



# Longboat Key News

April 4, 2025

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## InsideLook



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of wine tariffs  
...page 6*



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## Two accidents in two weeks at south Longboat Key turn-lane construction site

*Emergency responders from Longboat Key Fire-Rescue rushed to the scene of a multi-vehicle accident Tuesday morning that caused traffic delays and sent at least one person to the hospital.*

The crash, which involved three vehicles, occurred around 11 a.m. in the 300 block of Gulf of Mexico Dr, near an active median construction zone on the south end of Longboat Key. Authorities say the collision happened just a few hundred feet from the site of another recent crash that also led to lane closures.

Medics and fire crews worked to assist those suffering from injuries after the collision. One individual was transported by ambulance to Sarasota Memorial Hospital with injuries described as minor, while another was evaluated at the scene but did not require further emergency care, according to Fire-Rescue spokesperson Tina Adams.

Police and emergency crews responded quickly, working to clear the wreckage and manage the flow of traffic during the busy late-morning hours. By noon, the affected portion of Gulf of Mexico Dr had reopened to normal traffic.

Investigators are looking into the circumstances surrounding the crash, including whether road conditions or nearby construction activities may have been contributing factors. No additional details have been released at this time.

## Sarasota Open exits Payne Park, moves to Sarasota Sports Club

Over the last three years, the Elizabeth Moore Sarasota Open, which started in 2009 and is part of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Challenger Tour, was held at the Payne Park Tennis Center near downtown Sarasota.

But differences over licenses and restrictions forced the tourney to find a new home, and it settled on the Sarasota Sports Club, formerly the Serendipity Tennis Club. It'll be the home of the EMSO for the next decade, as both parties signed a 10-year contract with this year's event running April 6-13.

"It's much more expansive," Moore said.

Payne Park had ATP-approved lightning which made night matches possible, something the Sarasota Sports Club will be unable to do.

Nearly \$250,000 was spent on improving the SSC's clubhouse, courts, and landscaping.

## City board recommends not vacating alley to condo

A contested street vacation was denied planning board support at a March 28 meeting.

The City of Sarasota Planning Board voted 3-2 to recommend denying the vacation of Fourth Way, the alleyway between Fourth and Fifth Street, ahead of a potential mixed-use development. The alley was primarily used for delivery and waste collection of nearby properties that are now vacant, though residents say it's still used as pedestrian access.

Though the planning board did not approve it, the item will still go before the Sarasota City Commission for a final vote.

Developer GSP Sarasota LLC requested the vacation for its proposed Saravala development: a mixed-use project with a proposed 271 residential units and more than 11,000 square feet of retail space. The project's listed addresses are 1219, 1227, 1235, 1245 and 1251 Fourth St.; 1222 and 1236 Fifth St.; and 400 and 430 N. Tamiami Trail.

Saravala, zoned in the downtown core district and downtown bayfront districts, will utilize the downtown attainable housing density bonus to secure the proposed

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## Seabird support soars in Sarasota



Bill Mitchell with his wife and Save our Seabirds co-chair and event chair Linda Mitchell and Board member and co-chair Nancy Mclean and Ron Doerr.

**S**ave our seabirds, one of Sarasota's beloved nonprofits dedicated to rescuing injured birds in the region, held its annual fundraising gala last week at the Circus Arts Conservatory.

The event was attended by nearly 250 and raised \$637,300 that will go toward operating expenses for 2025 says Executive Director Brian Walton.

The organization treats about 1,200 wild birds each year and has close to 100 permanent residents to care for on a daily basis. The budget for 2025 is about \$1.3 million, which has must be raised every year, year after year. The annual gala helped raise about 50% of the organization's goal for the year.

Walton reports that the Save our Seabirds is in the beginning stages of rebuilding its entire campus, which is located on City Island between St. Armands Circle and Longboat Key. New aviaries are in the works and being designed by DSDG architects in Sarasota.

Executive Director Walton was thrilled with the passionate support from the community.

"It is good to know that our neighbors value the work of Save our Seabirds and they care about the birds the same way that we do," said Walton.

To learn more, go to: [www.saveourseabirds.org](http://www.saveourseabirds.org)

For more event pics, see page 15.



City, from page 1

height and density with 30 units “intended to be”attainable” housing. The project will consist of two towers, one at 18 stories and one at 11 stories.

Attainable is defined as 80% to 120% of the area median income, which is \$77,705 in Sarasota County, according to county data. The project is still under review by the City of Sarasota’s Development Review Committee..

The city commission will vote on the street vacation at a future meeting, and the Saravella site plan will come before the planning board at a future meeting if it receives DRC signoff.

Orchestra unveils design

Sarasota Orchestra unveiled the initial concept designs for its new Music Center at 5701 Fruitville Road, marking the first step in a multiphase design process led by architects at William Rawn Associates. As preliminary concepts, the designs provide an early look at the Orchestra’s vision for a transformative community asset. Further refinement and development will unfold in the schematic design phase.

