



# Longboat Key News

April 12, 2024

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## InsideLook



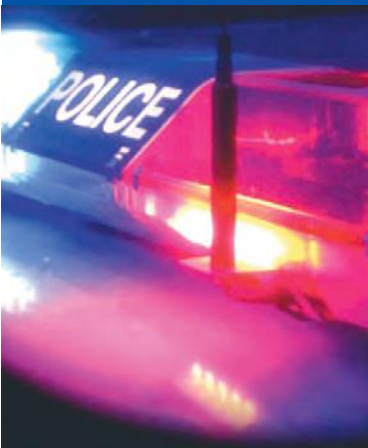
*Hot paws a park problem?  
...page 12*



*Freedom under threat worldwide  
...page 6*



*Let's drink to worthy bargains  
...page 13*



*A case of beach chair ownership  
...page 10*

## First-ever rescued sawfish gets critical care at Mote

*After several days of treatment and monitoring, the team decided that the animal appeared capable of withstanding the several-hour drive to Mote Marine.*

A smalltooth sawfish was transported from the Florida Keys to a Sarasota rehabilitation facility Thursday.  
It's the first sawfish rescued since the endangered species started dying off earlier this year.

A resident called the FWC's sawfish hotline after seeing the 11-foot male struggling in the Florida Keys. Mote Marine Laboratory and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission made the rescue on April 5.

After several days of treatment and monitoring, the team decided that the animal appeared capable of withstanding the several-hour drive to Mote Marine in Sarasota.  
On Thursday, April 11, 2024,  
**See Rescued, page 3**

## FAA blocks airport's land sale to New College

Federal aviation authorities stopped the Sarasota Bradenton International Airport from selling about 30 acres of land to New College of Florida.  
Both the airport and New College had agreed to the \$11.5 million deal, pending the FAA approval.  
**See Airport, page 2**

## A Ring of Champions at Longboat Key Club



The winners showed off their Championship rings last Friday. Neither wind nor rain could dampen the enthusiasm of the Suncoast Tennis League champions as they honored their season's accomplishment at the Longboat Key Club's Tennis Gardens. On-court camaraderie mixed with competition as team members held a round robin with the winners taking on two Key Club pros. This led to some embarrassment and regret as the Club pros kept the all-male team egos in check and won flawlessly while dancing to music. The team's loss against the pros did not tarnish the Championship rings that appeared dusted in diamonds as Team Captain Mel Rhinelander presented a Tiffany box to each and every player. Awards honoring each player's unique contribution came next. Shown Left to right: Club Pro Karen Miller, David Spector, Chuck Ford, Paul Karon, Joe Dzialo, Dean Scarborough, Jeff White, David Guttridge, Mel Rhinelander, Mike White, Ted Prospect, Briana Francois (Club Tennis Director). Absent: Val Azzoli, Jim Long, Tim Martin, Bob Wolfe. For more, see page 15.

## City wants to build affordable housing for area workers

City Manager Marlon Brown wants build two residential towers totaling 192 units near the Sarasota City Hall. The towers would feature attainable housing for the local workforce like teachers, police, firefighters, nurses and hospitality workers. Rent would be a fraction of the cost of neighboring complexes and would be based on income. If it passes, the City of Sarasota will look for a private management company to run the complex.  
Two properties are under contract for \$7 million. Brown will ask City Commissioners on Monday morning to approve the purchase. The Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation has committed \$1.5 million dollars to the project. The Gulf Coast Community Foundation and Community Foundation of Sarasota County are working to provide an additional \$1.5 million each.  
Sarasota City Commissioners will discuss the proposal on Monday, April 15 at 9 a.m.

## Price hike coming for Longboat trash removal

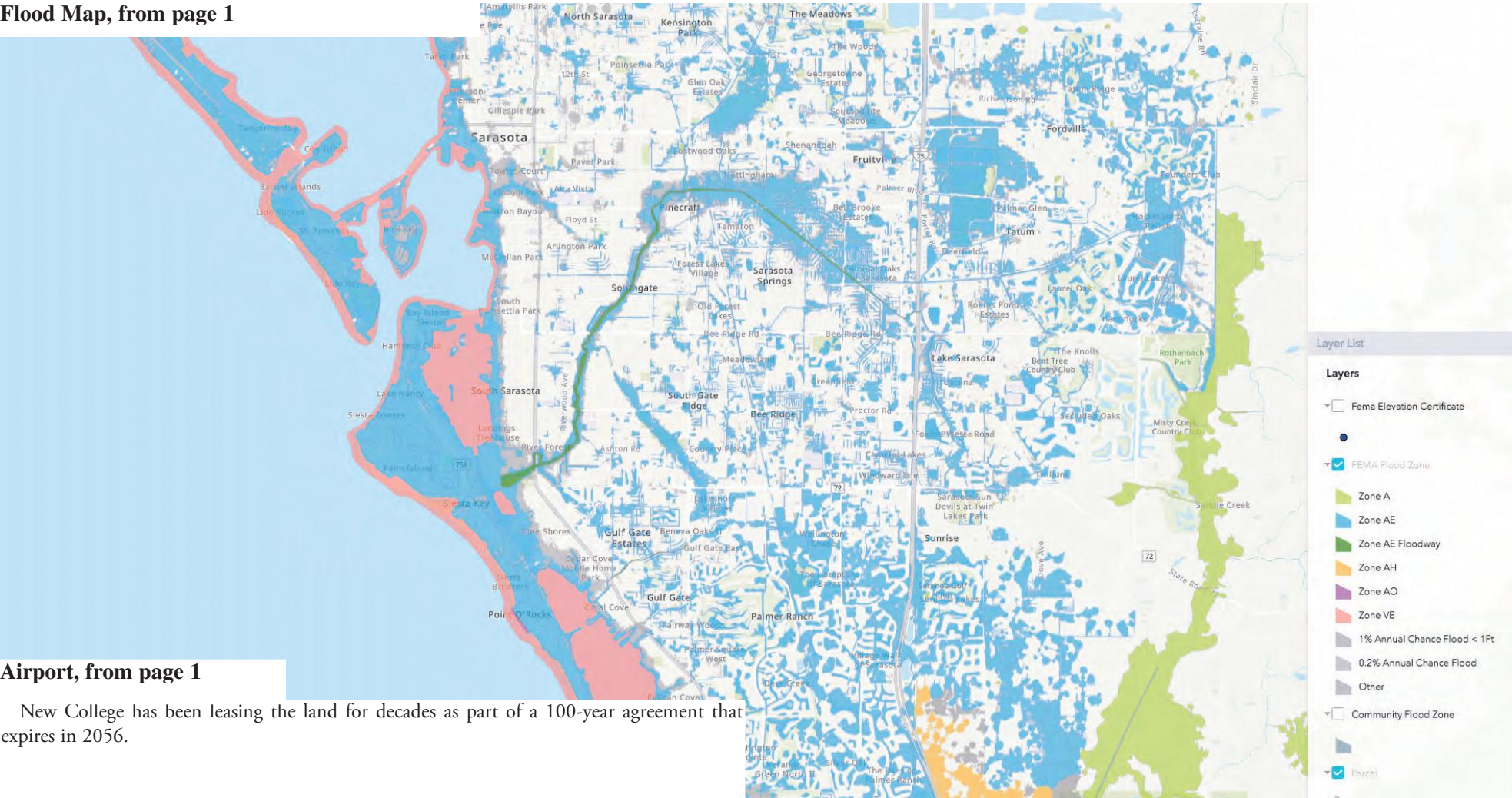
Waste Management has requested some higher-than-normal rate increases says Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman. He adds the latest three-year contract extension with Waste Management will cost residents nearly 29% more than the previous contract. Waste Management says the price hike comes as the industry as a whole sees skyrocketing costs, including an 85% jump in the cost of replacing the brakes on their trucks and a 26% increase in the cost to hire and retain their drivers.  
This new contract extension will run through June 30, 2027.

