison, the current year FDOT budget is \$12.6 billion. The Governor’s Moving Florida Forward Initiative did not get fully funded. Though it received the initial \$4 billion in GR transfers, it did not receive the tag fee redirects it needed to fully fund the \$7 billion initiative. How this will impact the Department’s plan is being analyzed and I will share that when I can.
There were 43 bills that in some way touched on the work we do and were paying closer attention to this Session. Of those, 13 passed and have either already been signed into Law by the Governor or are on the way to his deck. We will do our annual Legislative Summary Report after the bills are signed providing more detail. In the meantime, I’ll touch on a few of the more important bills.
SB 106, Florida Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail Network (the Sun Trails Bill), passed early in Session and was signed by the Governor on April 11th. The bill expands the network and increases the annual appropriation from \$25 to \$50 million plus a nonrecurring appropriation of \$200 million for planning and design.
HB 155, TBARTA Bill, sunsets this organization.
HB 1305, the Department’s Transportation Bill, contains multiple provisions to improve the efficiency of the Department, including the following:
· Increases the maximum amount of debt service coverage that may be transferred from the State Transportation Trust Fund to the Right-of-Way Acquisition and Bridge Construction Trust Fund, from \$35 million annually to \$425 annually, and increases the maximum term of state bonds using federal appropriations for federal aid highway construction, from 12 years to 18 years.
· Authorizes the Florida Development Finance Corporation to issue revenue bonds to finance the costs of acquisition or construction of a transportation facility by a private entity or a consortium of private entities under a specified public-private partnership.
· Authorizes the FDOT to fund up to 100 percent of project costs for eligible intermodal logistics center projects in rural areas of opportunity and, subject to the availability of appropriated funds, to fund up to 100 percent of eligible project costs for specified projects at certain publicly owned, publicly operated airports located in a rural community.
· Authorizes installation, as specified, of automated license plate recognition systems within the rights-of-way of the State Highway System at the discretion of the FDOT when installed at the request of a law enforcement agency for the purpose of collecting active criminal intelligence

or investigative information.
· Increases from \$120 million to \$200 million the FDOT’s annual cap on the award of contracts using innovative techniques of highway and bridge design, construction, maintenance, and finance; and excludes low-bid design-build milling and resurfacing contracts from the annual cap.
· Increases from \$250,000 to \$500,000 the cap on entering into contracts for construction and maintenance without advertising and receiving competitive bids for reasons of public concern, economy, improved operations, or safety, and only when circumstances dictate rapid completion of the work.
· Revises requirements for design-build contracts, allowing the FDOT to combine the design and construction phases of any transportation project; authorizes the FDOT to enter into phased design-build contracts under specified conditions and following specified processes; provides requirements for such contracts; and includes phased design-build contracts in current provisions of law relating to advertising and awarding design-build contracts.
· Abolishes the Chairs Coordinating Committee and requires the metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) serving specified counties to submit a feasibility report by December 31, 2023, exploring the benefits, costs, and process of consolidation into a single MPO serving the contiguous urbanized area, with specified goals.
· Requires that public transit development plans of eligible providers of public transit block grants be consistent, to the maximum extent feasible, with the long-range transportation plans of the MPO in which the provider is located; and revises annual public transit provider reporting requirements.
· Reestablishes the Greater Miami Expressway Agency, subject to the revised powers, governance, jurisdiction, and duties contained in the bill.
· Repeals Part IV of Chapter 348, F.S., relating to creation and operation of the Santa Rosa Bay Bridge Authority (SRBBA); transfers governance and control of the SRBBA, the bridge system, and any remaining SRBBA assets and rights to the FDOT; authorizes the FDOT to

See Letters, page 6

TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING & HEARING
ORDINANCE 2023-01
MAY 16, 2023 – 9:15 AM

Please take notice that a public meeting and hearing of the Town of Longboat Key’s Planning and Zoning Board will be held to consider proposed modifications to Title 15, Land Development Code, Chapter 160, Comprehensive Plan, of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Longboat Key, as more particularly set forth in Ordinance 2023-01:

ORDINANCE 2023-01
AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE 2022 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY, PURSUANT TO SECTION 163.3184, FLORIDA STATUTES AMENDING, DELETING, REPLACING, AND ADDING OBJECTIVES, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES PROVIDED FOR WITHIN THE CONSERVATION & COASTAL MANAGEMENT ELEMENT AND THE RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT; PROVIDING FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE COMMUNITY PLANNING ACT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The public hearing before the Planning and Zoning Board on proposed Ordinance 2023-01 will be held on **May 16, 2023, at 9:15 a.m.**, or as soon thereafter as may be heard, in the Town Commission Chambers at Town Hall, 501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, Florida.

All interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to proposed Ordinance 2023-01. Copies of Ordinance 2023-01 and related material associated with the amendment may be viewed at the Planning, Zoning & Building Department, 501 Bay Isles Road, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays prior to the hearing. Questions may be directed to the Planning, Zoning & Building Department at 316-1966. The proposed amendment will affect property within the corporate boundaries of the Town of Longboat Key as shown on the map appearing at the bottom of this advertisement.

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

David Green, Chair,
Planning & Zoning Board
Published: 5/12/2023



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EditorLetters



Letters, from page 5

assume legal liability for contractual obligations determined to be necessary; and authorizes transfer of the bridge system to the turnpike system.

HB 1397, Regional Transportation Planning, requires FDOT to conduct a study reviewing aspects of the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority’s organizational structure and operation.

HB 425, the industry’s transportation bill, does the following among other things:

- Adds three additional situations to Florida’s Move Over Law, requiring motorists to move over for a disabled motor vehicle that is stopped and displaying warning lights or hazard lights; is stopped and is using emergency flares or posting emergency signage; or is stopped and one or more persons are visibly present.
- Requires FDOT to coordinate with specified entities to establish standards by which the State Highway System (SHS) roads will be graded according to their compatibility with the operation of autonomous vehicles and requires incorporation of the grading standards into standards for specified transportation projects.
- Revises provisions regarding airport land use compatibility zoning regulations and noise studies at airports, including providing for consideration of mitigation, rather than prohibition, of certain potential incompatible uses when a noise study is not conducted.
- Revises FDOT’s duty to provide a workforce development program and requires the FDOT to allocate \$5 million from the State Transportation Trust Fund to the workforce development program beginning in the 2023-24 fiscal year and annually thereafter for five years.
- Requires the FDOT to implement strategies to reduce the cost of all project phases while ensuring the design and construction of the project meet applicable federal and state standards, and to track such strategies and the projected savings to be realized therefrom.
- Authorizes the FDOT to share a portion of the construction cost savings realized due to a change in the construction contract design and scope, initiated after execution of the contract, with a design services consultant or a construction engineering and inspection services consultant to the extent that the consultant’s input and involvement contributed to such savings, not to exceed ten percent of the construction cost savings realized.
- Clarifies that stipends paid by the FDOT to non-selected design-build firms that have submitted responsive proposals for construction contracts contained in the FDOT’s legislatively approved work program are not subject to existing documentation and notification requirements for stipend payments made by the FDOT to resolve a bid protest through a settlement.
- Repeals a provision prohibiting the FDOT from requesting legislative approval of a proposed turnpike project until the design phase of that project is at least thirty percent complete.
- Requires increased coordination and consultation between Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs); prohibits an MPO from performing project production or delivery for capital improvement projects on the SHS; revises various provisions to apply to contiguous urbanized metropolitan areas; requires certain MPOs to consider proportional representation of the area’s population when selecting technical advisory committee membership; abolishes the Chairs Coordinating Committee and requires the MPOs serving specified counties to submit a feasibility report by December 31, 2023, exploring the benefits, costs, and process of consolidation into a single MPO serving the contiguous urbanized area, with specified goals; and revises provisions relating to the MPO Advisory Council.

