



Longboat Key News

December 6, 2024

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FREE

InsideLook



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Canals dredge up strong words in LBK Town Hall

"In my neighborhood 80 percent of the homes were destroyed by hurricanes. They are tired, frustrated by FEMA and what I hear repeatedly is it is the wrong time to put the program on the agenda and moving forward."

STEVE REID
Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

The Bay side of Longboat Key is home to miles of private canals many of which need dredging. But

how to pay for the millions of dollars it will likely cost and which residents should pay and how should they be taxed or assessed divided the Town Commission last week as the board attempts to move forward with a

dredging program.

Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier led the push to create an ad valorem taxing district at last week's meeting. He said that
See Canals, page 2

FEMA to pay town's beach damage

It's good news for Longboat Key's beach lovers that the town has submitted all of its claims to FEMA for damage to the 10 miles of beach, town roads and infrastructure resulting from the recent hurricanes.

Longboat Key Interim Public Works Director Charlie Mopps told residents the good news at last week's commission meeting. In fact, it is because the town rigorously maintains a defined beach profile that enables Longboat to seek reimbursement from FEMA for sand loss, sand transport and basically

See Damage, page 15

Fed Disaster Tax Relief Act passes Senate, heads to Biden

U.S. Representative Greg Steube's (R-Fla.) legislation, H.R. 5863 The Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act, has passed the U.S. Senate, bringing long-awaited tax relief to millions of Americans affected by hurricanes, wildfires, floods, tornadoes, and the Ohio train derailment. The bill now heads to President Joe Biden's desk for final approval.

The legislation, which has been
See Tax Relief, page 15

Taking Flight



Fear and Looting on the Hurricane Trail

I've been subject to many strange and emotional conversations following the hurricane. At first, it was almost like a bunch of veterans coming back from the war. We would cautiously look at each other and say in a low voice like at a funeral, "How did you make out?"

STEVE REID
Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. No, this Fall was simply the worst of times. The Yankees lost, the Presidential election was nothing short of insanity, my hero Rafa Nadal suffered the most rapid decline in tennis ever witnessed and not one but two hurricanes were gracious enough to devastate our region.

And although the literal destruction - the toppled trees, the soggy drywall and the flipped boats - can all be repaired in and over time, another more significant fear has emerged. That is the damage to our faith and belief.

The storms hit us on an existential level that few escaped. How many said goodbye to their homes when Milton was approaching?



STEVE REID

How many turned silent and came close to tears when the news said it made landfall on Siesta Key?

How many came home to see a lifetime of memories and work trashed as if a million burglars ransacked ran rampant?

And today, how many are overwhelmed making sense of all of the decisions of building and rebuilding and insurance and elevating and renovating? Things many did wish to ponder in their final decade or two of life.

Talking trauma on the tennis court

A difficult outcome from the recent hurricanes is the fear and emotional withdrawal some people feel toward our region and their homes.

Since I play tennis at the Longboat Key Club, the Longboat Key Public Tennis Center, the Bird Key Yacht Club and in Downtown Sarasota's Payne Park, I've been subject to many strange and emotional conversations following the hurricane.

At first, it was almost like a bunch of veterans coming back from the

See Steve Reid, page 6

Canal Dredging, from page 1

the town must vote to approve a district on a second reading last week if it wishes to start dredging the canals as early as next year. He further argued that creating the taxing district is the first step toward funding the project, but what portion canal front residences will pay versus non-canal front residences will all be discussed in future public hearings. Not everyone agreed with the Mayor’s initiative.

“I can tell you, my neighborhood has been vocal in stopping me on the street,” said Commissioner BJ Bishop. Bishop continued, “They thought the cost to non-canal front owners is not appropriate. In my neighborhood 80 percent of the homes were destroyed by hurricanes. They are tired, frustrated by FEMA and what I hear repeatedly is it is the wrong time to put the program on the agenda and moving forward.”

Mayor Schneier shot back, “Our job is not to be so tired that we can make the right decision. If the citizens are too tired to think about it, we can still make the right decision.”

Bishop replied, “I make the right decisions for the citizens I represent and not the seven of us.”

Commissioner Penny Gold sounded as if she agreed with Bishop, “There are a lot of bills coming at all of us, people are having a difficult time processing this. We should have the discussion of who should pay and how much all together. It is too risky not to discuss as a package.”