## New FEMA flood map causing distress

Homeowners have started to feel the impact of the newly issued Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood maps. Some Sarasota County property owners who didn't need flood insurance have gotten notifications from their mortgage lenders -- about 6,000 homes were impacted after they were moved into FEMA's new flood zone mapping. Up to 1,000 along the Honore Avenue axis in Palmer Ranch are also included.  
However, some homeowners said their homes should not be a part of the reclassification because they're above the 16-foot base elevation. Around 10,000 homes were taken out of the previous flood zone map while new homes were added. County officials said some homes along the Myakka River vicinity which were previously omitted from the map incorrectly have now been properly designated.  
**See Flood Map, page 2**



Flood Map, from page 1



Airport, from page 1

New College has been leasing the land for decades as part of a 100-year agreement that expires in 2056.



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Rescued, from page 1



biologists carefully loaded the sawfish into a transport trailer operated by Ripley’s Aquariums. Ripley’s Aquariums Conservation Team monitored the sawfish and water quality conditions throughout the duration of the transport to Mote’s facility on City Island.

Now at Mote’s more extensive quarantine facility, the sawfish will continue to be monitored 24-hours a day and treated in hopes of fully rehabilitating its health before releasing it

At least 38 smalltooth sawfish have been found dead in South Florida waters since January.

Sawfish have been spotted abnormally thrashing, spinning in circles and swimming upside down before their deaths. Researchers say small-scale fish have been displaying similar behavior in the Keys.

Scientists do not know what is causing the unusual behavior, but FWC continues its research.

The Florida Legislature has included \$2 million in the proposed state budget address the spike in deaths. The governor has yet to sign the plan.

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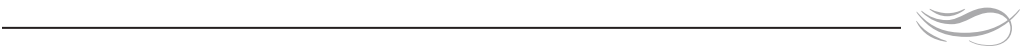
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# EditorLetters



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

## Flooding

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
 Hope you all are having a good day. As you know we area expecting lots of rain later today and windy conditions throughout the day. I think it would benefit you all as members of the Commission to take a 10 minute drive down to the Village, especially Lois, Russell and Fox streets so you can see the impact of the upcoming High Tide (about an hour and half away from current time) , and the winds coming on shore - before the rain starts. I think if you see with your own eyes you will understand more fully the issues with the drains in the village. These streets are starting to fill up and there has been zero rain so far and there is obviously no water coming over the banks from the bay. I am trying to not be a complainer , however , as a tax payer to the city of Longboat Key and the County ( which are not cheap ) , I think we all deserve better. It is unacceptable to have street flooding to this extent when it is coming back up through the drains and today will eventually be over the curb and into our yards as we have not yet reached High Tide. I think anyone would agree on the absurdity of being flooded by drain back ups. Please take the time to drive the 10 minutes and view today's conditions for 10 or 15 minutes. Thank You in advance for addressing and paying attention to this.  
 Chris Udermann  
 Longboat Key

## Flooding

To: Chris Udermann  
 I have no role in magistrate's process.  
 BJ Bishop  
 Commissioner  
 Town of Longboat Key

## Flooding

To: Chris Udermann  
 My street looks just like yours.  
 BJ Bishop  
 Commissioner  
 Town of Longboat Key

## Flooding

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

There must be a solution to these drains ...it can't be status quo. The State probably should have to pony up money to a solution. This isn't water levels rising as none has breached over from the bay - it's the drain system.  
 Chris Udermann  
 Longboat Key

## Flooding

To: Chris Udermann  
 This is high tide flooding with wind pushing water from Gulf. I live with this regularly.  
 BJ Bishop  
 Commissioner  
 Town of Longboat Key

## Flooding

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
 Yes but it's up the drains - not over the banks - we have been here since 2005. We are well aware. It's inexcusable the drains and nothings been done to improve them.  
 Chris Udermann  
 Longboat Key