“These early conceptual designs of the Music Center reflect the artistry and dedication of our team working closely with our architectural partners to bring this vision to life,” says Sarasota Orchestra President & CEO Joseph McKenna. “Our Music Center will enhance the region’s cultural landscape and create a prideful place that is truly unique for our community.”

The firm says its new campus is imbued with a metaphorical reference that can be read as





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a musician’s journey from student to professional. The next update will follow this fall as the design phase progresses.

In a press release, Principal Cliff Gayler said, “We are currently in the ‘clay stage’ of this process. While the design is not yet complete, a distinct sense of personality is beginning to take form.”

The firm had previously designed the Linde Center for Music & Learning for the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s Tanglewood campus in western Massachusetts in 2019.



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Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922



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3 Beds 3 Baths 3,023 Sq. Ft.  
Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922



**3408 FAIR OAKS LANE | LONGBOAT KEY**  
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Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922



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\$1,495,000 - Bay Isles  
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**131 GARFIELD DRIVE #4D | LIDO BEACH**  
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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.

## Mara Vista Parking Lot

To: Jim Haft  
We brought this forward because we are concerned about this property on several fronts. It may come on the market as Ed Chiles is divesting property. If bought by Manatee County the parking lot could be an issue. There is legislation floating around Tallahassee that if someone builds one “affordable unit” they can build whatever they want with no review from the Town and our code is basically tossed out the window. We would have no input in how high or how big this “affordable housing” could be. Commissioner Gold and I spent most of a week in Tallahassee working to kill this legislation that could cause more damage to cities and towns across the state than any other Bill I have ever seen.  
No one at the Town wants to see any of the bad uses go on this property or combine the “old bank building” with the Chiles property for an even worse outcome.

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

## Public Records Request/Renewed Request for on-Site Meeting with Contractor

To: Steve Baril  
Thank you for reaching out! Yes, we had been waiting on a full set of plan revisions from our engineer-of-record, which we received today, a few days later than we were expecting, but nevertheless, the plans have been received. We have started our review of the plans and so far everything matches what we were expecting. Our goal is to finish our review by tomorrow morning and have the plans submitted to FDOT by close of business tomorrow for their final review and approval. FDOT may ask for additional information along the way, and the Town can provide that as we go. Once formally approved by FDOT, then we can give those plans to our contractor as the construction plans of record to proceed with for the remainder of the project. Please let me know if you have any questions at this time.  
Isaac Brownman  
Assistant Town Manager, Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 8

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Sunday, April 13  
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Letters, from page 4

Public Records Request/Renewed Request for on-Site Meeting with Contractor

To: Longboat Key Assistant Town Manager Isaac Brownman  
Great news! Thank you and Tip for working with us to get a better solution than what was originally planned.  
Steve Baril  
Longboat Key

Public Records Request/Renewed Request for on-Site Meeting with Contractor

To: Longboat Key Assistant Town Manager Isaac Brownman  
Thank you for taking time to meet with us today and explain the current situation with FDOT. We were pleased to learn that we're on the same page, which is much better than we thought. Please keep us informed of any further developments and let us know if we can do anything to help.  
Steve Baril  
Longboat Key

Public Records Request/Renewed Request for on-Site Meeting with Contractor

To: Longboat Key Assistant Town Manager Isaac Brownman  
I'm following up on the status of this matter. Please give us an update at your convenience.  
Steve Baril  
Longboat Key

Public Records Request/Renewed Request for on-Site Meeting with Contractor

To: Longboat Key Assistant Town Manager Isaac Brownman  
Thanks for your follow up. Those distances for all of the entrances would be acceptable and would be considerably better than the original plans. Let's make sure that it works. If there is any pushback, please let me know. Have a good day.  
Jack Brill  
Longboat Key

To: Jack Brill  
The concept we gave to the FDOT Design Engineer and Traffic Operations Manager had the curbed median end at the CCS Phase IV entrance moved further south by 60-ft. to 75-ft (roughly 3 car lengths with space in between each car). Because it is a longer median and a larger neighborhood entrance, we asked for more distance and gave two examples. For all of the other, smaller curbed medians, we asked for 50-ft. (roughly 2 car lengths with space in between each car). If we asked for any more on the smaller medians, there would not be much median left and risk not getting anywhere with those medians. Because we did not get a specific direction on a certain length for the Phase IV entrance, we are going to approach the design revision with the longer 75-ft. to provide more room.  
The District Design Engineer indicated that while the design change is not ideal from their perspective, they understand the concern and were agreeable to the Town proceeding down the path of a design revision. And as on all state roads, they also noted that FDOT reserves the right to alter the medians if an operational or safety issue manifests as a result in the future. This is typical on any state road after a road is constructed if an operational or safety issue arises. Please let me know if you have any questions.  
Isaac Brownman  
Assistant Town Manager, Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 8