line and rail facility projects that meet the public purpose of providing increased capacity and capability to move and store construction aggregate; provides project selection criteria; authorizes the FDOT to adopt rules; and repeals these provisions on July 1, 2028.

HB 7041, Space Florida, requires the Secretary of Economic Opportunity to serve as manager for the state with respect to contracts with Space Florida; revises powers, duties, & membership of board of directors of Space Florida; prohibits Space Florida from endorsing candidates or contributing moneys to campaigns; prohibits Space Florida from expending funds on certain expenses; requires Space Florida to consult with the MPOAC on the cooperative planning process. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Mark E. Reichert
Executive Director
Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council

Winterfest opposition

To: Sarasota City Commission
I want to explain why I am opposed to repeating the Winterfest on St. Armand’s Circle. This year, the festival exacerbated the already untenable traffic situation. For weeks, traffic in the afternoons and evenings came to a standstill on Longboat Key. It often took 45 minutes to an hour just to get to the Ringling Bridge.

Continuous pedestrian crossings stop traffic every few yards and awkward parking around the circle is another headache for drivers trying to traverse the area.

The beautiful park at the center of St. Armand’s should not be dominated for so many months by this one, privately owned business, who operated the festival as a for-profit event. It is inappropriate to lease a treasured community asset for use by a private business for such an extended period of time. This year, the park was closed for 4 months... (6 weeks for the festival and 3 months to repair the lawn destroyed by the event). Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Penny Gold
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

St. Regis Parking Structure

To: Longboat Key Commission
Our family has owned a home in Bay Isles Harbor since 1989, 34 years of enjoying the exceptional beauty and tranquility of Longboat Key as well as Sarasota’s dynamic cultural life. In May of 2020, my husband and I purchased this home from my parents, and looked forward to continuing their tradition of celebrating times with family and friends within the quiet Bay Isles Harbor neighborhood. In fact, over the past nearly 3 years, we have transformed the

See Letters, page 8

Growing in Jesus’ Name



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www.christchurchoflbk.org (follow YouTube link)

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



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EBikes and Cycles

The area’s largest selection of quality electric bicycles. We will custom fit you to your E bike to match your riding style.

📍 423 Suwanee Ave., Sarasota, Florida

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Give the Gift of Tennis Lessons

AFFORDABLE - PROFESSIONAL - DOWNTOWN SARASOTA
Give your children or grandchildren professional tennis instruction at the City of Sarasota’s Payne Park.

Foam Ball:
Ages 4 to 6, Tuesdays 4 to 5 p.m. kids learn proper contact and swing using soft foam tennis balls to develop confidence. \$20

Red Ball:
Ages 6 to 10, Tuesdays 5 to 6 p.m. Focus on , preparation, foot work, hand-eye coordination and contact. \$20

10 And Under High Performance:
Mondays 5 to 6 p.m. Focus on biomechanics, technique, footwork, agility, shot-making and rallying. \$20



Middle and High School Tennis Prep:
Wednesdays 4 to 6 p.m. complete tennis training to bring the game to a match-ready level. \$30

Individual Junior lessons \$60 per hour.



Sherry ‘Nef’ Price is a USPTR certified professional. She played at IMG and Division 1 College.
Call Payne Park Tennis center at 941-263-6641 to schedule.
Payne Park Tennis Center, 2050 Adams Lane, Downtown Sarasota, 34237

PAYNE PARK TENNIS CENTER
12 Courts in the heart of Sarasota



- Twelve Har Tru Hydrogrid tennis courts
- Locker rooms/with showers
- All courts lighted for evening play
- Certified teaching Pros USPTA/USPTR
- Hitting wall
- Lessons and Clinics
- Leagues and Round Robins
- Tournaments
- Ball machine for rent
- Walk on or reserved play

MON - THUR : 6:00 AM - 9:00 PM
FRI 6:00 AM - 6:30 PM
SAT -SUN: 7:30 AM - 1:30 PM

MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE
INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, JUNIOR
AFTER 3:00 P.M. SPECIAL

2050 ADAMS LANE | DOWNTOWN SARASOTA
941.263.6641

KeyRealEstate

Bird Key, Lido Key, Longboat Key latest sales

Address	Sq. Ft.	List Price	Bed/Bath/Half Bath			Days On Market	Sale Price
571 SAINT JUDES DR Unit#3	611	\$450,000	2	1	0	30	\$400,000
4420 EXETER DR Unit#L305	837	\$479,000	1	1	0	3	\$465,000
4410 EXETER DR Unit#303	1,152	\$549,000	2	2	0	85	\$504,000
4320 FALMOUTH DR Unit#B202	1,072	\$695,000	2	2	0	85	\$650,000
5055 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#114	1,484	\$675,000	2	2	0	88	\$665,000
225 SANDS POINT RD Unit#7304	642	\$875,000	1	1	0	10	\$750,000
615 DREAM ISLAND RD Unit#208	1,453	\$995,000	2	2	0	12	\$945,000
2373 HARBOUR OAKS DR	2,245	\$1,150,000	3	2	1	36	\$1,125,000
2550 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#322	3,197	\$1,550,000	3	2	1	146	\$1,457,500
695 MARBURY LN	2,530	\$1,950,000	3	2	1	32	\$1,900,000
415 L AMBIANCE DR Unit#C503	2,822	\$3,450,000	3	2	2	17	\$3,200,000
4651 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#403	4,100	\$4,995,000	4	4	1	0	\$5,046,500
4651 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#104	4,000	\$5,265,000	4	4	1	0	\$5,265,000
4651 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#203	3,900	\$7,200,000	4	4	1	212	\$5,524,400
4651 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#204	3,900	\$5,600,000	4	4	1	10	\$5,600,000
4651 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#PH2	3,900	\$5,850,000	4	4	1	0	\$5,850,000
4651 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#304	4,100	\$5,460,000	4	4	1	183	\$5,908,800
4651 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#PH4	3,900	\$6,180,000	4	4	1	0	\$6,229,900
4651 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#PH1	4,000	\$6,240,000	4	4	1	72	\$6,240,000
777 JOHN RINGLING BLVD Unit#25HAWT	882	\$697,000	2	2	0	16	\$697,000
315 JACKSON DR	2,514	\$2,000,000	2	2	1	214	\$2,000,000
1300 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#1006	3,014	\$4,599,000	3	3	0	99	\$4,200,000