## LBK Traffic issues meeting

To: Longboat Key Vice Mayor Mike Haycock  
 Going forward over the course of this year, based on some of the feedback from today's meeting, these could be a starting point:  
 Ensure completion of the MPO's new and updated Congestion Management Plan.  
 Further the development of a Barrier Island Traffic Study ("BITS") Implementation Plan.  
 Ensure that the BITS Implementation Plan includes a full analysis and recommendations to enhance vehicular traffic flow for the Bridge Street Traffic Circle, the Gulf Drive (SR 789) and Cortez Road (SR 684) intersection, and opportunities to reduce/eliminate side friction by further channelizing parking and pedestrians along the Gulf Drive corridor as part of the Gulf Drive Complete Streets Corridor PD&E process.  
 Get involved with the Gulf Drive Complete Streets Corridor PD&E process and actively advocate that it include recommendations from the BITS and any other opportunities to improve vehicular traffic flow between Longboat Pass Bridge to the Cortez Bridge.  
 Continue developing the Town Dock at the Linley Street boat ramp in the Village into a Gulf Islands Ferry landing site for the Manatee County Gulf Coast Water Taxi (a new design for Town dock replacement is planned to begin Spring this year).  
 Attached is the presentation that Vice Mayor Haycock was referencing earlier today, particularly slide 3. There are other items on that slide that we will continue to advocate for with FDOT and our neighboring communities over the short and longer-term. The good news is several of those items have some action behind them, such as addition of flexible lane to key bridge replacements (in progress by FDOT for Cortez, Longboat Pass and Little Ringling [Coon Key]); Sarasota County Breeze and MCAT coordination of service (recently implemented); and the Town, FDOT and the City remain committed to pedestrian managers at St.

See Letters, page 7

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\$2,100,000

370 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #432 | LONGBOAT KEY

Delight in scenic views of Sarasota Bay in this custom-designed 4-bedroom, 4.5-bathroom PENTHOUSE. The spacious condominium features soaring ceilings, great room with gas fireplace, and private gated courtyard. All bedrooms are ensuite. Sliding glass doors in the primary suite and great room open to a terrace. An additional west-facing terrace boasts stunning sunset views.





\$2,195,000

775 LONGBOAT CLUB RD., #308 | LONGBOAT KEY

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Villa Di Lancia, one of Longboat Key's premier communities. This corner residence boasts 3 bathrooms, and epitomizes tropical Gulf-front living. The covered terrace, connected to the living room provides a spacious year-round haven to immerse yourself in the stunning surroundings. A spiral staircase offers easy access to resort amenities and the beach just outside. Includes 2 parking spaces.





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Magnificent Key West-inspired waterfront home with expansive canal views. This exquisite 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath residence boasts luxurious features, including roofed decks on all levels. The screened patio area features a heated pool and waterfall spa. Enjoy adventurous excursions from your boat dock offering easy and open access to the Gulf and the Bay.





\$1,395,000

1211 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #805 | LONGBOAT KEY

Enjoy the Gulf views from this 8th Floor Promenade condominium, offering 2-bedroom, 2-bath, an open floorplan, and a primary bedroom suite with balcony access. Resort living at Promenade is a discerning experience on the beach of Longboat Key!





\$1,085,000

2110 HARBOURSIDE DR., #547 | LONGBOAT KEY

Delight in captivating bay vistas in this well-maintained 2,039 sq. ft. condominium in The Atrium, situated in Fairway Bay in the gated community of Bay Isles. This 3-bedroom, 2-bath residence features many updates, and floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors to the southeast-facing terrace, showcasing gorgeous views of Sarasota Bay and the city skyline.





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# KeyOpinion

## Worldwide freedom under threat on many fronts

*“Too big to fail” resulted in placing resources in fewer hands which lead to a diminution of freedom. We have also witnessed a rise of fascism, nationalism, populism on the right and left, and hybrid forms of authoritarianism since 2010.*

GREGORY RUSOVICH  
Guest Writer  
rusovich@lbknews.com

How important is freedom to human well-being and prosperity?

Is personal freedom intertwined with economic freedom?

Is freedom growing or shrinking around the globe, and how free is America compared to other nations?

Ian Vasquez, Vice President for International Studies at the Cato Institute provided date driven responses to these questions during a lecture in New Orleans this past week.

Vasquez reviewed the findings from the most recent Human Freedom Index—a comprehensive measurement of personal, economic, and civil liberties for countries representing 99% of the world’s population.



RUSOVICH



The Freedom Index measures a total of 86 factors including the size of government, stability of currency, rule of law, freedom to trade, personal safety, freedom of religion, and other indicators of basic rights.

The conclusions are contrary to the pervasive public belief that things are getting worse around the world. In fact, the data shows that we actually live in the very best of times. We are living longer, healthier, and wealthier than at any time in human history. And the spread of freedom in the era of globalization is inextricably linked to human advancement.

Global poverty has plummeted from 40% just four decades ago to under 10% in 2022. Approximately 130,000 people around the world are leaving poverty every day. Infant mortality has dropped dramatically in every global region. Literacy rates have soared for both males and females during the last 40 years. Even deaths from natural disasters have fallen exponentially from the sixties and seventies. These stunning gains have especially benefitted developing countries as they catch up to the rich. And for the first time in more than two centuries, global inequality in income and general well-being has been falling at a notable rate.

The Freedom Index assessed and ranked 165 countries. As examples, Switzerland and New Zealand rank the highest in terms of overall freedoms—number one and two respectively. Not surprisingly, Russia ranks number 121; China 149; and Venezuela number 160. The U.S. ranks 17, dropping from 7 just 10 years ago.

Countries that are more free are more prosperous. The Most Free Quartile of countries report an Average \$47, 421 in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Per Capita whereas the Least Free Quartile illustrates \$14,157 GDP Per Capita. Your life may depend on living in a free country as Life Expectancy in the Most Free countries is 80 years of age; the Least Free is 66.

Countries ranking high on the Index demonstrate a high level of linkage between political and economic freedom. If you want to live in a country with a high level of personal freedom, choose one which respects free markets. Government control of the economy inevitably leads to diminished personal freedom. Free markets unshackle individual decision making and provide liberty to trade and invest. When government takes money from its citizens, those funds are spent as the central authority deems fit. People lose freedom as they are no longer able to spend their own money as they deem fit. Socialists consolidate power in the hands of the political class and bureaucrats, and they possess an insatiable desire to relinquish all freedoms.