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Letters, from page 6

Public Records Request/Renewed Request for on-Site Meeting with Contractor

To: Longboat Key Assistant Town Manager Isaac Brownman  
Good morning. In the feedback, what is the footage to move the concrete mediums back on the field adjustment to open up turning left headed south? Thanks.  
Jack Brill  
Longboat Key

Public Records Request/Renewed Request for on-Site Meeting with Contractor

To: Steve Baril  
Thank you, and I agree. I would be happy to go over our respective design concepts. Would you like to come by this afternoon, and we can share respective information? My thought was that if FDOT did not believe any changes would be warranted, a neighborhood meeting would be prudent at that point so that FDOT could hear the concerns directly. However, and pleasantly, yesterday we received positive feedback and were asked to develop the concept out into an engineering revision.  
I would be happy to go over it as we will be having our engineer revise our construction plans. I have a meeting a meeting at 4 p.m., otherwise, I am available anytime between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Just let me know so that I can block the time. Thank you!  
Isaac Brownman  
Assistant Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

Public Records Request/Renewed Request for on-Site Meeting with Contractor

To: Longboat Key Assistant Town manager Isaac Brownman  
Thank you for your prompt and fulsome response. We are pleased to learn that the Town and FDOT are working on a preliminary design amendment. We also have a recommended design amendment and would be happy to discuss our respective proposals at your convenience.  
To be clear here, CCSIV is solely motivated by safety concerns for the residents of and visitors to LBK who will travel GMD. In our view, the current design is unsafe and would present serious safety hazards as designed. We assume this is the sole concern of all interested parties. I look forward to hearing from you at your convenience.  
Steve Baril  
Longboat Key

Public Records Request/Renewed Request for on-Site Meeting with Contractor

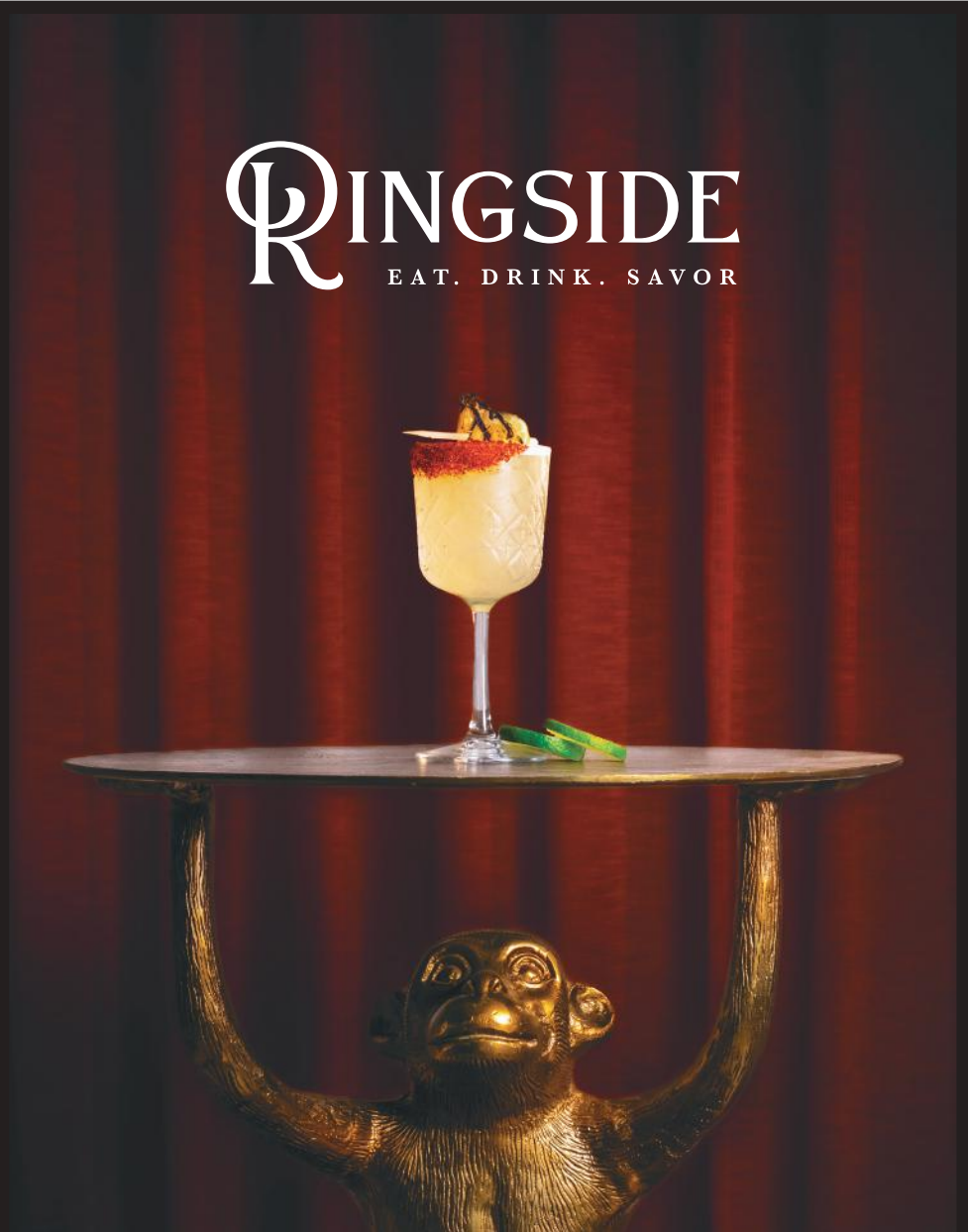
To: Steve Baril  
Thank you for reaching out. As discussed with you briefly last week, the Town is working with our Florida Department of Transportation (“FDOT”) contacts on a solution to move