4651 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#PH1



JEFF RHINELANDER

941-685-3590 • Jeff@jeffrhineland.com

COURTNEY TARANTINO

941-893-7203 • courtney.tarantino@floridamoves.com



COLDWELL
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BIRD KEY
526 BIRD KEY DRIVE
ACTIVE LISTING \$2,595,000



SIESTA KEY
651 AVENIDA DEL NORTE
ACTIVE LISTING \$2,595,000



LAKEWOOD RANCH
5527 PALMER CIRCLE, #206
ACITVE LISTING \$515,000



BIRD KEY
449 E ROYAL FLAMINGO DRIVE
SOLD \$5,600,000



BAY POINT DRIVE
1507 BAY POINT DRIVE
SOLD \$6,350,000



LONGBOAT KEY
2525 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #4E
SOLD \$1,600,000



FOX TRACE
2547 FIREFLAG LANE
PENDING \$520,000



BIRD KEY
314 BIRD KEY DRIVE
SOLD \$4,600,000

EditorLetters



Letters, from page 6

property into our dream home and become Florida residents. We are very thankful for the Commission’s work, over the past decades, which has preserved the qualities that make our Longboat Key so special. With wisdom and intention, the Commission has been able to find the right balance between addressing growth and honoring what residents of Longboat cherish most about their island community.

However, with the Planning & Zoning Board’s recent approval of a 3-story parking structure, this delicate balance is in jeopardy. I attended and spoke at the meeting on April 18th. It seemed as if Board members had already made up their minds prior to hearing concerns from residents. It seemed as if the Board’s greatest concern was to meet The St. Regis’ need to become a 5 Star Marriott property by reducing the time it takes a valet to retrieve a car from 7.5 minutes to 4 minutes. It seemed as if the needs of residents were dismissed as much less important than a reduced wait time of 3.5 minutes.

Our home is directly across from where the parking structure, if approved, will be built, and I can assure you that had we known, 3 years ago that this is what we would be looking out at, we would not have spent the last 3 years designing, building, and paying for what was to become our dream home. Not in my wildest dreams could I have imagined this occurring. For the past 34 years, other than increased traffic on GMD, we have experienced the benefits of your commission’s legacy of careful and intentional planning and oversight.

My hope is that you, the current Commissioners of our lovely island will preserve this legacy which has made Longboat Key so special. My hope is that you, the Commissioners, will walk in the footsteps of those who preceded you and continue to find the right balance between addressing growth and honoring what we all cherish most about our island community.

I respectfully ask the Town Commission to reject the proposal and tell the Developer and Marriott to find alternative solutions, other than a parking garage, to become a 5 Star property.
Susan Wolcott Stuart
Longboat Key

Proposed St. Regis

To: Longboat Key Commission
My wife and I are full time residents of the Harbor Section of Bay Isles. We have lived on the island since 2014 and finished our new home in 2019. We moved here for the quiet, beautiful neighborhood.

I am writing to express our opposition to the proposed St. Regis parking garage directly across Gulf of Mexico Drive from our home. The St. Regis project is a marked improvement over the vacant land, and will help the economy and tax base of our community. We have been in favor of this project since it was first proposed and have followed the development closely. When the project was first proposed and ultimately approved, it was clearly stated that parking issues were carefully considered and included in the application. It was in this basis that the Town approved construction of the project.

As the project nears completion, the developers have come to the Town with plans to build a five story parking garage directly on Gulf of Mexico Drive. This is a major change from the original approved plans and should have been included in the original application before project approval. We are opposed to the last-minute change for the following reasons:

1. The proposed garage 50+ feet from Gulf of Mexico Drive will be an eyesore. No other such structure has ever been built in our Town and none exist.
2. If approved this change would provide a precedent as any future such construction would have to be approved. This is not the “look” that our Town has been able to preserve since its founding.
3. Noise and light pollution will a nuisance to all of the projects neighbors.
4. The St. Regis developers clearly stated in their approved proposal that additional parking was not required as they had planned for all requirements. Had the Town residents been told of the need for an additional parking garage before the project was approved or construction begun, the plans could have been changed to accommodate the need.
5. Waiting until the project is almost complete to claim that a parking garage is needed is at best disingenuous and at worst deceptive from the beginning.
6. Issues causing negative impacts on our community and our quality of life should be decided in favor of our residents not in favor of private developers with a profit motive. Our residents clearly value the beauty of our community and our quality of life.
7. St. Regis developers have failed to state what has changed since their original approved proposal that makes the garage necessary except that it might save a few minutes to deliver a car although this has not been demonstrated.
8. The St. Regis developers have failed to demonstrate how the proposed garage would benefit the residents of the Town of Longboat Key. The residents of our communities have strongly expressed their disapproval of this last-minute change in the St. Regis project. We respectfully pray that this proposal not be approved.

Will and Mary Stein
Longboat Key

No Parking Garage

To: George and Sally Rauch
The Commission will consider the decision to approve or not approve the St. Regis parking garage application at our meeting on June 5. I encourage you to express your opinion on this matter during the public comments period. We look forward to this input.
Debbie Murphy
Commissioner
Longboat Key

Objection to St Regis Parking Garage

To: Paula Steptoe
Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the St. Regis parking garage application. I know you will not be able to attend, but the application will be heard before the Town commission on 6/5 at 1:00 p.m. Please share this with your friends and neighbors who will still be in town and would like to express their opinions and concerns in person.
Debra Williams
Commissioner
Longboat Key

St. Regis parking garage

To: Longboat Key Commission
I am writing in opposition to the proposed parking garage at the St. Regis development on Longboat Key. The size of the structure at 15,000 sq feet, with parking on three levels and fronting Gulf of Mexico Drive is obtrusive and totally out of character with existing development on the island. I would ask that you refuse this application which will create a blot on our landscape.

I and many others have left the area for the summer and I believe it is disingenuous of the developers to submit this application at this time, I would suspect expecting less opposition. I also believe that by submitting this application after approval of the main project by the developer, suggests that they may have believed that the entire project would have been refused if the true scale of the parking required was disclosed.