Gold was referring to the idea promulgated by the Mayor and Staff to approve the taxing district and the town’s authority to tax and then later attempt to calculate what different property owners should pay proportionally.

Dredging up philosophy

The nexus of the issue is not whether to dredge or not – convincing empirical data and surveying makes clear that numerous canals have grown filled with sediment. The true debate is over fairness. When it comes to the beach renourishment program, Longboaters have long gone along with and voted to support the two district system in which Gulf side properties pay 80 percent and Bay side pay 20 percent of the renourishment costs.

But the calculation and the benefit island-wide of the canals is far more nebulous and debatable. It is argued the beach provides property protection for the entire key from catastrophic storms. Canals do not serve any similar purpose. Canal front owners get to keep

a vessel dangling above the water that adds significantly to their property value. These factors make many on the Gulf side say “Why should we pay for any of the canal dredging?”

The countervailing argument is that canals are a navigatable amenity that all Longboaters can access and enjoy and add an overall value to the entire island. Public Works will also tell you that most of the island’s storm water is funneled into the canal system.

Mother May I?

For Vice Mayor Mike Haycock, the only issue is the timing and the cost of delay.

“We have to do it today (vote to approve the tax district) or it’s going to be delayed. I do not believe we should wait another year. We need to take the next step and approve the opportunity to have residents taxed in 2026,” said Haycock.

Haycock was referring to the fact that if the commission approved the tax district, the property owners will receive the ad valorem taxation amount in next year’s tax roll.

Voting for approval of the tax district does not guarantee or put any emphasis on how much the different classes of property owners will pay, but simply allow the commission to work out what it believes is a fair and equitable amount in the coming months.

But for resident Tim McDonald, who’s the Vice President of Arbomar Condominium Association, it’s something not to fast track. The town did admit it has been working on the issue for the last 26 years.

“At the first meeting when this was discussed and voted on, all of the residents were concerned with hurricanes. In fairness of process, we simply need more time, I urge you to postpone a vote on this despite all the restrictions and limitations it might impose. If this goes 100 percent ad valorem, I believe there is a recall coming,” said McDonald.

Another resident simply said she objects to how the commission was handling the situation in voting in the wake of two hurricanes with displaced residents and before season on such a major financial obligation.

After her comments, Vice Mayor Haycock made a motion to approve the ad valorem tax methodology to pay for canal dredging on Longboat Key. Commissioners Bishop and Debra Williams voted ‘No’ and Commissioners Gold, Sarah Karon, Gary Coffin and Mayor Schneier voted ‘Yes,’ successfully passing the measure.



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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.

Low Flying Planes over Longboat Key

To: Longboat Key Town Commission
Hello. I've been an owner on Longboat Key for 12 years. About three or so weeks ago I started to notice planes from SRQ that are flying between 1,000 and 2,000 feet above us in the mornings and sometimes in the afternoons. They are smaller commercial planes but with the major airlines. I used to fly planes so I think i have a good idea of their altitude.
Yesterday morning they went over us at 5:38 a.m. and there were 3 others by 6:10 a.m. I saw three more this morning while working out outdoors. One was certainly only 1,000 feet high.
I live at Banyan Bay and it's loud (they sound like missiles coming over us) and I have never seen any jets fly over us below probably 5,000 or 10,000 feet ever before. It's both dangerous and a real disturbance on a daily basis.
I don't know why they started doing this recently, but it's not right. I'd be glad to get more involved with this if you see a way forward to deal with it.
Hopefully we can fight back on this, but perhaps not, but please let me know as Longboat residents should at least unite against this and be made aware. Please give my best to BJ. She knows me from the Paradise Center. Thank you very much.
Tom Bright
Longboat Key

Low Flying Planes over Longboat Key

To: Tom Bright

Thank you for these comments. I concur with your observations. Our Town Manager Howard Tipton (cc-ed here) has been communicating with airport and FAA officials over recent changes to flight paths, so hopefully he can make an inquiry as to your valid concerns.
Sarah Karon
Commissioner, Town of Longboat Key