the curb ends further south to allow more room for vehicles to stack. We are making positive progress. As I explained, a meeting with CCS would be one of need and, more importantly, timing. If the Town and FDOT begin making progress towards a solution, a meeting with the neighborhood and the contractor or the neighborhood and FDOT could be counter-productive, particularly with the rhetoric of cancelling the project as some in the neighborhood are stating. That was new to me as of the February 20, 2025 CCS Phase IV Annual Association meeting. I would not facilitate a Town-supported CCS meeting with either the contractor nor the FDOT if the prevailing neighborhood position became one of canceling the project -- that was not my agreement nor do I support that position as that would effectively shut down our ability to negotiate a design solution with FDOT. As an FYI, the contractor himself cannot make changes without FDOT approval, and FDOT is reviewing our request and has advised on next steps with a good initial response.  
The Town planned to make the first strides in those conversations from an engineering standpoint. If that was not clear, I apologize, however, I believe I made that very clear at the CCS Phase IV association meeting on February 20, 2025. As mentioned, the FDOT is currently working with the Town on our preliminary design amendment, and they have asked us to begin developing full design plan revisions and running it through their “Local Agency Program”. I would be happy to discuss this with you further. I should be available all of tomorrow afternoon.  
Isaac Brownman  
Assistant Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

Public Records Request/Renewed Request for on-Site Meeting with Contractor

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle  
Following up on the foregoing request for records, I am writing on behalf of the Homeowners Association (“HOA”) of Country Club Shores IV (“CCSIV”), to renew our request for an onsite meeting with the contractor regarding the planned improvements to Gulf of Mexico Drive.  
By way of background, the President of the HOA and I met with Isaac Brownman and Charlie Mopps on November 12, 2024, to discuss CCSIV’s concerns about the impending GMD project. We were promised that they would arrange a in-person meeting in February, 2025 when the contractor would be onsite. Last week, when the meeting had not been arranged, I spoke with Mr. Brownman and was informed that the Town had already met with the contractor and was awaiting a response. There was no commitment to the promised meeting with the contractor.  
This past Saturday, Lynn Larson and I had the opportunity to speak to Mr. Tipton, and we informed him of our disappointment that the meeting had not been arranged. Suffice it to say, that conversation was less than satisfactory.  
Accordingly, I am writing on behalf of CCSIV to renew our request for an in-person, onsite meeting with the contractor at the earliest opportunity given the exigency of the circumstances. Thank you for the Town’s consideration in this regard.  
Steve Baril  
Longboat Key

See Letters, page 12



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## Town of Longboat Key

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

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**Board of Trustees**  
**Planning and Zoning Board**  
**Zoning Board of Adjustment**  
**Sarasota County Citizens Oversight**  
**Committee for Public School Facility Planning**

All applications must be submitted to the Office of the Town Clerk **by 12:00 p.m. on April 23, 2025**. All applicants must be registered voters of the Town of Longboat Key. Late applications will be held for one year for any future board/committee vacancies that may arise.

All members of the Planning and Zoning Board, and Zoning Board of Adjustment are required to file a financial disclosure form within 30 days after appointment and annually thereafter for the duration of the appointment as required by Florida Statutes Chapter 112.

The Town Commission may schedule a Meet and Greet with applicants at a later date. Please call the Office of the Town Clerk at 941-316-1999 for an application or if you have any questions. Applications are also available online at: [www.longboatkey.org](http://www.longboatkey.org). Completed 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 II  
Published: 04-04-2025, 04-11-2025





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230 Sands Point Rd #3501  
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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.