There is little support for the application, a single voice being from an owner at Aquarius, who will be directly benefitting from the developer and the amenities offered at the facility, that submission is largely based on self-interest. I hope that you will give my views consideration and refuse the application before you.
Paula Steptoe
Longboat Key

Opposition to St. Regis parking garage

To: Longboat Key Commission
The undersigned on this letter are all homeowners in the Corey’s Landing Homeowners Association, which is a part of the Bay Isles community on Longboat Key. The residents listed below have all asked that their opposition to the construction of the proposed St. Regis parking garage, recommended for approval by the Planning & Zoning Board on April 18th, be registered with the Town Commission.

We are not generally in opposition to reasonable development on Longboat Key, or the St. Regis project in particular. New developments can help to upgrade our infrastructure, renew the building stock, increase amenities, and add to the beauty of the island. However, the addition of a free-standing 3-level garage 20 yards from Gulf of Mexico Drive would be completely out of character, aesthetically, for the island, and detract significantly from the beauty of our community. No similar structure exists on Gulf of Mexico Drive for good reason, and this one should not either. In short, it would be an eyesore to all residents and tourists who drive by.

The fact that the developer has promised to “hide” the structure with landscaping seems to concede that they know it is inherently ugly and obtrusive. Also, at the Planning & Zoning meeting it was stated that the landscaping would “eventually” hide the structure as the trees and plantings mature, suggesting that residents and visitors will experience many years of driving by a very large, obvious and unsightly parking garage before it is at least partially hidden.

In the original approved and permitted project, other approaches to expand parking were carefully considered and approved. We strongly believe that the developer and the management of the St. Regis project should be held accountable to the original plan. Approving this garage would be a major and permanent negative change in the stewardship of the island and mar its unique aesthetic for decades to come. We respectfully ask the Town Commission to reject the proposal.
Ken Sternad, et al
Longboat Key

St. Regis Parking Garage

To: Longboat Key Commission
I am a semi-retired full time resident of Longboat Key in the Harbor Section of Bay Isles. I came from a mom with a third grade education and a dad with an eighth grade education and grew up in a tough part of town in Worcester MA. I was the first one in my family to graduate high school and college. I worked 5 jobs, 42 hours a week, to get myself through college. I started with a scooter for a vehicle and living with 6 other guys after college driving a beer truck as my first job. I worked very hard starting with nothing throughout my life to get to the great success I now enjoy. I tell you this because I could have chosen anywhere in the world to retire and I chose Longboat Key for a whole lot of reasons. To me it checks all the boxes and this is where I plan to live the rest of my life. Prior to moving to paradise I was a former Alderman in a small town (Geneva, IL) of about 22,000 people about 40 miles due west of downtown Chicago. It is a great little town that has been recognized as one of the top 15 towns to live in America. It was also designated one year as Best Town In America. It achieved this notoriety thru very diligent efforts to balance citizen interests, good of the community and setting a precedence. There were many times when our Planning & Zoning Commission, Historical Preservation Commission, etc. delivered to the City Council a unanimous vote or a majority vote in favor of a project where we the Aldermen/Alderwomen overturned those decisions because the citizens interests far outweighed the good of the community or would set a precedence for the future (you cannot unwring the bell). I believe that approving the St. Regis development meets the criteria for the good of the community and if I were in your shoes I would have supported this development for Longboat Key. On the other hand, this proposed parking garage does not support the good of the community and would set a precedence for

See Letters, page 9

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From all that I have read, reviewed and discussed with subject matter experts, if I were in your shoes I would reject this proposal for a period of time, say two years and allow the developers to re-visit with the Commission/City of Longboat with actual facts why they would need to construct the garage based on existing operations. This position would allow the Commission to satisfy the interests of the Citizens, the good of the Community and eliminate, or at the very least defer any Precedence for future stand alone garages that close to Old Mexico Road.

I also am the President of Bay Isles Harbor Association,

See Letters, page 11

The advertisement features a vibrant orange background. At the top is a colorful logo for 'LAVILLA MEXICAN GRILL' depicting a stylized building with red, green, and blue sections and a red roof, with a red sun-like circle above it. Below the logo, the text 'LAVILLA' is in large, bold, black letters with a white outline, and 'MEXICAN GRILL' is in smaller, white, outlined letters. Underneath is the phrase 'AUTHENTIC MEXICAN FOOD' in large, bold, black letters, followed by 'A FIESTA FOR YOUR TASTEBUDS!' in a smaller, italicized, black font. A central photograph shows a meal on a table with a colorful striped tablecloth. The meal includes a sizzling skillet of meat and vegetables, a plate of rice, a bowl of salad, a glass of orange juice with a lime wedge, a Coca-Cola bottle, and a Modelo beer bottle. Below the photo, the address '5610 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #5, LONGBOAT KEY' is written in bold black letters, followed by the phone number '941.383.8033' in large, bold, black letters. At the bottom left is a Facebook icon, and at the bottom right is the website 'LAVILLALONGBOATKEY • LAVILLAMEXFOODLBK.COM' in white text.



SECUR-ALL INSURANCE AGENCY

Sandra Smith | 941.383.3388
6350 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL
CHUBB, AIG, UNIVERSAL, UNITED, SAFECO, PROGRESSIVE, FRONTLINE, VAULT, FLOOD, WE HAVE YOU COVERED!

OnPatrol

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

May 5 Noise

6:18 p.m.
Officer Nazareno responded to the 2900 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a noise complaint regarding construction noise after 5 p.m. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno made contact with the site manager and advised him that his company was in violation of Town Ordinance 130.02. The site manager was issued a written warning and requested the use of the blower machine to clear up the roofing nails for two minutes. They then stopped all roof work and packed up their equipment. The caller did not wish to be seen or contacted. Case clear.

Dog on the beach

7:59 p.m.
Officer Martinson responded to the 3400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a call of a dog on the beach. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson located a family with a dog on the beach watching the sunset. Officer Martin advised the people that dogs are not allowed on the beach. They stated they were unaware of the ordinance and apologized. The family gathered their belongings and left the beach with the dog. Case clear.

May 6 Suspicious person

12:04 a.m.
Officer Miklos responded to the 7200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a suspicious person at the Longboat Pass Bridge. Officer Martinson conducted a check of the area under Longboat Pass Bridge and came into contact with the man who was sleeping. The man advised he worked at a restaurant in Bradenton Beach. The man advised he could not stay under the bridge and he needed to gather his belongings. The man was cooperative with officers and left the scene northbound on Gulf of Mexico Drive with his belongings. The man was searched for warrants via Sarasota Sheriff's Office Dispatch and returned with negative results. Nothing further to report. Case clear.

Suspicious incident

2:42 a.m.
Officer Miklos was dispatched to the Longboat Pass Bridge booth to meet with the complainant in reference to two unknown men illegally fishing. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos came into contact with the complainant, who advised he observed two men who illegally caught and killed two fish that were out of fishing season. The complainant advised the men ran to their parked car in south Coquina Beach boat area and fled the area prior to his arrival. The complainant disposed of the fish. The two men were gone upon arrival of Officer Miklos. Case clear.