Low Flying Planes over Longboat Key

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon
Thank you for touching base. Thank you. I essentially do a short triathlon each morning which means I'm in the Banyan Bay pool from about 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. This morning there were four planes between 8:02 a.m. and 8:25 a.m. Two were below 1,000 feet and the other two were probably 1,500 to maybe 2,000 feet. The final one banked north and was skirting the eastern coast of us. The other three flew right overhead of me.
I saw at least two more when I ran for 30 minutes from 6:45 a.m. to 7:15 a.m. Again right overhead and probably 1,000 to 1,500 feet above me. One I could easily see was Delta.
You have to wonder what their emergency landing procedures would be, as airplanes tend to hav etc emits issues when taking off.
Between the hurricane and tropical storms damage, degradation of the bay from Piny Point's 200 million gallon dumping and recent sewage overflows due to hurricanes and tropical storms, I can't say we are better off compared to 4 or 5 years ago. Never saw tropical storm in November before that either. Sorry if I sound like I'm ranting but I'm not. These are all facts I can easily back up.
Tom Bright
Longboat Key

Low Flying Planes over Longboat Key

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
This sounds different in kind and degree from the issues discussed recently regarding the slight northward shift of the outbound SRQ flight lanes.
Ken Schneider
Mayor, Town of Longboat Key

P and Z on December 17

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider
Thanks for passing along the residents' interest. This is queued up as a Workshop Discussion item on the P&Z Board's Dec. 17th meeting. Given the number of potential issues & options, staff is not starting with a draft ordinance for public hearing. The expectation is that a public hearing on an ordinance would follow in January after discussion & recommendations at the Dec. 17thmeeting. That ordinance (w/ the P&Z Board's required recommendation) could then could be heard by the Commission at the Feb. 3rd Regular Meeting, with potential expedited follow-up via a Special Meeting on Feb. 18th (the Regular Workshop meeting date). Please do encourage anyone who's interested to share their input with staff & with the P&Z Board, if they're able to.
Allen Parsons, AICP
Director Planning, Zoning & Building Department
Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 8

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KeyOpinion

Steve Reid, from page 1

war. We would cautiously look at each other and say in a low voice like at a funeral, “How did you make out?”

Some of my friends lost their homes and contents and so I kept my whining about my fallen trees and ruined landscaping to a minimum. It is hard to come back from a war and complain to your friend paralyzed in a wheelchair that you got a scrape. We all cautiously sized up each other’s damages. But each home, each economic situation and each person’s grit and temperament tells a different story.

One friend owns his home outright and he and his wife were self-insured (euphemism for no insurance). After two feet of water rendered their home a total loss, they are trying to make lemonade out of the flood damage. They don’t have the money to build a new elevated home to simply move back into, so they are going to perform a fast renovation and sell, which they hope will bring a modest return over land value.

When I asked if it might make more sense to build an elevated home, they made a case that the additional construction cost could not be recaptured since the street they are on is not on a canal and mostly has on-grade homes.

I don’t know how a realtor answers the question when this home goes on the market and they are asked, “Didn’t this home get completely flooded last year?” And the answer will be: “Yes, it did. But why don’t you move on in and give it a go and see if it happens again and then if it exhausts you and you don’t have the resources to rebuild call me and I’ll sell it for you.”

A painful and difficult rainbow...

I found myself selfishly angry and upset that my friend and his wife are simply moving away. I would ask, “How can you leave the island, it’s so beautiful this was your dream?”

I could tell I was hitting up against an emotional and financial reality. The storm forced them to divest financially and out of necessity, emotionally, from their island beach dream.

This is representative of a deep well of sadness and hardship. There are hundreds of owners who could afford their original older homes on grade and they simply were living out their years on a fixed income. They do not have eight hundred thousand dollars in liquidity to build a new home.

In many ways this is the epitome of what I call the gentrification factor of hurricanes. Most on-grade homes will either now or in the near future be rebuilt as modern storm-resistant structures.

The hurricanes will have the de facto outcome of sweeping away property owners who don’t have the means and resources to plop down a fortress with the first floor at about 16 feet above grade.

These next generation homes will drive a new level of valuations and will be able to withstand perhaps a generation of mega storms.

But there is some good that is coming out of our collective hurricane experience.

Points of light...

There is something that happens in the wake of a war or after a hurricane or after a death or any disaster that is most beautiful.