## March 28 Citizen Assist

6:48 p.m.  
Officer Troyer responded to Old Compass Road for a broken water pipe. The caller said the house next door which was being demolished had a broken water line and was leaking. The caller was concerned about flooding. Longboat Key Fire Department arrived on scene and determined the leak wasn't a danger to other property or life. The leak was very minor and did not need any attention. The house was freshly demolished as well. Case clear.



## March 29 Vehicle

2:20 a.m.  
Officer Troyer while on patrol saw a white BMW parked in the driveway at the 4400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive with the running lights on. Officer Troyer made contact with the owner who stated she recently had surgery and fell asleep without turning the lights off. The homeowner was very thankful for the police assistance. Case clear.

## March 30 Information

7:20 p.m.  
Officer Troyer was dispatched to Sands Point Road on the report of a citizen assist call. The caller reported her white Volkswagen was struck by their neighbor in the parking lot. Upon arrival, Officer Troyer met with the caller who said she went out to her vehicle and observed an orange paint transfer on the right rear bumper of her vehicle. The caller also said her neighbor left but did not believe the neighbor knew their vehicles made contact and felt there was no malicious intent. The caller provided pictures which showed paint transfer on the neighbor's vehicle as well as the license plate number. Officer Troyer cleared the license plate and found the name of the registered owner. Officer Troyer spoke with the owner about her options as to how she wanted to handle the call to which the caller insisted she would speak with the neighbor about the damage and handle the issue civilly. Officer Troyer also provided the caller with information on how to file her own traffic crash report with Florida Highway Motor Vehicles. Case clear.

## March 31 Parking

12:05 a.m.  
Sgt. Montfort while on patrol observed a two subjects in the parking area of the beach access. Sgt. Montfort made contact with the subjects who advised they were on a date. The subjects provided their driver's licenses and a FCIC/NCIC check was conducted with negative results for wants or warrants. Case clear.

## Fishing

12:41 a.m.  
Sgt. Montfort while on patrol observed a vehicle parked and occupied in the parking lot of Bay Isles Road. Sgt. Montfort made contact with the operator and registered owner of the vehicle who stated he was about to depart the area. Moreover, the person stated he was behind the gates and was fishing. Sgt. Montfort advised that the area is private and could be subject to trespass by association members and security. The mentioned departed the area without incident. Case clear.

## Disturbance

11:43 p.m.  
Officer Miklos responded to Bayview Drive in reference to a disturbance. Sarasota Sheriff's Office advised that the woman was in a verbal argument with her boyfriend at an unknown location. The location was found via rapid within 4 meters with a 95 percent confidence. Upon

arrival near Gulf of Mexico Drive and General Harris, officers came into contact with the female caller who wished to talk to officers down the street. The location was moved to Gulf of Mexico Drive. The caller advised she was in a verbal argument with her boyfriend of three months regarding an ex-boyfriend. The caller said she didn't reside with the boyfriend. She said she was trying to reverse out of the driveway when the boyfriend said she ran over his foot. The girlfriend advised officers that she did not believe she ran over his foot and that he was just trying to get her to stay and talk. The girlfriend said that if she did run over his foot, it was unintentional due to boyfriend standing near the side of her vehicle. The girlfriend advised she did not want to file a police report and just called because the boyfriend said he was going to call the police. The girlfriend confirmed multiple times that she was not injured and the argument was strictly verbal. The girlfriend did not have any visible signs of injuries or trauma. While speaking to her, the boyfriend repeatedly called her phone. Officer Miklos attempted to speak to the boyfriend on the phone, but he was not cooperative and advised he only wished to speak with his girlfriend. Officer Miklos conducted an NCIC check which returned negative results. At this time, due to no evidence of a crime and both parties being uncooperative, the woman was allowed to leave, she advised that she wasn't going to be returning to the address. Case clear.

## April 1 Dog on beach 2:44 p.m.

Officer Troyer while on marine patrol, observed a black dog on a leash accompanied by a small child on Greer Island beach. Officer Troyer pulled his boat to the beach and made contact with a man who was the child's father. The man identified himself by a State of Georgia's driver's license. Officer Troyer informed the man of the ordinance which prohibits non-service animals on the beaches. Officer Troyer pointed out the signs posted on the beach to which he said he did not see them posted. Officer Troyer cleared him for any wants or warrants and issued a civil citation. Case clear.

## Citizen assist

8:12 p.m.  
Officer Miklos was dispatched to Byron Lane in reference to a house with flashing lights across a retention pond. Officer Miklos made contact with the caller who showed officers the house and advised he did not need to follow up with them as they were just concerned about the residence. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos made contact with the caller and requested permission to cut through his backyard to find the house with flashing lights. The man accompanied Officer Miklos through his yard and discovered the lights were coming from his neighbor. The man advised the house was recently sold and wasn't sure of the owner's contact information. The man was able to look through the HOA documents and found a phone number to the neighbor. Officer Miklos made contact with the neighbor who advised they would be en route to check the residence. While typing the report, the homeowner arrived on scene and advised a dimmer switch was hit by accident. Case clear.