Despite the remarkable progress in the spread of freedom during the last 50 years, there has been a recognizable decline since 2008. The financial crisis of 2007-8 lead to additional power in the hands of the state, which resulted in ‘good ole’ crony capitalism. “Too big to fail” resulted in placing resources in fewer hands which lead to a diminution of freedom. We have also witnessed a rise of fascism, nationalism, populism on the right and left, and hybrid forms of authoritarianism since 2010.

Subsequently, Covid crackdowns also resulted in a significant reduction in freedom as governments limited freedom of assembly, expression, movement, and countless other limitations on personal liberty. In some countries, people were even barred from leaving their own homes. We are just now beginning to recover from this collapse of freedom.

There has been a dramatic improvement in human advancement, prosperity, and well-being over the last half-century. A strong correlation exists between this progress and the growth in global freedom. At a time of so much political tension, we should all be able to agree on the need to cherish and nurture economic and personal freedom. Human progress depends on it.



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# EditorLetters

### Letters, from page 6

Armand’s but have had difficulty getting interested vendors.

Isaac Brownman  
Director Public Works  
Town of Longboat Key

### LBK Traffic issues meeting

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
Thank you for attending our meeting today. Here are the follow-up items I noted.

1. Ryan is working with consultant to finish the Congestion Management study and present to the MPO in May. He has refreshed the LBK traffic data and it now reflects the Congestion issues we have seen this year.
2. Dave will be proposing to the MPO a Sarasota and Manatee Barrier Island Traffic study Implementation team. They will focus on implementing projects pointed out in the study. They will also study congestion issues not fully developed in the original study. Our goal is to start this work in September.
3. Issac and Ryan will get involved with the Anna Maria Island Complete Streets PD&E and make sure it looks at the many ideas forwarded to us to reduce traffic friction from the Longboat Pass Bridge to the Cortez Bridge.
4. Tip and I will work with our Commission on the key projects we can focus on with the Sarasota and Manatee County Commissions and the FDOT. Issac, can you give us a first draft?

As we mentioned in the meeting, Traffic congestion is the number one mentioned issue for our residents in the last 3 Citizens surveys and will be a high priority for the Commission this year.

Mike Haycock  
Vice Mayor  
Town of Longboat Key

### Being added as a witness for May 8, 2024 Magistrates Meeting

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons  
I would like to be considered to be a witness at the May 8 Magistrates meeting. Thank you.  
Michael D. Drake  
Longboat Key

### Being added as a witness for May 8 Magistrates Meeting

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons  
Unfortunately, David and I will be out of town on May 8. Very disappointing to take time off from work to come to the hearing and then not be allowed to speak.

I would like to have the following statement read into the record at the May 8 hearing in my absence:

I am entitled to be able to lay in my own bed, in my own house, without very bright lights from across the way shining directly into my eyes as I lay in my bedroom, all night, every night. As a property owner, full time resident, and taxpayer, I expect the Town to afford that to me, as part of enforcing the municipal code. All we are asking is to have the very bright lights shielded so they do not impair our ability to enjoy our home. If this is done correctly, the commercial entity will still have a lighted parking lot, but we will not be “disturbed, annoyed and interfered with” in our adjacent residential property.

Since the Magistrate seemed to be questioning whether these are floodlights, and I don’t see that defined in the Town’s Code, I looked it up. The Oxford Dictionary defines “floodlight” (noun) as: “a large, powerful light, typically one of several used to illuminate a sports field, a stage, or the exterior of a building.” Or in this case, the exterior of several buildings and their associated parking lot. Also, according to LED Light Expert.com, floodlights typically have a wider beam angle of 120 degrees or more and are meant for outdoor use – these lights meet that definition (as opposed to a spotlight). Floodlights are “designed to give a broad, powerful beam of illumination capable of covering a wide area. The beams of light are highly diffuse and non-directional.” Given these definitions, there is no way to successfully argue that these are not, in fact, floodlights and thus subject to the code.

I have also attached photos from our property, showing the lights as viewed from the back our of house/property. These were taken by my husband, David Price, on January 25, 2024 and March 18, 2024. Note that in the “from dock\_1” photo, you can also see the “orange” floodlight they have next to Ventura’s that also shines toward our property. I should note that there are two more of these large orange-colored floodlights mounted on a high pole at the north end of Whitney Plaza that shine south, and those also shine onto our property. They are also annoying and disturbing, but not nearly to the degree of the new LED parking lot floodlights.

If the City needs to take their own photos, please let me know and we will be happy to accommodate that, as long as you can come before we leave on May 1.

Lori Price  
Longboat Key

### Water Quality Consortium meeting

To: Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Executive Director Dave Tomasko  
First and foremost good news in the short term, we’re lucky to have a committed staff like yours doing this work. My observations are anecdotal and not scientific and are based on thirty plus years of observation. I’m just seeing a lot of once verdant grass flats now covered in algae. Once again anecdotal but to this observer what I’m seeing is once seagrass dominate flats (yes algae was always present) now becoming more algae dominant.

Rusty Chinnis  
Longboat Key

### Shields on parking lot lights

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider  
We had to share this unbelievable email from Hal Porter. It is full of lies and many assumptions on his end. We really want to make sure this topic is on the April 10, 2024, agenda of the