Sure, there is pillage and looting following a hurricane. But the most human aspect of human nature is the drive of life to come back stronger, to repair, to fix, to replant what was washed away by the briny saltwater. To see an old home that was flooded and used for 40 years and envision something stronger and newer in a world that is a little edgier and more dangerous is part of our DNA.

The storms also made people evaluate the fundamentals: their families, their priorities, why they are here what they like to do what they love about the area.

Hurricanes instill a primal fear and respect for nature. The same nature Western culture has spent a couple thousand years battling and separating itself from only to have it reappear in the living room as a flood.

Hurricanes turn every homeowner into a minor league gladiator in their front yard. We all become a mini version of young Russell Crow and instead of fighting for Rome we’re fighting for our little postage stamp that we’ve managed to accumulate in this world.

Our homes form the stage for our entire lives and our community is nothing less than a collection of people who all enjoy overlapping lives and activities.

Do not retreat to suburban hell like Lakewood Ranch.

The greatest damage from the hurricane is people leaving the area who simply say they cannot deal with the chance of more storms. I do not like this fear. I also do not want those who don’t have the resources to stay to be forced into the bland blight of moving further east.

We are all captains on this ship and we have an obligation to our community to rebuild and make it as strong and beautiful and compelling as possible.

And if our lot in life is to have stronger storms than the poignancy and the impact should be felt and it should propel us to make the most difficult societal changes. But to flee to higher land and go to some safe place in Ohio or in Georgia or in Lakewood Ranch to me that is a retreat from life.

I love my vulnerable barrier island. I love being on the precipice in the most beautiful pocket of land in the United States. We’ve had three storms in one year. It was horrible. I never want to go through it again.

But if I’m going to go through a hurricane, I can’t think of a better community. I couldn’t have a better group of friends. And when I take my kids on a scooter ride late at night and we see the crescent moon casting dappled light across the waves off the Gulf of Mexico, I realize I do not want to ever leave this magical place.

After all, Rome was sacked, pillaged and burned many times. Seventy percent of Rome was destroyed by fire while Emperor Nero played his fiddle.

We are in better hands and in a better place on Longboat, Lido Bird and Siesta Key and Downtown Sarasota. This is our epicenter. Let’s just pray that the old Roman idiom does become rephrased into “All Hurricanes lead to Sarasota.”

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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

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Town of Longboat Key ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS

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

Citizens Oversight Committee for Public School Facility Planning

All applications must be submitted to the Office of the Town Clerk by noon on December 20, 2024. Applicants must be registered voters of the Town of Longboat Key.

Please call the Office of the Town Clerk at 941-316-1999 for an application or for any questions. Applications may be submitted to:

Town of Longboat Key – Office of the Town Clerk
501 Bay Isles Road
Longboat Key FL 34228

Stephanie Garcia, Deputy Town Clerk I
Published: 12-06-2024



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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 4

P and Z on December 17

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons
I know the Commission has asked the P and Z Board to discuss the adjustment of heights for docks, lifts, etc. after the destruction caused by the recent storms. Residents who have requested this review have pointed out that they are in the process of planning and contracting the reconstruction of these features and have asked if the matter will be on the agenda for December 17 and if a recommendation could be prepared for the Commission at that meeting, so that we could deal with it in early January. If the narrow issue of dock and lift heights could be presented and a recommendation made at that meeting, it would help people make the correct decisions. Thanks.
Ken Schneiier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

State action on storm issues

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
Attached are a couple of ideas on storm related issues that I believe merit attention at the State level. I sent this to all 4 of our Manatee & Sarasota senators and reps. If appropriate and acceptable to the TC, please share with our Town lobbyist... or anyone... as you see fit.
James G. Haft
Longboat Key

LBK Recovery Update

To: Longboat Key Fire Administration Manager Tina Adams
Storm damage repair work has been approved to proceed from 7 a.m. through 7 p.m. seven days a week on the island, at this time, to continue to allow maximum efficiency in getting everyone back to normal with occupying safe, livable structures. This has been authorized by the Town Manager as a Waiver to Town Code, Chapter 130.02, Sound Regulations for the next 30 days (until December 31, 2024, at which time it will be reevaluated) to continue to help expedite property owners' ability to repair their homes and businesses. This noise waiver applies to storm damage related repair only. Please note that this will include Christmas Eve/Day and New Year's eve.
Tina Adams
Fire Administration Manager/PIO
Longboat Key Fire Rescue Department