## April 2 Vehicle

3:00 p.m.  
Officer Ramsaier was dispatched to 5700 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a parked suspicious vehicle. Upon arrival, Officer Ramsaier observed the silver Honda Odyssey, parked on the shoulder. Officer Ramsaier conducted a query on the vehicle which was occupied at the time of the stop. Officer Ramsaier made contact of the owner of the vehicle, he said he had pulled over in a shady area because he needed to send an email. Negative results on suspicious vehicle as the owner was in the vehicle and the query did not reveal the vehicle was stolen. Case clear.

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545 SANCTUARY DR Unit#B-504	3,115	\$3,750,000	3	3	1	17	\$3,575,000
3314 BAYOU RD	4,004	\$2,950,000	4	4	1	0	\$2,834,000
590 HIBISCUS WAY	2,232	\$2,350,000	3	3	1	282	\$2,075,000
4239 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#MH4	1,549	\$1,450,000	3	2	0	23	\$1,215,000
4320 FALMOUTH DR Unit#B306	1,316	\$849,000	2	2	0	0	\$825,000
5393 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#216	1,300	\$780,000	2	2	0	2	\$760,000
328 MONROE DR	3,931	\$3,795,000	8	8	0	223	\$3,600,000
117 S POLK DR	2,583	\$3,300,000	4	4	0	24	\$3,000,000
432 PARTRIDGE CIR	2,612	\$2,299,000	4	3	0	3	\$2,150,000
430 MONROE DR	3,467	\$1,500,000	5	5	0	81	\$1,325,000
1770 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#204	900	\$650,000	1	1	0	34	\$550,000



328 MONROE DR



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# Editor Letters

## Letters, from page 8 Public Records Request/Renewed Request for on-Site Meeting

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle  
Good morning. Hope all is well. On behalf of the Board of Country Club shores 4, I am requesting the records of all correspondence from November1, 2024 - March 10, 2025 between Howard Tipton, Isaac Bowman and any member of FDOT regarding the GMD left turn lane project. If there are any costs in this process, we will gladly pay for them. Please let me know of any questions. Thank you for your help on this matter. Have a great day.  
Jack Brill  
Longboat Key

## Tree removals

To: Longboat Key Commission  
Dear Commissioners, thank you for your service to Longboat Key. I have been serving my community near Pittsburgh for over 25 years and understand it can sometimes be a thankless job. I am writing concerning the requirement to plant two trees for every one removed. I would generally support this practice as our municipality tries to do the same. We have had a tree committee for 40 years, and were early to recognize this need. The recent hurricanes create an undue financial hardship to property owners when there is so much more to do at great cost. I think it would be reasonable

to only have one to one replacement as a result of the hurricane. If this can't be agreed to, I would suggest a five year time frame for the second tree replacement. Thanks for your consideration.  
Alex Scott  
Center Associates  
Pittsburgh, PA

## Tree removals

To: Alex Scott  
The Town Commission agreed to review this at our April meeting several weeks ago. We totally understand the impact of the hurricanes on the island and the cost homeowners are dealing with to restore or rebuild their homes. Thank you for reaching out.  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner. Town of Longboat Key

## Canal maintenance assessment

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra Williams  
Ma'am, I did reach out to the Team on March 28 and inquired about you thoughts. I was hoping to get something back soon than later and reached out to them again today. I apologize for not getting back to you sooner. As soon as I have something from the team I will share it with you.  
Charles Mopps  
Public Works Director  
Town of Longboat Key

## Canal maintenance assessment

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Charlie Mopps  
After the last workshop discussion regarding canal maintenance assessments, I started thinking about what an assessment program would look like if we removed the ad valorem component completely, and simply used the EBU's for direct benefit properties, and a non-EBU for non-direct benefit properties. This would simplify the assessment methodology, and, in my honest opinion, move the program toward an even fairer strategy. For example, a \$3 million non direct property gets no more/less utility from not having a canal than a \$1 million non direct property, so why use an ad-valorem assessment? the 80 percent/20 percent cost split between direct/non-direct properties could still be maintained. Was this a method that the consultants considered?  
Debra Williams  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

## Tree replacement policy

To: Longboat Key Commission  
We are writing to you today to encourage your consideration of a hurricane disaster exception for Longboat Key's current two-for-one tree replacement policy.  
We are owners of an LBK condominium and while we applaud the original intent of this requirement, we feel this requirement should be amended to a one-for-one replacement for any trees which need to be removed due to the 2024 hurricanes. Thank you for your service to our community and town.  
Cathy and Chip Lothes  
Longboat Key