See Letters, page 11



# Cindy Fischer

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SCAN FOR MORE



WATERFRONT HIDEAWAY WITH BOAT DOCK, LONGBOAT KEY | \$2,250,000

SCAN FOR MORE



KEY WEST-INSPIRED BEACH BUNGALOW W/GUEST COTTAGE, LONGBOAT KEY | \$1,995,000

SCAN FOR MORE



LONGBEACH OASIS, LONGBOAT KEY | \$1,299,000

SOLD



MAGNIFICENT BAYFRONT SANCTUARY, SIESTA KEY | \$9,330,000

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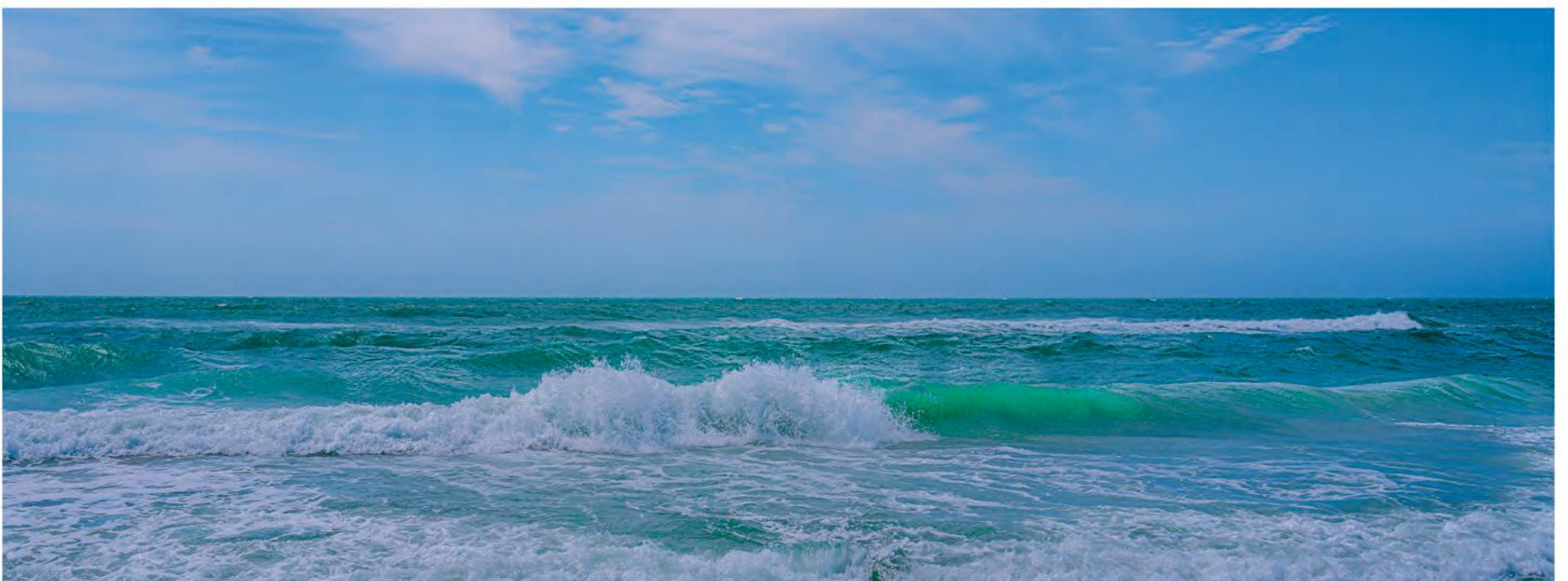
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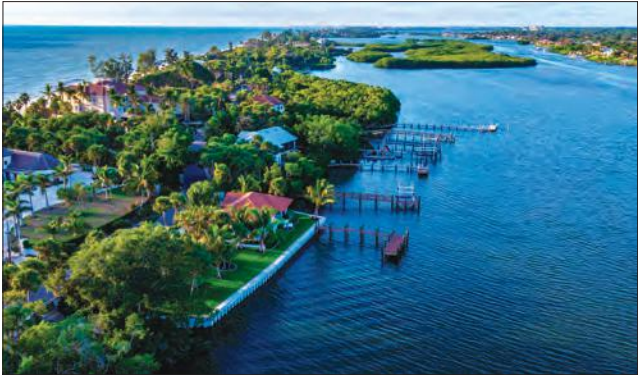
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# KeyArchitecture



Casey Key  
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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.*

## April 5 Construction

1:15 p.m.

Officer Maple, Officer Martinson and Sgt. Smith were dispatched to the 4100 bloc of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a disturbance call. Call was in regard to a maintenance worker throwing debris over a newly built fence onto the property. Upon our arrival, the officers met with the complainant who stated the condominiums had recently constructed a new fence between property and have had several occurrences of the maintenance man on the adjacent property throwing debris over the fence that had almost caused injury. The maintenance man stated the construction done had caused damage to the property and he was just getting rid of the debris associated with the construction done by the condominium. The construction worker stated they were not happy with the way the construction personnel had left their property. The worker and the complainant were both informed of the civil situation vice criminal activity and were informed of course of actions for any restitution. Both agreed to take appropriate actions through the civil process if required. Both parties agreed to take appropriate actions through the civil process if required. The construction worker stated he would not throw anything else over the fence. Case clear.



Officer Ferrigine responded to Bay Isles Road for a man laying in his underwear. Upon Officer Ferrigine's arrival the man was in red swim trunks in a beach chair watching a movie on his computer. Officer Ferrigine spoke to the man and he said he would find a better spot. Case clear.

**April 9**  
**Driver's license**

10: 39 a.m.

Sgt. Montfort while on patrol in the 6000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive, observed a vehicle traveling north with a loud exhaust. Sgt. Montfort observed the vehicle fail to maintain its lane of travel and cross into the bicycle lane on two occasions. A traffic stop was conducted in the area of 6700 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. The driver said she did not have a driver's license but provided a photo ID card. The operator then said her driver's license is suspended and she is waiting to pay numerous fines. Sgt. Montfort returned to his patrol vehicle and conducted a FCIC/NCIC search which revealed she didn't have a driver's license and one was never issued. She also had numerous suspensions for failure to pay fines and not attending a driver's school. The woman was processed and released in the field with three traffic citations. The vehicle was turned over to the registered owner to remove the vehicle. Case clear.

## Bird rescue

4:35 p.m.

Sgt. Montfort while on routine beach patrol in the area of the 4000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive was flagged down by several concerned citizens about an injured bird. Sgt. Montfort was directed to the water line where a loon was located. The animal appeared in distress and Sgt. Montfort contacted Save Our Seabirds. Sgt. Montfort was advised by Save Our Seabirds that a Sea Turtle volunteer was already enroute to rescue the animal. Within a short time, the volunteer arrived and took custody of the animal. Sgt. Montfort provided a courtesy transport to the parking area and returned to service. Case clear.

## April 7

### Stolen beach chair

7:33 p.m.