Information

To: John Varley Senior
I know there was a code violation so best place to start is with Allen Parsons, Director of Planning and Zoning. Phone number 941-316-1966. If he is not available call Howard Tipton, town mgr. 941-316-1999. He is out of office on Thursday.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner, Town of Longboat Key

Information

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
BJ, good afternoon, it's been a couple of weeks and there has been no update to the drive-ways across the street from me.
I was hoping you could direct me to the right person to talk to about the driveways. I think they should put a lean on his certificate of occupancy until the situation is corrected. Thanks for your help.
John Varley Senior
Longboat Key

Information

To: John Varley Senior
I have been back and forth with town and they have informed the contractor at 597 the driveways do not match the plans (see attached) and must be corrected.
Regarding the building permit for 597 Buttonwood Drive, the house and site are still both under construction; drainage and grading work are not yet complete. There is an onsite drainage collection system for the lot that they are tasked with constructing, including drainage inlets and swales, which is unusual for a single family lot, but is part of the Town's approval for this site to build in this area. Only portions of this system are in place because they are under active construction. Public Works will be meeting with the contractor onsite on Thursday to inform the contractor that the driveways were not poured per the drainage plan that Public Works approved and to get with their engineer to resolve it.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner, Town of Longboat Key

New sections to town code and canal financing

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Can you clarify why the following language, which refers to bond referendums to finance the canal maintenance district, is included when the program is being described as "pay as you go"?

See Letters, page 15



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LAmbianceA401.com

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LElegance403.com

WATER CLUB



1241 Gulf of Mexico Drive #105 - \$2,575,000 - Furnished

The Water Club on the South end of Longboat Key is a rare jewel in condominium living. Almost new 2,585 sq. ft. under air, features a garden, and partial Gulf views. Southern exposure w/walls of glass, 10 ft. ceilings, wood flooring, extended 1,000 sq. ft. terraces. The Water Club exquisite clubhouse offers state of the art fitness center, message room, spa, lounge, library w/fireplace, ballroom, game room and phenomenal staff providing concierge services, an Olympic-sized pool, tennis, and 2 pets under 35 lbs. welcome. Walk down the beach and enjoy restaurants at the new St Regis. **No water intrusion in this home from the storms.**

WaterClub105.com

ARIA



2251 Gulf of Mexico Drive #204 - \$7,999,000

Epic Gulf-front corner residence, which feels like a home on the beach, offers 3 bedrooms plus an office (or 4 bedrooms) and 3.5 bathrooms in a lavish 4,032 sq. ft. space. The residence boasts floor-to-ceiling impact glass that invites natural light and connects the indoor spaces to expansive sunset terraces with breathtaking Gulf and garden views. Revel in your own 3,400 sq. ft. terrace featuring an infinity pool, fire pit, and summer kitchen, with private stairs leading straight to the beach. This architectural gem features expansive glass walls, clean lines, and angular details, seamlessly merging indoor elegance with the natural beauty of its beachfront setting. With a gourmet kitchen, social room, guest suite, fitness center, and a stunning 5-car garage, Aria delivers unparalleled luxury and on-site management. This exclusive enclave is built to the highest coastal construction standards and is secured within a gated community. **No water intrusion in this home from the storms.**

Aria204.com



5941 Gulf of Mexico Drive - \$8,800,000

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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.

Nov. 30 Driver’s license

11:00 a.m.
Officer Tillman while on patrol in the 400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive, witnessed a vehicle travelling north on Gulf of Mexico Drive at a high rate of speed. The vehicle’s estimated speed was approximately 45 mph in a 35 mph zone. The LIDAR confirmed a speed of 46 mph at 400.5 feet. The vehicle was identified as a white work van. The traffic stop was conducted and Officer Tillman made contact with the driver and asked if he was the registered owner in which he said he was not and that it was a work vehicle. Officer Tillman explained the reason for the stop and requested the driver’s license from the offender. The driver stated he works in Longboat Key. When Officer Tillman has a driver’s license he replied that he does not have one. Officer Tillman asked the driver if he had any identification or anything with his name on it, the driver produced a consulate identification card from Venezuela. Officer Tillman asked if the driver was aware that he needed a valid driver’s license to operate a motor vehicle, he replied that he has never been issued a driver’s license. Officer Tillman issued a citation for no driver’s license, never had one issued.



was how the crash happened. The complainant said the other involved driver reported a small scratch, but the complainant took a photograph where there was rust on the scratch, which made the complainant believe the scratch was not a result of the crash. Again, the complainant said he would not be filing an insurance claim and he did not wish to file a crash report. The complainant also felt the other driver did not care or he would have waited for law enforcement response. Case clear.