## North-end center

100% agreement with Pete. I think there would be universal opposition on the north end to providing additional beach parking in the Mar Vista lot.  
James G. Haft  
Longboat Key

## North-end center

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
Good morning Tip. It is mentioned in a recent Observer article (attached) that the 88 parking spaces at the 'Mar Vista' parking lot on GMD could be used for beach parking. Please be aware that all feedback that we have received on this topic thinks that is a terrible idea and nobody seems to want a Coquina Beach II like facility.  
Thank you for considering this input.  
Pete Rowan  
Longboat Key

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# The high cost of tariffs on Wine

*Trump in 2018 tried to strike back at France with tariffs on wine. France retaliated with tariffs on US whiskey imports. Both sides left small farmers, importers, retailers, bars, and restaurants in distress. Neither side gained from this strange little trade war.*

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

Our Wizard of Odd in the White House has increased tariffs on imports on European Union imports, including wines, to 20%. The old myth that says tariffs make others pay our taxes appeals to Donald (“Mexico will pay for the wall”) Trump and Florida Governor Ron (“Let tourists pay our taxes”) DeSantis. Both delight in bringing chaos to supposed free markets and in seeing people fear what they might actually do. Trump in 2018 tried to strike back at France with tariffs on wine. France retaliated with tariffs on US whiskey imports. Both sides left small farmers, importers, retailers, bars, and restaurants in distress. Neither side gained from this strange little trade war.

To be clear about it, a tariff amounts to nothing more than a tax on specific imports and, in some instances, only if those imports come from specified countries of origin; in contrast to discretionary tariffs, a state sales tax applies to a broad group of products, and federal and state excise taxes apply to specific products (including alcoholic beverages) sold within a country, a state, or a local jurisdiction. The framers of the Constitution of the United States sought to limit the use of tariffs and excise taxes to favor political allies or harm political enemies within the USA. For example, the Constitution forbids any state from imposing tariffs on imports from other states.

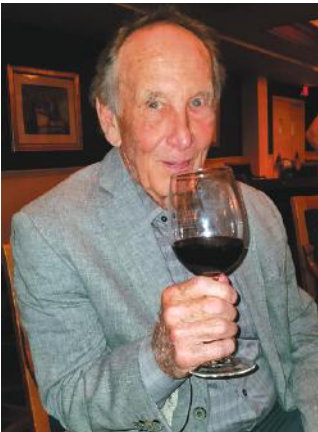
The Congress has authorized tariffs on imports from other countries, frequently on alcoholic beverages, to retaliate against countries that compete too effectively against products made in the USA. In 1828, Congress increased tariffs on imports by 50% and added a tariff of 15 cents per gallon on imported spirits such as rum. These large increases in tariff rates outraged the citizens of southern states who saw them as discriminatory restrictions of free trade. This dispute continued for decades into the era of the Civil War.

The Trump administration is trying to undermine the intent of the framers of the Constitution by pressing ahead with a claim that the executive branch has the authority to impose tariffs despite the plain and simple language of Article 1, Section 7, Clause 1: “All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives....”. The Constitution further gives the Congress, not the Executive, the power to raise and spend money for the welfare of the United States. Federalist Society members who have made a point of carrying copies of the Constitution in their back pockets should pull them out and reread Article 1.

The US Congress has given the Executive Branch a role in setting tariff rates during negotiations with other countries. The new administration is using that limited authority as a pretext for preempting what the framers of the Constitution called the “power of the purse”.

Reserving the exclusive right to initiate new taxes for the House of Representatives helps keep taxation decisions in the public eye and prevents co-opting the power of the purse to reward political allies and destroy political rivals. Trump’s threat of a 200% tariff on European wine has already stalled expected shipments by small family wineries in France and Italy to importers in the USA and left the wineries in financial distress. This power to play with the livelihoods of people abroad and this country is too tempting for an aspiring dictator to resist.

How could advocates of free enterprise condone the Trump revenge tour’s efforts to crush imports of French Champagne, Bordeaux, and Burgundy, Italian Barolo and Montalcino, Spanish Godello and Tempranillo, and Portuguese Port with prohibitive tariffs? None of these



iconic wine varieties have an unfair advantage, other than good taste, in competition with Napa Cabs, Willamette Valley Pinot Noir, or any other of the many European grapes now grown in the USA. When did the Executive Branch of the federal government gain the right to dip this deep into taxes on imported goods?

Tariffs and excise taxes on alcoholic beverages should have a role in regulating the alcoholic beverage industry in the USA. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) must keep dangerous products off the market and protect businesses that pay tariffs and excise taxes from bootleggers and counterfeiters. The agency should not favor or harm allies or rivals, or for that matter, cater to political leaders.