Citizen assist

9:09 p.m.
Officer Miklos and Sgt. Puccio were dispatched to Harbourside Drive in reference to a group fishing at the golf course by a passerby who did not wish to meet with police. Sarasota Sheriff's Office Dispatch advised that the caller was concerned for the wildlife. Upon arrival, the group advised they were unaware that they could not fish on the golf course. The group apologized and left the scene without incident. Case clear.



May 7 Citizen assist

8:53 p.m.
Officer Martinson was dispatched to the area of 3100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on a call of a reckless driver. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson drove southbound in the direction the reckless vehicle was traveling until he was informed by dispatch that the vehicle had crossed the bridge into the Sarasota Police jurisdiction. Officer Martinson had dispatch notify Zone 10. The caller did not wish to speak with police and left the area. Case clear.

May 8 Alarm

4:58 a.m.
Officer Miklos and Officer Martinson were dispatched to La Lenaire Drive in reference to an alarm. Officers were picked up by the Fire Department and taken to Jewfish Key to check La Lenaire Drive. Upon arrival at the residence, all doors and windows were found secured. No signs of forced entry were present. Sarasota Sheriff's Office advised the homeowner was contacted and advised the residence was their vacation home and would not be responding. Case clear.

May 9 Suspicious vehicle

11:19 a.m.
Officer Montfort was dispatched to Greer Island for a report of a vehicle parked on the beach. Officer Montfort arrived in the area and observed a vehicle parked on the beach. The vehicle was unoccupied and witnesses stated that a woman walked northeast on the beach with a ladder. Officer Ferrigine arrived on scene with the UTV and they began to look for the woman. After several minutes the woman was located who identified herself as a representative of a seismic monitoring company. The woman stated that she is conducting a study as authorized by the Town of Longboat Key for the beach renourishment. The woman provided an email from Public Works Project Manager Charlie Mopp, who authorized the seismic solutions company to drive on the beach with their equipment. The woman also stated that she possesses authority from the Department of Wildlife Conservation to also be on the beach. Case clear.

Suspicious vehicle

1:09 p.m.
Officer Montfort was dispatched to the area of Jungle Queen Way and Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of a suspicious vehicle. It was reported that an unidentified ambulance was parked in the empty lot on Jungle Queen Way. Officer Montfort arrived in the area and attempted to locate the vehicle, but the vehicle was gone on arrival. It was reported by Longboat Key Fire Rescue that the ambulance did not belong to them. Case clear.

May 11 Found property

3:00 p.m.
Officer Martinson was flagged down by a citizen about some lost keys hanging on the boardwalk railing at the Broadway Beach Access. Officer Martinson located a car key fob and key hanging on a string at the beach access and he took them for safekeeping. Officer Martinson had the key fob property inventoried the key into evidence for safekeeping. Case clear.

Citizen dispute

8:56 p.m.
Officer Martinson responded to the 4100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on a call of a civil disturbance. Upon arrival, Sgt. Puccio, Officer Miklos and Officer Martinson spoke with the complainants who were identified outside in front of the beach resort. The complainants stated the man and woman guests staying in one of the units were intoxicated and had complained about the air conditioning in their room not working. The complainants stated her husband went to the room to see if he could fix the problem with the air conditioning unit when the man became rude and vulgar towards him and was starting a disturbance inside. The complainant stated her husband left the room and called 911. Officer Martinson then spoke with the man and his wife who were outside in front of their unit. It was very apparent to Officer Martinson that both were intoxicated due to the fact that they smelled of alcohol, were loud, animated, vulgar and very argumentative with law enforcement and staff while speaking with them. The man stated that he and his wife checked into their unit it was very hot so they turned on the air conditioning and then went out to eat for dinner. The man stated when they returned after four hours later, the room was still hot so they called the manager. The two complainants arrived and while he was working on the air conditioner he became very rude and vulgar towards him for standing too close and watching him work. After speaking with the customer, he agreed to allow the complainant into the unit to see if she could fix the problem with the air conditioner. A couple of minutes later the complainant returned and told the woman that the air conditioner had been set to on and that is why it was not cooling down the room. The man stated the air conditioner was now set to auto cool and if they gave it a little bit of time it will cool down the room. The couple returned to their room for the night. Case clear.

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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 9

St. Regis Parking Garage

To: Longboat Key Town Commission

Our family has owned a home in Bay Isles Harbor since 1989, 34 years of enjoying the exceptional beauty and tranquility of Longboat Key as well as Sarasota’s dynamic cultural life. In May of 2020, my husband and I purchased this home from my parents, and looked forward to continuing their tradition of celebrating times with family and friends within the quiet Bay Isles Harbor neighborhood. In fact, over the past nearly 3 years, we have transformed the property into our dream home and become Florida residents. We are very thankful for the Commission’s work, over the past decades, which has preserved the qualities that make our Longboat Key so special. With wisdom and intention, the Commission has been able to find the right balance between addressing growth and honoring what residents of Longboat cherish most about their island community.

However, with the Planning & Zoning Board’s recent approval of a 3-story parking structure, this delicate balance is in jeopardy. I attended and spoke at the meeting on April 18th. It seemed as if Board members had already made up their minds prior to hearing concerns from residents. It seemed as if the Board’s greatest concern was to meet The St. Regis’ need to become a 5 Star Marriott property by reducing the time it takes a valet to retrieve a car from 7.5 minutes to 4 minutes. It seemed as if the needs of residents were dismissed as much less important than a reduced wait time of 3.5 minutes.

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My hope is that you, the current Commissioners of our lovely island will preserve this legacy which has made Longboat Key so special. My hope is that you, the Commissioners, will walk in the footsteps of those who preceded you and continue to find the right balance between addressing growth and honoring what we all cherish most about our island community.

I respectfully ask the Town Commission to reject the proposal and tell the Developer and Marriott to find alternative solutions, other than a parking garage, to become a 5 Star property.

Susan Wolcott Stuart
Longboat Key

Excessive Blasting Music at vacant lot

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch

I am sorry to bother you. It is 11:44 p.m. as I am writing this email to you. At about 10:45 p.m. this evening, there were vehicles blasting music from the vacant lot at the corner of Hatton St. and Shade Ave. I had hoped that this would end quickly, however, at 11:15 p.m., I had to call the Sarasota Police Department. Unfortunately, due to the staffing shortage, it takes a while for an officer to respond, and then it is too late. This has happened a few times over the past month.

Is there anything that can be done to prevent people from congregating in that vacant lot? It is the same lot where that vehicle had been parked and it was eventually towed away. I don’t know who owns that lot, but maybe it could be gated with restricted access?