Fishing

4:49 p.m.
Officer Troyer responded to Tarawitt Drive on the report of a suspicious person. The complainant called dispatch and reported four men fishing on an abandoned piece of property. Upon arrival, Officer Troyer made contact with the men who identified themselves and reported they were just fishing, and had no intent of trespassing or committing any criminal activity. The men did not observe any “No trespassing” signs so they felt they could fish on the piece of land. Officer Troyer didn’t observe any criminal activity taking place, and the men left.

Person Missing

2:35 p.m.
Officer Tillman was dispatched to Sanctuary Drive regarding a missing person. Upon arrival, Officer Tillman spoke with the complainant who said his 84 year-old wife is missing. The man said his wife is 5’ 0” and 100 pounds and was last seen last night at 9 p.m. The man said that he went to bed and woke up at noon today to find the front door open and his wife gone. The man said that his wife does not walk far and suffers from a mild case of memory loss. After approximately 30 minutes of searching beaches, roof tops, and stairwells. Officer Nazareno was able to locate the wife in the recreation room of the building watching TV. The wife said that she had been there for several hours. The two were reunited. Case clear.

Dec. 4 Vessel

10:03 a.m.
Sgt. Montfort while on marine patrol was dispatched to citizen assist call. It was reported that the caller needed assistance with a vessel boat lift at the 4000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Sgt. Montfort made contact with the caller who stated that during Hurricane Helene, his vessel was pushed to far on his floating boat dock. Moreover, the complainant was requesting assistance with getting the vessel of the dock. Officer Barrett and Sgt. Montfort arrived in the area and it was determined that the complainant would require commercial towing assistance to remove the vessel. The complainant said he possessed towing insurance and he would contact his respective vessel tow company. Case clear.

Dec. 1 Noise

11:55 p.m.
Officer Ericsson was dispatched to the 3700 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on a noise disturbance. Upon arrival, Officer Ericsson was unable to locate any noise issues. Officer Ericsson contacted the complainant by phone who advised the noise was coming from one of the units. Contact was made with a man in the unit who said that he just arrived in town, unhooked a trailer and parked his truck. He said he was not involved in any construction of any sort, but believed the complaint was due to his vehicle, which rattled while running. Due to no obvious signs of loud noise, the call was cleared with no further investigation. Case clear.

Dec. 5 Noise

7:09 p.m.
Officer Ericsson was dispatched to 2600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on a noise disturbance. Upon arrival, Officer Ericsson observed a large tanker truck being used to suck a substance out of the ground next to the restaurant. The truck was causing a loud vacuum engine noise that could be heard from Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Ericsson contacted a worker with the cleaning company and advised them of the 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. Town Ordinance regarding noise. The worker immediately shut down the truck and stopped the work. Case clear.

Dec. 2 Gas

12:41 p.m.
Sgt. Montfort was dispatched to Bayou Sound to assist Longboat Key Fire Rescue with an odor of gas. Sgt. Montfort arrived on scene with members of Fire Rescue and it was determined that the odor of gas was coming from a neighbor’s house. It was then determined the odor was not gas and only epoxy from a garage floor which was just installed. Case clear.