Defending what many would consider an elitest commodity, European wine, may seem, well, elitist and too trivial to call out as a constitutional crisis, yet it seems just plain wrong to have a leader of a powerful democracy haggling with other countries over the fates of one signature industry after another. It puts a crack in the wall protecting the powers reserved to the House of Representatives and the democratic foundations of the country. The intricate international network of trading partners of businesses in the USA is fraying and the stock market is reeling as a result. Congress and the courts must step in and end the chaos of executive overreach. The Trump administration is making a WWF spectacle of what should be mundane and rational trade negotiations.

*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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Birds, from page 1



Judy Kozlowski and Steve Baker



Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon, Paul Karon, Jim and Janet Standard



Sharon Bloodworth was the presenting sponsor donating \$20,000 with her team from White Oaks Wealth Advisors.



David and Marcia Gutridge



Sarah and Paul Karon with Cynthia Craig and Longboat Mayor Ken Schneier



Linda and Mel Rhinelander



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*I'm Chris Pinto, and together with my wife, Tiana, we've been happily serving Long Island, New York, for the past 20 years. We recently moved to Sarasota with our four adorable puppies, and we're beyond excited to bring our passion for service to your community!*





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EN PROVEANCE • \$4,995,000  
2161 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #3  
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3BR/3.5BA • 3,800 SF • Gulf front terrace



ORCHID BEACH CLUB • \$2,850,000  
2050 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR. #A601  
SARASOTA, FL  
3BR/3.5BA • 3,242 • Beach/Bay views



MARINA BAY • \$2,695,000  
2410 HARBOURSIDE DR., #121  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
3BR+FAMILY ROOM/3.5BA • 3,825 SF



PROMENADE • \$2,250,000  
1211 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #401  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
3BR/3BA • 2,100 SF • Gulf & Bay views



MARINA BAY • \$1,999,000  
2550 HARBOURSIDE DR., #322  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
3BR/2.5BA • 2,830 • Updated



EMERALD POINTE NORTH - \$1,899,000  
2065 HARBOUR LINKS DRIVE  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
3BR/3.5BA • 2,865 SF • Updated



GRAND BAY • \$1,795,000  
3010 GRAND BAY BLVD. #482  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
3BR/3.5BA • 2,250 SF • Furnished



LONGBOAT KEY TOWERS • \$1,595,000  
603 LONGBOAT CLUB RD., #1102N  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
2BR/2BA • 1,458 SF • Gulf & Bay views



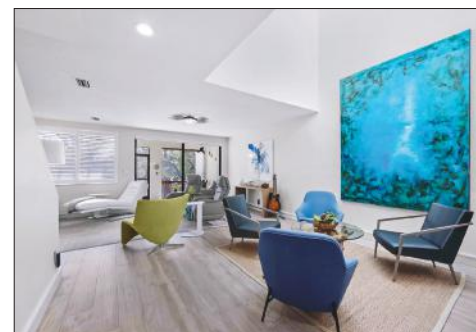
THE MARK • \$1,295,000  
111 S. PINEAPPLE AVE., #1004  
SARASOTA, FL  
2BR/2.5BA • 1,513 SF • City views



COREY'S LANDING • \$1,235,000  
3467 BYRON LANE  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
3BR/2.5BA • 2,227 SF • 2-Car garage



HARBOR OAKS • \$1,095,000  
2129 HARBOURSIDE DR., #901  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
3BR/2.5BA • 2,219 SF • Golf views



FAIRWAY BAY • \$995,000  
1900 HARBOURSIDE DR., #102  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
2BR/2.5BA • 1,590 • Updated • Boat Dock



BAYPORT BEACH & TENNIS CLUB • \$895,000  
520 BAYPORT WAY  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
2BR/2BA • 1,456 SF • Gulf to Bay



PLAYERS CLUB • \$895,000  
1485 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #205  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
2BR/2.5BA • 1,569 SF • Gulf front



JUST LISTED

FAIRWAY BAY • \$885,000  
1928 HARBOURSIDE DR., #1404  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
2BR/2BA • 2,565 SF • Furnished



LBK YACHT & TENNIS CLUB - \$869,900  
4215 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #103  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
2BR/2BA • 1,497 • Furnished



ISLANDER CLUB • \$799,000  
2301 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #85N  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
2BR/2BA • 1,235 SF



NOW PENDING

L'AMBIANCE • \$2,995,000  
415 L'AMBIANCE DR., #C404  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
3BR/3.5BA • 2,820 SF • Furnished



NOW PENDING

BIRD KEY - \$4,150,000  
524 N. SPOONBILL DRIVE  
SARASOTA, FL  
3BR/3BA • 3,425 SF • Waterfront



NOW SOLD

EMERALD POINTE NORTH - \$1,770,000  
2063 HARBOUR LINKS DR. #6  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
3BR/3.5BA • 3,056 SF • Represented Buyer

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