Thank you for all of your time and help! Maybe there is something that can be done to stop the late-night blasting music.

Steve Martinucci
Sarasota

Excessive Blasting Music at vacant lot

To: Steve Martinucci

Thank you for your email. I have copied the City Manager, Deputy City Manager, and City Attorney so they can address your concerns and provide more clarity.

Jen Ahearn-Koch
City Commissioner
City of Sarasota

Fencing at Mary Dean Park

To: Sarasota City Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Fogle

Please work with Lucia on the permitting and install of the higher fence line on the East side of Mary Dean Park adjacent Ms. Becketts property. We can discuss this further this afternoon. Lucia please ask staff to facilitate this project as expeditiously as possible.

Pat Robinson
Deputy City Manager
City of Sarasota

Fencing at Mary Dean Park

To: Sarasota City Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Fogle

Jerry, can you send me details on the location and height of the fence to make sure there aren’t any zoning issues?

See Letters, page 12



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- **WINE & DINE** in five unique venues
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- **REJUVENATE** at our spa & wellness center
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- **DELIGHT** in exclusive member events & activities
- **SAVOR** magnificent sunsets

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LONGBOAT KEY CLUB
SARASOTA, FLORIDA



Letters, from page 11

Lucia Panica
City Clerk
City of Sarasota

Fencing at Mary Dean Park

To: Sarasota City Clerk Lucia Panica
Will do.
Jerry Fogle
Parks and Recreation Director
City of Sarasota

Fencing at Mary Dean Park

To: Sarasota City Clerk Lucia Panica
I spoke with the CM again reference this project. I know it will be a budget strain and I will copy Kelly on this thread to ensure she is aware that the CM would like this to occur. He would like the fence to be installed along the entirety of the Eastern portion of Mary Dean Park and have jasmine or confederate jasmine planting along it so that it might fill in over time. He had one question I could not answer. How tall is the black chain link we still have from the Payne Park fencing project that could be used on this project?
Patrick Robinson
Deputy City Manager
City of Sarasota

Fencing at Mary Dean Park

To: Sarasota Deputy City Manager Pat Robinson
I hope your day is going well. Please let me know if you would like the removal of the currently installed 4’ tall black chain link fence including all plantings (Jasmine and hedges) along

the entire east side of Mary Dean park and install 6’ tall black chain link fencing from Payne Park Auditorium with new plantings of Jasmine and hedges. This project will not provide much assistance with buffering the sounds of kids playing in the park but may assist with basketballs going over the fence.
Please see the attached email from Ms. Beckett. Ms. Beckett reached out to a sound engineer, and he doesn’t believe anything will assist with the sounds of kids playing in the park due to the proximity of the court to the home. Please see a portion of Ms. Beckett’s highlighted email below.
We’ve consulted with professional sound engineer, Larry Packer, as to a potential solution with a sound-buffering wall. He said that nothing will be help because of the impactful nature of the sound and the proximity of the court to our home. He said the only real solution is if the basketball hoop is removed. (He explained that even with a sound-buffering wall which would need to be much taller than the hoop itself, the sound will bounce off of the wall and ricochet because sound waves travel like water. So most of the sound waves would bounce and go around the wall to the next available opening where the wall is not and echo from those sound points still reaching our homes. He also said sound buffering walls are insanely expensive and usually muffle but do not stop the issue. Also, our home being parallel with the sound source makes the impact of the waves even worse.
Please advise if you would like Parks and Recreation to move forward with this project. If so, we will remove the 4-foot-tall black chain link fence, along with all plantings (Jasmine/hedges) and install 6-foot-tall black chain link fencing with new plantings (Jasmine and hedges). The Jasmine may take a year or two to grow in solid. Ms. Beckett has vegetation planted along the fence line, which may cause some challenges for a fencing company to remove the fence without causing any issues with the vegetation. If this moves forward, Parks and Recreation will notify both neighbors, including Ms. Beckett about the project.
Parks and Recreation will work with Lucia on any necessary permitting and Kelly on potential funding for this project.
Jerry Fogle
Parks and Recreation Director
City of Sarasota

See Letters, page 14

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The middlemen of wine: Importers and distributors

Importers and distributors mostly operate behind the scenes. Consumers buy from wine shops and restaurants. Importers and distributors come to the fore at wine tastings organized by retail stores and restaurants.

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

The path from a winery to a retail shop or restaurant where you buy a bottle or glass of wine depends on the middlemen: importers and distributors. In general, the path has an importer and a distributor connecting the winemaker to the retail point of purchase. Sometimes a distributor takes on the role of the importer, and in other instances a large retailer or restaurant imports wine directly from wineries. A licensed importer serves as an agent for the winery. A distributor maintains inventories of wines and supplies wines to retailers and restaurants.

For the most part, importers and distributors operate behind the scenes. Wine consumers buy from wine shops and restaurants. Importers and distributors come to the fore at wine tastings organized by retail stores and restaurants. Importers and distributors often pour wines at these events and bring their special knowledge of wineries they represent to consumers.

We had the opportunity to chat with importer Alex Milligan at a wine tasting. His father established David Milligan Selections, a wine importer based in the New York City/Connecticut area. Alex heads the company that currently represents many estates in France, ranging from the Loire Valley to the southern Rhone Valley and Burgundy and Bordeaux in between. He travels frequently to France to engage with estate owners and winemakers, learn about recent developments, and taste wines. “Someone has to do it,” he remarks with a smile. The harder part of the work of an importer, the part that takes more time, involves staying in contact with a network of distributors across the USA and promoting wines from the estates that he represents. He points to wines that he presented and we tasted: the 2021 Château Vitallis Pouilly-Fuissé from Burgundy, the 2019 Domaine Fournier Père et Fils Pinot Noir from the Loire Valley, and the 2017 Château du Trignon Gigondas from the Rhone Valley.

The Chardonnay grapes that the vineyard uses to make the Pouilly-Fuissé impart clean acidic tastes of tart apples and citrus fruit to the wine. Dating back to the 13th Century, Château Vitallis follows traditional cultivation and winemaking techniques suited to the grape variety, the clay and limestone soil, and the climate around the village of Fuisse in the Macon region. Extended contact of the juice with the skins of the grapes during fermentation combined with aging of 30% of the wine in French oak barrels give it a pale golden color in the bottle and spicy, tangy notes on the palate. This wine will draw out the flavors or shellfish, grilled white meat, and goat cheeses.

Only Pinot Noir grapes grown in Burgundy can by regulation put the name “Bourgogne Rouge” on labels of their wines. The Fournier Pinot Noir has the name of the grape variety on the label despite longstanding and widespread planting of Pinot Noir in the Loire Valley. Likely the production of Pinot Noir in the Loire Valley will increase as climate change pushes ideal weather for growing Pinot Noir a bit farther north. The 2019 vintage has a deeper red color and more concentrated berry flavors than some of the lighter Pinot Noir from Burgundy and California. This wine has a robust taste that will stand up to lamb and game birds as well as pork and omega-3 oils in tuna steaks and salmon.