I own the road

9:42 p.m.
Officer Martinson was dispatched to Kingfisher Lane on a call of a noise complaint. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson was flagged down by the complainant, standing outside with his flashlight and dog in front of the address. The complainant stated while walking his dog he heard and saw two workers inside the garage of the home under construction next door. The complainant stated while inside his home he could not hear any construction noise and that he did not even realize people were there working until he heard the sounds of metal tools and banging coming from inside the garage on his walk. The complainant stated when he confronted the workers about the noise ordinance they closed the garage door so he called 911. Officer Martinson then walked to the garage and knocked on the door. It should be noted that he did not hear any sounds of electric or gas powered tools or any other loud noises coming from inside the garage. The door opened and Officer Martinson made contact with the worker from the garage doors. Officer Martinson explained to the worker that the permitted work hours are 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. and that he needed to stop working for the night. The worker apologized and stated he got to the work site late due to another job and was just trying to finish it today. The worker stated he lives in downtown Fort Myers and didn’t know the town’s noise ordinance. The worker said the reason why he shut the garage door was because the complainant was yelling at him and he did not want to get into a confrontation with him. Officer Martinson checked in and did not see any prior noise ordinance warning issued to the worker of the garage door business. The worker was given a written warning. While Officer Martinson was issuing the written warning, the complainant was yelling at the workers and basically taunting them for not leaving when he told them to. Officer Martinson told the complainant to stop interacting with the workers and instructed the workers to leave quickly to prevent any altercation with the complainant. As the workers were getting into their vehicles to leave, the complainant asked Officer Martinson if he issued them a warning or a citation. Officer Martinson advised the complainant, he gave them a warning because it was their first offense. At which time, the complainant stated the two workers were also trespassing. Officer Martinson told the complainant the workers were not trespassing because they had been hired by the homeowner to do work. The complainant disagreed with the officer and stated he had tried to call the homeowner but they did not answer the phone. Officer Martinson again told the complainant the workers were not trespassing and Officer Martinson instructed the workers to hurry up and leave due to the complainant’s behavior. Then all of a sudden, the complainant yelled out that he “owns the road” and stated “I’m going to stand in front of their truck so they can’t leave.” Officer Martinson was at first confused by the complainant’s actions because Officer Martinson thought he wanted the workers to stop working and leave, which was what they were attempting to do. Officer Martinson told the complainant to move away from the front of the trucks so the workers could leave and he stated no because he pays for the road, which means he owns the road, and therefore they are trespassing. At this point, Officer Martinson sternly told the complainant he does not own the road and advised him that it would behoove him to move. The complainant then moved away from in front of the trucks and the workers drove away. Case clear.

Dec. 3 Accident

4:30 p.m.
Officer Troyer responded on a signal located near the 600 block of St. Judes Drive regarding a traffic accident. Upon arrival, Officer Troyer met with the driver who reported a white Ford F-150 was the other involved vehicle, but the driver did not wish to wait for law enforcement response. The complainant showed the officer his vehicle, a black Ford Expedition. The complainant said he was backing up slowly, and the white Ford bumped into him, which

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1591 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#511	3,130	\$4,655,600	2	2	1	0	\$4,655,600
1180 BOGEY LN	2,180	\$950,000	2	2	0	268	\$900,000
4390 EXETER DR Unit#I303	1,152	\$549,000	2	2	0	59	\$462,500



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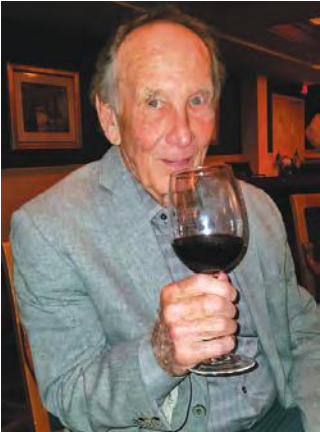
WineTimes

Dining in the Hinterlands

Exciting options await in Sarasota dining just outside the City center.

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

We have often for no compelling reason followed a road leading away from our familiar dining scene and looked around for restaurants that we don't know in a new locale. These excursions into the "hinterlands", a German word meaning an area behind and some distance away from a settlement on the coast or a riverbank, usually remind us why we live where we live.



We found ample reason to search the hinterlands for worthy substitutes for some of our favorite dining spots during the aftermath of the short but devastating hurricane season in Sarasota, starring Helene and Milton, which closed storm-damaged restaurants.

Our searches began shortly after we evacuated from a barrier island to higher ground.

The hinterlands around Sarasota tend to be close to the epicenters of the restaurant districts; steps away, as realtors say, from downtown Sarasota and a few blocks from Sarasota Bay, we discovered the Turmeric Indian Bar and Grill on 10th Street just east of North Tamiami Trail. The full bar offers exotic drinks, such as the Turmeric Punch with Mezcal. The interesting drinks and alternatives such as the

Indian King Fisher beer and an Indian Sula Chenin Blanc complement a wide variety of tasty nibbles: Samosa (savory, triangular pastries wrapped in phyllo sheets, filled with various stuffings, and baked crispy); Pakora (fried round tidbits of okra, chopped kale, cheese, whatever); Naan bread stuffed with onion, cheese, or other flavors; and, mango pickles and other condiments and sauces like turmeric chutneys. Kudos to the web site developers. The site even has an elementary guide to six popular curries (<https://www.turmeric-sarasota.com>). We favor the Tandoori oven roasted Cornish Hen as a main course to share.