Officer Miklos, Sgt. Puccio and Officer Nazareno were dispatched to the 3800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a stolen beach chair. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos came into contact with the complainant who advised he saw a man load a beach chair into his Jeep and proceed to park. The complainant advised the family proceeded to take the beach chair to the beach. Officers waited at the vehicle in question and came into contact with the woman with the chair who said she thought the chair was a public beach chair as it was sitting near the beach with a bunch of other chairs. The woman said it was a misunderstanding and returned the chair to the location. Case clear.

## April 8

### Construction debris

2:09 p.m.

Officer Connors while on marine patrol was dispatched to the canal behind Yardarm Lane for a report of construction debris from the nearby jobsite. Officer Connors was able to tow the containment boom back to the construction site and turn over to the job foreman. Case clear.

## Citizen assist

2:33 p.m.

## Traffic

12:30 p.m.

Officer Ferrigine while on patrol saw a black Cadillac driving in a bike lane in the 4200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Ferrigine conducted a traffic stop and made contact with the driver who was unable to provide any type of identification. Officer Ferrigine asked the driver for his name and date of birth and conducted a LINX check which came back that he does not have a valid driver's license. When Officer Ferrigine proceeded back to the vehicle the driver was moving around reaching under his seat and reaching around his waist band area and Officer Ferrigine smelled a strong odor of marijuana emanating from the vehicle and observed a green leafy substance on the driver's pants. Officer Ferrigine had the man step out of his vehicle and detained. Officer Ferrigine conducted a pat down of the man and he said he does not have anything on him. Officer Ferrigine located a clear bag containing a green leafy substance and a little brown paper with a white crushed pill wrapped up stuffed in the front of his waist band. The white pill appeared to be Xanax. The man's vehicle was towed and removed by a towing company. The man was also issued several traffic citations. The driver was placed under arrest and read his Miranda warning. Officer Ferrigine conducted a field chemical presumptive test of the green leafy substance and it was positive for marijuana. Officer Ferrigine used a pill identifier which came back as alprazolam which is a scheduled four substance.

**April 10**  
**Citizen assist**

12:21 p.m.

Officer Maple was dispatched to Gunwale Lane for an animal control issue. Upon his arrival, Officer Maple met with the complainant who stated a black snake was in her living room under a sofa. The snake was located and removed to a safe location outside the residence without harm. Case clear.

**April 11**

3:15 a.m.

Officer Miklos and Officer Nazareno were dispatched to Broadway in reference to a suspicious incident involving a loud banging noise coming from the backyard. Sarasota Sheriff's Office dispatch advised the complainant did not see anything on his security cameras, however believes his gate door was being slammed. The area during the time of this call is under a high wind advisory. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos observed a large wooden gate door slightly ajar. Officer Miklos conducted a check of the backyard and didn't observe anything suspicious. Officer Miklos made contact with the complainant and advised him of the high wind in the area was causing his gate to slam shut. Case clear.

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# Editor Letters

## Letters, from page 7

monthly magistrate meeting. Please let us know your thoughts and ideas on how we proceed.  
Michael Drake  
Longboat Key

## Shields on parking lot lights

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
Is this matter on today's 10 am magistrate agenda? Thanks.  
Ken Schneier  
Mayor  
Town of Longboat Key

Shields on parking lot lights

## To: Hal Porter

We have had a couple of nice conversations with CJ and he has been very professional in his approach to the parking lights that have been a disturbance and annoying to the adjacent neighbors for well over a year now. We are not sure how you came up with the suggestion that we should be the ones paying for something that your property has created for the neighbors and the turtles on the beach. One question that comes to mine is, did the turtle watch people or the Town of Longboat Key pay for any of the drop-down valances that were installed a few months ago?  
In all due respect, we don't believe it would be a good precedent for the neighbors to purchase the new drop-down valances. We know that you always say that you did it in accordance with Longboat key ordinances, however, you are also in violation, of Longboat Key ordinance's that deal with the disturbance and the annoying lights shining into residential properties.

We the adjoining property owners want to thank Porter Investments Inc. for your anticipated fix to the new parking lot lights. The adjoining properties to Whitney Plaza.

Michael I just received an email from CJ at Synergy lighting. They have the shields in for the 2 parking lights requested. They are scheduled to do this work very soon. CJ said that you had requested larger shields? He told you that he is installing the largest ones available. I have not received anything back from you regarding payment of the installation. CJ said you mentioned it but did not say you were going to pay for it. I told him not to install anything until we had something in writing saying you and the neighbors would pay for the install.

If you would please send a confirmation that you agree to pay for the installation and copy me CJ and Brian. I just do not want to get into a you said he said issue. Please let us know as soon as possible so he can get it in their schedule.

Hal Porter  
President  
Porter Investment Holdings

## Shields on parking lot lights

To: Michael Drake  
Mr. Drake you are correct the lighting has been an issue

since my son's purchased the property all most 3 years ago. The plaza did not have any parking lot lights that worked. My insurance company was not going to insure the plaza until I got adequate lighting not just in the parking lot but also the rear of the plaza. I had new lighting put in at the rear of the Italian restaurant that would light the way safely to the dumpster. The day after those lights were installed some one came and pushed the light that was directed to the dumpster down? I do not know why, I asked Deb Murphy the restaurant owner to please push it back up. She did what I requested and the next evening they noticed there was no light at all. Someone came on our property and took a 2x4 and hit the light and knocked it completely off the building.

CJ said he talked with you and in the conversation you asked for larger shields? Then you asked for the shields to be painted inside to reduce the glare? It is my family's property but you want to dictate what can and can't be done. We understand that your family is extremely wealthy and are the voice of the village but really.

Your question regarding the shields for the turtle watch group. Did we pay for the shields and labor yes we did. The city had been getting emails and calls about the lights and the baby turtles. To keep the city from continually getting emails about it we had the shields installed. I personally went over to the beach at night. I could just see a little light from the sand and back to the water. I have issues with things that do not make sense. I am 6' tall a baby turtle could be 4" tall when I got on my knees I couldn't see any lights from our plaza.