The 2017 Gigondas vintage makes good on the promise of the Grenache grape, balanced with Syrah and Mourvèdre, and benefits from winemaking techniques honed to the grapes. The plum and other black fruit tastes lead into aftertastes of mocha and clove and cardamom. This elegant wine will enhance grilled beef, duck confit, rack of lamb, or robust stews.

Importers of wine must obtain basic permits; they have the responsibility for federal excise taxes and duties. They direct shipments of wines from seaports, airlines, or motor freight to bonded warehouses where the wines remain until the importer pays required taxes and duties.

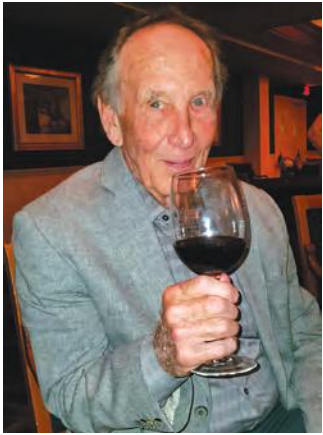
Distributors take over once imported wines clear customs and become available for sale in the USA. Distributors may, of course, buy wines directly from wine producers in the USA. Once distributors acquire wines, they have the responsibility to conform to state and local regulations and taxes.

Importer David Milligan Selections has established a network of distributors that channels wines from warehouses to retail stores and restaurants. Winebow in the mid-Atlantic states, Southern Glazer’s in Miami, and Vino Wholesale in New Orleans have strong presences in their locales. Distributors maintain inventories of wine and deliver on call to points of sale to consumers across their service areas.

The traditional three tiers of wine distribution, from winery to importer to distributor, have undergone sweeping changes during the past five years. In the USA, state laws and regulations support the role of distributors by requiring that sales of alcoholic beverages go through licensed distributors. This regulatory practice is changing in several ways. Many wineries have set up e-commerce web sites that sell wine through clubs that give priority or offer special deals to members. During the pandemic, web sites that sell wines and arrange deliveries to homes or businesses in those states that allow it now account for around 3% of total sales. In states that allow grocery stores and discount outlets to sell wines, shoppers find bottles of wine on shelves alongside soft drinks and fruit juices. So-called “digital distributors” are making inroads in the retail and restaurant markets.

Look for grocery stores and e-commerce on the web to gain increasing shares of all wine sales. As results of changes in wine distribution practices, we expect to see increases in sales of wines imported from abroad and in varieties of wines available to buyers.

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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Letters, from page 12

Marlon Brown
City Manager
City of Sarasota

Follow Up

To: Sarasota City Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Fogle

I hope you both enjoyed wonderful holidays! I'm sorry that we need to reach out to you for help but I thought it might be easier if you had a thorough picture of the situation. A few households of neighbors have been trying to solve this themselves for a few years now and we can not. We appreciate all that you and the Parks have done to make Mary Dean and all parks so wonderful, beautiful, and playful so we didn't want to ask you for help. However, our quality of life and other neighbors' peace and quiet are being negatively impacted severely every single day. We have tried by ourselves to solve these multifaceted issues. Sorry this email is long but it is to fully illustrate the situation. Our lives are being interrupted daily and we need a real solution ASAP. I know that my husband and I have spoken with Candie but I thought you all may have a better understanding if you had a real picture of the scope of the issues.

In short, the basketball hoop and the bench facing it has outgrown our small Mary Dean Park; it is the focal point of where all of the trouble, insane levels of screaming, F-word and cussing, fights, and nuisance behaviors occur in Mary Dean Park. My husband & I hear these things daily at all hours even with all of our windows and doors closed. We beg you to relocate the hoop to a more appropriate location such as at Orange Park ASAP. Orange is a much larger, more appropriate park that does not share a boundary with any residential homes. Orange Park is close to Mary Dean so those interested in basketball in the same geographical area can travel just a few more blocks away to enjoy basketball without disrupting residential neighbors. The park bench that abuts our driveway should also be relocated closer to the middle of Mary Dean for more visibility. My husband Jim & I are most impacted by the situation because we literally share a property line with Mary Dean Park and are parallel with the basketball court and noise bouncing off our concrete home but other neighbors are negatively impacted too and they would be happy to speak with you about their experiences with these issues, too. We believe during COVID people rediscovered their love for outside and sports and the volume of kids using the hoop day and night is just intolerable now. Parents have been dropping their kids off at Mary Dean unsupervised by adults for hours and hours on end. Kids will be kids when left unattended.

The 8-foot hoop in Mary Dean Park is used so frequently now that we literally can't escape the sounds in our own home; not for one single day. Personally, my husband Jim & I have tried everything. The sheer thud of the basketball for hours on end has become absolute torture at all hours. We've tried everything:

1. We've spent thousands of dollars to have our windows and doors resealed, re-caulked, with noise reducing strips

installed to try to seal off the noise of the overused hoop. Sometimes the commotion is in the morning while kids wait for the school bus. Quite often after school, of course always on weekends, sometimes after midnight. We are forced to sleep with earplugs in and with our bedroom door closed. Our bedroom is on the east side of our home and has a hallway and another room as buffer from the west side of our home and the park yet the sound of the impact of the basketball is heard reverberating throughout our whole home at ALL hours. We literally can not escape the sounds of the backboard and the dribbling. That sound alone has become torture. We have been jolted awake in the middle of the night often by teens playing basketball and then waiting for an officer to respond to go tell them to stop playing basketball in the middle of the night. I personally have gently tried approaching kids when this happens and it does not go well. We don't feel right calling the police every time it occurs because it's not an emergency. However, it is a recurring issue that causes our sleep patterns and health to suffer greatly and our work performance to lag. It has happened so often that our home does not feel like a space we can relax or rest in.

2. We spent \$1k growing tall pitch apple trees to buffer the sound with no luck.

3. We've consulted with professional sound engineer, L have rarely been met with kindness and understanding. Also, sometimes kids spill out from the park and just loiter in our driveway yelling, hanging out around our front door, peeling decor off

our mailbox, and sitting on our front steps as if it is part of the park. On many occasions my husband & I have just fled our home because we can't handle it day in and day out. We should not be forced to leave our home in order to get away from the commotion and noise around the basketball hoop.

Also, the kids who run rampant keep away other neighbors who used to happily use the park. It seems that most parents who bring their children here use the swings, the climbing cobweb structure or picnic at the shade table. I've had a few neighbors comment to me that they don't use the park any-more because of the disruptive kids at the basketball court or they leave when they see and hear them.