Not far east and north on Highway 301, La Brisa Tacos and Marisco (taqueria and seafood) has a wider broader menu and more inviting interior than its name suggests. The Al Pastor and Carnitas tacos deserve special mention, but the Enchiladas and Chiles Rellenos raise the level above that of a basic taqueria. Try the difficult-to-find Victoria Beer to tame spicy Mexican food.

A few miles east off 12th Street and Turtle, El Patio Latino Peruvian Cuisine serves lunch specials alongside an extensive menu of Peruvian dishes. The Pollo a la Brasa (roisserie chicken) tends to dominate the lunch menu, though a rich and savory chicken soup stood out during our visit. The qual-



ity of food and service will draw us back to this gem of a niche in a shopping center.

Not too far north on North Lockwood Ridge Road, the Tin, Viet & Sushi Bar, next to Detwiler's market, seems out of place in its hinterland location. The bar offers both sushi and beer, wine, and spirits. The wine list has an uncommonly large number of French wines, say the Paradosso Pinot Noir Trevenezie, from vineyards in northern Italy. We enjoyed a glass of this wine with a Bánh Mì sandwich. Crisp French bread and spicy fillings made for a tasty sandwich.

Not too long ago, the best of the ethnic restaurants emerged in city centers. Excursions into the hinterlands are showing us a wide range of high-quality ethnic dining opportunities in the hinterlands. We expect to make more excursions into the hinterlands in our relentless search for new dining experiences.

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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Schneider ended the discussion on a positive note for residents who live on private roads. Schneider said the town got approval from FEMA for the town to be reimbursed for picking up debris on private roads. FEMA will not reimburse residents who paid to remove debris, but the town and its staff have cleared all the remaining private roads according to Schneider.

With the legislation now awaiting President Biden's signature, advocates are optimistic about its final approval. If signed, the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act will bring relief to disaster-affected Americans and serve as a step in addressing the financial burdens of recovery.

An advertisement for 'Ebikes and cycles'. The top half features a black background with the company name in large white and green letters. Below the name, there's a circular logo with a gear-like pattern. The middle section contains two paragraphs of text: 'The area's largest selection of quality electric bicycles.' and 'We will custom fit you to your E-bike to match your riding style.' Below this is a green box with the words 'SALES', 'SERVICE', and 'ACCESSORIES' in white. The bottom section is a green banner with the address '423 Suwanee Ave, Sarasota, FL 34243' and the phone number '941) 531-2453' followed by the website 'www.ebikesandcycles.com'. On the right side, there is a photograph of a man and a woman riding e-bikes on a paved path. The woman is wearing a pink shirt and red pants, and the man is wearing a grey shirt and green pants. Both are wearing helmets and smiling. The background of the photo shows trees and a clear sky.

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5BR/5.5BA • 7,374 SF • 275' of Seawall • Large lot
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1485 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #201 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL
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BEACHPLACE III • \$799,000
1065 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #104 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL
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597 CUTTER LANE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL
3BR/2BA • 1,963 SF • 103' of Waterfront
Offering a 3% buyer broker compensation.



FAIRWAY BAY • \$675,000
1932 HARBOURSIDE DR., #242 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL
2BR/2.5BA • 1,192 SF • Bay views
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THE MARK • \$1,499,000
111 S. PINEAPPLE AVE., #1004 • SARASOTA, FL
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3542 MISTLETOE LANE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL
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1886 PROSPECT STREET • SARASOTA, FL
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SUTTON PLACE • \$479,000
569 SUTTON PLACE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL
3BR/2BA • 1,198 SF • Furnished • Gulf to Bay community
Offering a 3% buyer broker compensation.



THE MEADOWS • \$479,000
4737 CHANDLERS FORDE #14 • SARASOTA, FL
2BR+OFFICE /2.5BA • 2,050 SF • Updated
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