It is our understanding that all the home owners behind the plaza have been sending email or calling regarding the parking lot light shining in their homes and the can not sleep. We have issues with this because your homes are completely covered with trees and mangroves. We can't see any homes from the rear of the plaza. We again told the city we would pay for the shields if they would install them. They could not due that legally because it was on commercial property. The shields are

\$200.00 the installation is \$650. If you take the \$650.00 and divide it by 5 it's just \$130.00 each. The homeowners behind the plaza are fairly wealthy, I'm sure you pay more than \$130 for a bottle of wine.

In all due respect we don't think it would be a good precedent if we paid for your shields. We can explain our decision to install the shields for the turtles because they are a private organization. If we paid for private homeowners issues that would not be a good precedent for any commercial property owner. The city would be getting calls from the condominium to the south and west of the plaza.

We would say at this point we are at an impasse. If you want to set up a meeting with all of the homeowners at the rear of the plaza we would attend. There may be a very easy solution to the problem, putting a blind on your window.

We hope you are aware that we are increasing the height of our seawall to help prevent any flooding at the rear of the plaza. We are doing all the state and DEP demands along with anything requested by the county and city. We had to not only get a survey of the plaza itself but also the waterway that we own in the rear of the plaza. Sometimes when government offices get involved you think they are going overboard with their demands. In this case the additional survey was worth every penny. We just wanted to put you at ease. We will be doing everything possible to make sure the homeowners are being informed about our plans going forward.

We were not aware that the city was going to fine us by the day for not following through with your demands. If that is true this becomes a legal matter between the city and my attorney.

Hal Porter  
President  
Porter Investment Holdings

## TBC Town Hall Meeting

See Letters, page 12

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## Longboat Key News Sarasota City News

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# WineTimes

## Undervalued White Wines Part 2: Bordeaux Blanc

*Drinkers of Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay will enjoy the search for a favorite blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon.*

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

White wines continue to gain in popularity when compared to red wines. Prices of better Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc wines have increased substantially while prices of other premier white wines have remained relatively lower. Part 2 of our series on undervalued white wines continues with Bordeaux Blanc. Yes, a few ageworthy Bordeaux Blanc labels have high price tags.

The 2014 Château La Mission Haut-Brion Blanc retails for \$740. A younger Domaine de Chevalier Blanc costs \$135. Yet, unlike the original role model for the California Cabernet Sauvignon, the Left Bank Bordeaux Rouge with prices \$50+, a better than decent Bordeaux Blanc often has a price around \$12 for a standard 750ML bottle.

Fans of the crisp and clean tastes of Sauvignon Blanc take note. The Bordeaux Blanc blend usually has fifty percent or more Sauvignon Blanc blended with wine made from Bordeaux Sémillon grapes. Sémillon balances and rounds off the highly acidic bite of Bordeaux's Sauvignon Blanc.

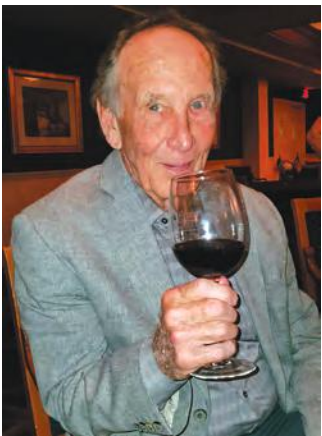
The proportions of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon in a Bordeaux Blanc depend on the intent and judgment of the winemaker. The proportions may vary from one vintage to another, as growing conditions determine different tastes in grapes from year to year. Proportions range from 100 percent Sauvignon to 100 percent Sémillon. Typical blends would have 50 to 90 percent Sauvignon.

Blends very heavy in Sauvignon Blanc have more of the crisp green apple, green pepper, and citrus tastes of many Marlborough, New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc. (Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc tends to have higher levels of thiols and methoxypyrazines). Sauvignon Blanc complements the tastes of white fin fish, shell fish, and sushi. Blends heavier in Sémillon have more of a golden hue, floral aromas (terpenes), a richer body (glycerin), and hints of pears, honey, and toasted nuts. Heavy in Sémillon makes the wine ideal for spicy foods such as Indian curry masala or chutney.

The proportions of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon in a Bordeaux Blanc give us a fairly reliable indicator of the predominate taste of the wine. In a 100% Sauvignon Blanc, citrus acid, tropical fruit, and vegetal tastes predominate. As the proportion of Sémillon increases, smoother tastes coats the mouth and softens the acidic edges.

The Château Antonins Bordeaux Blanc 80% Sauvignon Blanc, 20% Sémillon (\$13) from the Entre Deux Mer region. Tasting notes mention flavors of grapefruit, zest, and exotic fruit. This wine competes directly with Chablis (Sauvignon Blanc) from that region.

We have recommended the versatile 2022 Château La Gravière Bordeaux Blanc (\$12) of



equal parts Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon, also from the Entre Deux Mer region, as a white wine to include in a basic wine cellar. Hints of apple, pear, and honey intermingle with citrus and passion fruit.

The 2022 Château du Mayne Graves Blanc (\$14) with 80% Sémillon, 15% Sauvignon Blanc, and 5% Sauvignon Gris has a straw hue, an aroma of white flowers, and rounded and delicate tastes of lemon zest and kumquat.

Wine shops usually carry some of the bargain Bordeaux Blanc, though you may need to shop to find the full range of options. Drinkers of Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay will enjoy the search for a favorite blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon.

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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# Key Club ceremony brings out the best in tennis champs



Jeff White displays an award in recognition of Tim Martin and his chronic MIA status on the court.