Many neighbors think that Orange Park could become a great spot to relocate the basketball hoop, maybe add a few smaller ones for little kids, and perhaps pair up a program with Boys and Girls Club to make it a healthy, safe way to enjoy basketball for all the kids who need exercise and friends. Once again...we're sorry to have to reach out to you for help but we've tried everything. Orange Park could successfully facilitate more of a rambunctious, sports complex atmosphere.

Also, I have taken some videos that illustrate what we endure. I will share these with you if you'd like to see them in a meeting because the files are too big to send in this email.

Thank you so, so much for your help and kindness! We look forward to a real solution!

Autumn Beckett
Sarasota

KeyCrossword

Who's What?

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14		15	16	17	18
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23					24					25							26			
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129						130		131					132				133			
134						135						136					137			
138						139						140					141			

ACROSS

- 1 After-shower powder
- 5 Lord or lady
- 10 Vote in
- 15 Teen hangout
- 19 Aroma
- 20 Arabian ruler: var.
- 21 Scale sign
- 22 Potpourri
- 23 Loblolly ____
- 24 Source of troubles
- 26 Ustinov, in "Quo Vadis?"
- 27 Seafood choice
- 29 Take as one's own
- 30 Large-billed bird
- 32 Important folkways
- 34 Art supporter
- 36 Perched
- 37 Founded
- 40 Faucet
- 42 Fashionable fabric
- 44 Wooded tract
- 48 Escapes
- 50 Kind of cabin
- 52 Fast food furnishers
- 54 Soaks flax
- 55 Hgt.
- 56 Went by car
- 59 Talks on and on
- 61 Coal measure
- 62 Lavish affection upon
- 64 Livery worker
- 66 Vitamin A source
- 68 Courtroom machine
- 70 Quilting party
- 72 Swift and Orwell works
- 73 Infrequent
- 74 B'wy sign
- 76 Nursery napkin
- 78 Rocky peaks
- 79 Moment
- 82 Droop
- 84 Home builder
- 88 Desert herdsman
- 90 Canine's appendage
- 92 Final beginning
- 93 Silkworm
- 94 Seabirds
- 96 "A Night to Remember" subject
- 98 Cagers org.
- 99 Cleopatra's waterway
- 101 Serious
- 103 Playing marble
- 104 Abolish
- 106 Small land mass
- 108 Fight off
- 110 Camp accommodation
- 112 Activists
- 113 Tear
- 115 Beer choice

- 117 Lease a second time
- 119 Ocular sections
- 123 Political policies
- 125 Secluded
- 129 ____ vera
- 130 Corpusant
- 133 Carbonated drink
- 134 Form of address
- 135 Raneer raiment
- 136 ____ else!: Mom's mandate
- 137 And others, shortly
- 138 Sound of exertion
- 139 Expletives
- 140 Former rulers
- 141 Exhausted

DOWN

- 1 Parts of separates
- 2 Excavator's entrance
- 3 Single
- 4 Shellacked: sl.
- 5 Candle
- 6 Inn in Istanbul

- 7 Letterman number?
- 8 Mother of Castor
- 9 Wear away
- 10 Slipped away, as time
- 11 Radio fan
- 12 Recede
- 13 Cut short
- 14 Assessments
- 15 Ironclad ship
- 16 Actor Baldwin
- 17 Pisa dough, once
- 18 Screwball
- 25 Highway
- 28 Computer component
- 31 Varnish ingredient
- 33 Sassafras drinks
- 35 Purple shade
- 37 Rosary ____
- 38 Apportion
- 39 Gold strike site
- 41 Redcaps
- 43 Starling relative: pl. var.
- 45 Church assessment

- 46 Irving or Oliver
- 47 Feudal field hands
- 49 Laundry additives
- 51 It's a good thing
- 53 SAC part
- 57 Kind of soldier
- 58 Tiny bit
- 60 Yucca look-alike
- 63 Related on mother's side
- 65 Beak
- 67 NASA weather forecasting system
- 69 Priestly garb
- 71 Gifted with visual memory
- 75 Clumsy one
- 77 Discuss at length
- 79 Ancient Celtic tribe
- 80 Nostril
- 81 Voice for Verdi
- 83 Obtained
- 85 Braz. neighbor
- 86 Fiery afterglow
- 87 Iranian cash
- 89 Rise up against
- 91 Edge

- 95 Covered with calyxes
- 97 Military student
- 100 Most otherworldly
- 102 Systems of government
- 105 Witnessed
- 107 Food container in England
- 109 Late-night name
- 111 Brat
- 114 Out-of-date
- 116 Changed the clock
- 118 Sly looks
- 119 Grating sound
- 120 Lamb
- 121 Rent
- 122 Party extra
- 124 Loans for college-goers: abbr.
- 126 Former photo section
- 127 Dash
- 128 Mrs. Rogers
- 131 Cubs stat
- 132 Call ____ day: retire

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GRAND BAY V
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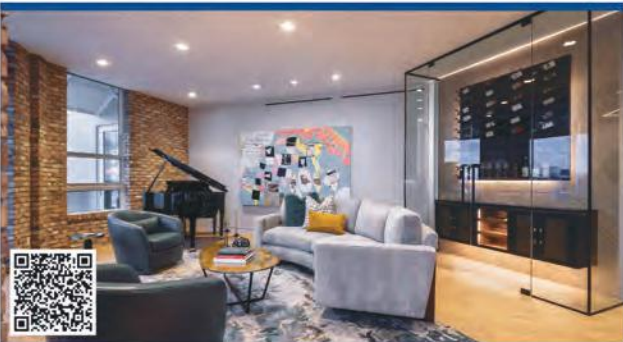
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GRAND BAY III
3030 GRAND BAY BLVD., #316 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$2,495,000
Panoramic golf, city, bay and marina views from this 3BR/3BA residence in one of the best locations in Grand Bay. Popular Antigua floor plan, featuring an expansive, extended terrace.



PRIVATEER SOUTH
1000 LONGBOAT CLUB RD., #301 • \$1,495,000
Rarely available 3BR/3BA corner residence offering over 1,700 sq. ft. of living space, with direct Gulf front views from multiple terraces.



1350 MAIN
1350 MAIN ST., PENTHOUSE 1704 • SARASOTA, FL • \$7,500,000
THE ONE - Redesigned 3,208 SF entertainers penthouse offering jet liner views of the city, Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. Completely remodeled by



UNDER CONSTRUCTION
2945 PYRULA DRIVE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$3,345,000
Exceptional quality, untouched refinement, 2-story, 5BR/5BA, 3,815 sq. ft. residence. Features abound, including a separate in-law suite and large 3-car garage. Expansive outdoor area with heated pool and spa.

OVER \$63 MILLION PENDING AND SOLD 2023
OVER \$97 MILLION SOLD IN 2022 • OVER \$134 MILLION SOLD IN 2021

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