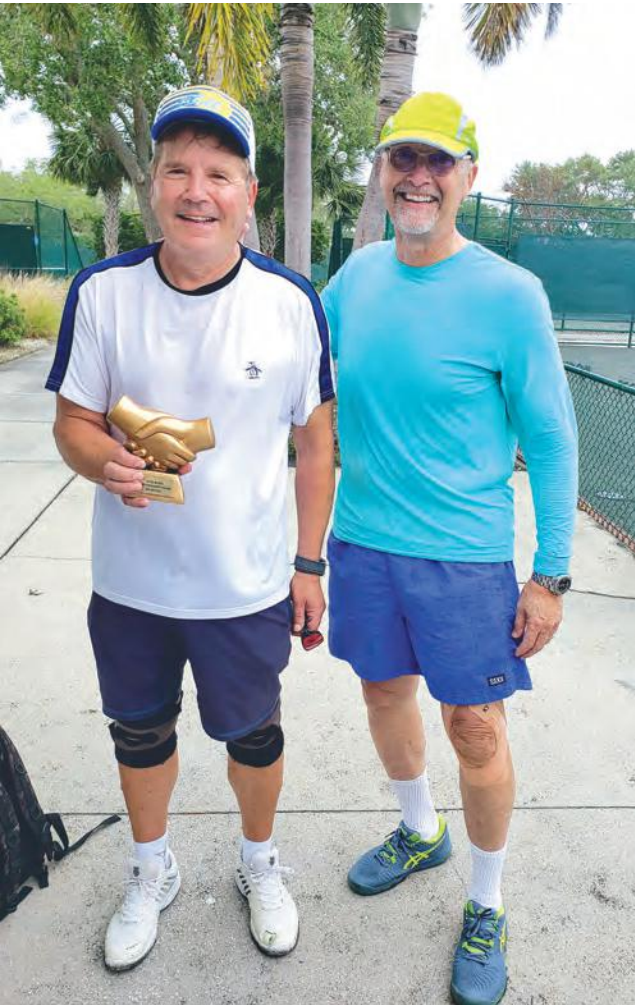
Paul Karon won a focus training aid to prevent auditory distractions.



David Gutridge won the Iron Man award for playing 27 games in three age groups after a knee replacement.



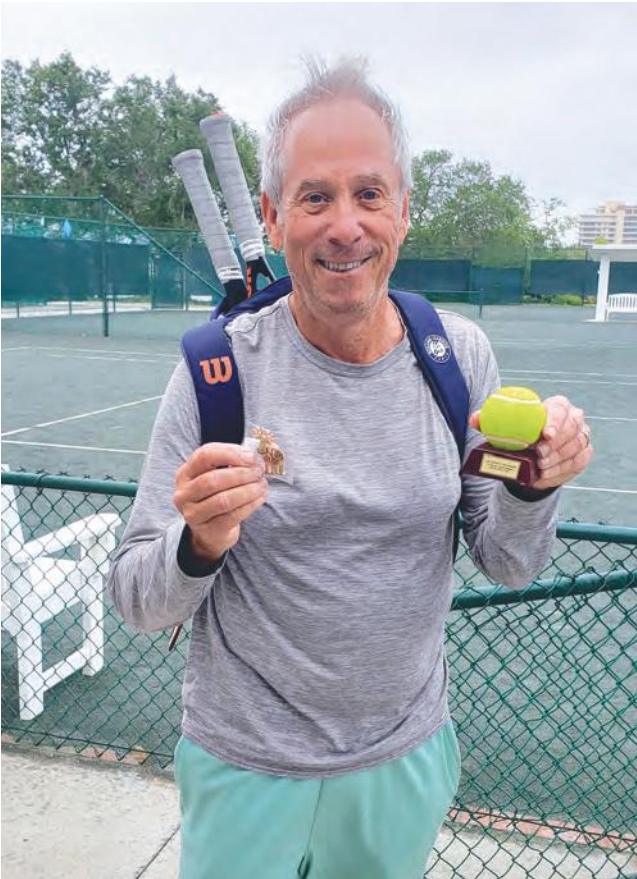
An award was given to honor and develop verbal restraint on the court.



The Mike White Sportsman Award was given to Joe Dzialo for his outstanding and much-needed example.



Paul Karon earned the friendship award for his example of kindness and help to those on and off the team.



David Spector earned the "Bring it on Award" for his desire to always play the hardest match no matter the odds.



The Rookie of the Year Award was shared by Joe and Ted.



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NEW PRICE



415 L'AMBIANCE DR., #D206 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$2,795,000  
3BR/3.5BA • 2,820 SF • Gulf & Bay views • Walkdown to beachfront



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617 WESTON POINTE COURT • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$3,695,000  
4BR/5BA • 4,395 SF • Canal front w/dock • Courtyard with casita



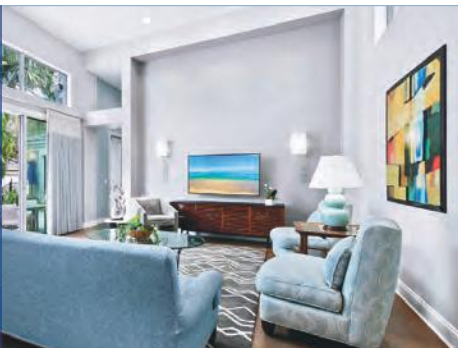
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551 PUTTER LANE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$ 6,749,000  
4BR+DEN+OFFICE/5.5BA • Full Bay view • 2 Primary suites • 6-Car garage



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3520 FAIR OAKS LANE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$1,799,000  
3BR+DEN/3BA • 2,902 SF • Separate casita for guests



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1930 HARBOURSIDE DR., #111 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$850,000  
2BR/2BA • 1,442 SF • Full bay views • Walkdown to bayfront



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700 HIDEAWAY BAY LANE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$2,995,000  
3BR/3.5BA • 3,306 SF • Waterfront • Easy access to bay



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3221 BAYOU WAY • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$1,650,000  
3BR/3.5BA • 2,639 SF • Spacious split floor plan • Screened pool



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518 BAYPORT WAY • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$799,000  
2BR/2BA • 1,601 SF • Private setting • Open floor plan • Steps to beach



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2525 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #11B • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$1,499,000  
2BR/2BA • 1,491 SF • Gulf front Penthouse • Updates



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5757 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #102 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$995,000  
2BR/2BA • 1,561 SF • First level • One pet no weight limit • Steps to beach



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1065 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #10-402 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$949,000  
2BR/2BA • 1,392 SF • Updated • Furnished • Covered parking space



SCAN FOR MORE



2110 HARBOURSIDE DR., #514 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$1,375,000  
3BR/2BA • 2,031 SF • Furnished • Walk-down to Bay • Covered parking

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