

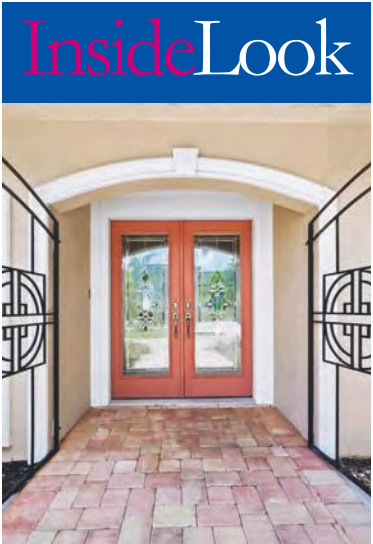


Longboat Key News

September 22, 2023

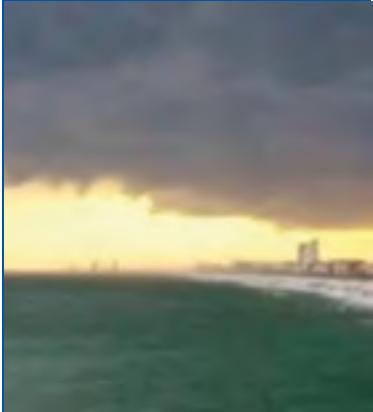
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FREE



InsideLook

Bird Key home
tops the sales
...page 8



Storm prep on
Longboat Key
...page 14



What to look for
in a varietal
...page 13



Raining ceiling
prompts a call
...page 10

Longboat Pickleballers want to re-stripe remaining Bayfront Park tennis court

Public Works can temporarily tape the remaining tennis court as a shared pickleball/tennis court as a “pilot” effort for the remainder of February, March, and April 2024. Public Works would then monitor and report back to the Town Manager.

The Longboat Key pickleball community has posited a theory that the pickleball demand can be addressed by striping the remaining tennis court at Bayfront Park for shared use. The presumption is that the additional two courts would cycle players through faster and not appreciably increase the number of pickleball players using Bayfront Park during the “busy” season.

In recent years, pickleball has grown in popularity as a recreational activity. Bayfront Park currently has five (5) pickleball courts: three (3) dedicated courts and two (2)

shared courts striped onto a tennis court.

Concerns have been raised by multiple park users regarding parking availability, mostly between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. for peak season users, as a result of pickleball “open play,” simultaneous fitness class participation, and other recreation users of the park.

Pickleball users have also expressed a desire to expand pickleball court capacity at the park. Parking demand, while high from January through March between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m., does fluctuate,

and the scenario of “no available spaces” does not occur every morning.

The Town Commission discussed these matters last February and in May. The Town Commission directed the Town Manager to explore measures to mitigate parking capacity constraints and consider options to manage the pickleball demand. Below are the results of that effort:

- Public Works is expanding parking onsite, creating an additional 14 shell parking spaces since the beginning of 2023, a 23% increase in

See Pickleball, page 2

Scientists Gather in the Face of Manatee County Wetlands Cutbacks

The issue of wetland buffers has been a central topic of debate in Manatee County for the past several months

“I’m not being shown any data to back up good intentions,” claimed Manatee County Commissioner Kevin Van Ostenbridge at a Land Use Meeting last month. Commissioner Van Ostenbridge is one of the six Manatee County Commissioners in charge of protecting remaining wetlands and aquatic buffers under the Manatee County Comprehensive Plan who claim there is insufficient science to support current policies. Local protection for wetlands and aquatic buffers are policies established under the Comprehensive Plan’s goals for ensuring clean water and healthy populations of native plants and animals. Suncoast Waterkeeper knows there is abundant scientific evidence to support these policies and that is why the group has invited scientists who research these issues to speak at a free public meeting on Tuesday, September 26, 6:00 p.m., at the Bradenton Woman’s Club.

Wetlands center stage...

The issue of wetland buffers has been a central topic of debate in Manatee County for the past several months, following proposed changes to Comprehensive Plan Policies related to wetland and waterway protections. The motivation for these changes is unclear, though there have been reports linking developers to the expert hired by the county to find these regulatory rollbacks when red tide was still blooming off the coast.

In the most recent Land Use Meeting with the wetlands item on the agenda, 4 hours of public comment contained pleas to the BOCC full of both passion and logic from scientists, engineers, professionals,

See Wetlands, page 2

Seaside Stroll



Beach access on Longboat Key. Photo by Bob Parrish

LONGBOAT KEY POLICE DEPARTMENT						
Year to date Quarterly Report Comparison chart FY23 to FY22						
PROCESS	FY22 1 ST QTR	FY23 1 ST QTR	FY22 2 ND QTR	FY23 2 ND QTR	FY22 3 RD QTR	FY23 3 RD QTR
TOTAL SERVICE CALLS	3051	3650	3424	3841	4113	4135
FELONY ARRESTS	3	5	3	8	0	16
MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS	9	77	12	57	18	73
TRAFFIC TICKETS	53	267	75	421	112	403
TRAFFIC WARNINGS	181	458	188	390	235	660
PARKING TICKETS	62	67	164	62	192	155
PARKING WARNINGS	30	10	26	27	7	45
ACCIDENTS WITH INJURIES	3	2	3	7	5	3
ACCIDENTS WITHOUT INJURIES	19	23	24	23	16	16

Wetlands, from page 1

and residents. In the face of outright disapproval from their constituents, the Board still voted 6-1 to transmit to the state, with the opposing vote coming from Commissioner Kruse.

During the meeting, County Commissioners and the county’s hired expert stated that scientific data would be needed to justify keeping the policies.

Panel to stress science

Suncoast Waterkeeper aims to bring the science to the public and the Board, through a panel moderated by wetlands scientist, Executive Director and Waterkeeper, Dr. Abbey Tyrna. Panelists include Dr. AJ Reisinger from the University of Florida, and Ed Sherwood from the Tampa Bay Estuary Program. Each panelist will present for 15 minutes, followed by a Q+A with the entire panel for 30 minutes. Suncoast Waterkeeper will record the presentations for later broadcast through METV.

This panel is a continued effort to Save Our Wetlands and follows a public petition which has garnered 2,168 signatures and counting. Other organizations supporting this fight include ManaSota-88, East Manatee Preservation, Waterline Road Preservation Group, Speak Out Manatee, Florida Kids for Clean Water, Manatee League of Women Voters, and Manatee Fish and Game.

Pickleball, from page 1

parking.

- Public Works continues negotiating with Frontier for the use of their adjacent property for overflow parking. Their site could potentially generate up to 14 spaces.
- Public Works is moving the tennis backboards from the shared pickleball/tennis court to the dedicated tennis court. This will ensure a tennis backboard user does not tie-up use of the shared pickleball courts.
- Public Works also purchased improved portable pickleball nets for the shared courts.
- Public Works will be resurfacing all the pickleball and tennis courts. That effort is planned to start in October.

With the expanded parking alone, Public Works believes it is worth observing how the additional parking capacity addresses the concerns of both the pickleball and fitness class communities for the upcoming 2024 season.

In addition, Public Works has held several discussions with one of the pickleball liaisons about the popularity of peak season “open play,” which is the driving factor to high demand during peak season mornings.

Currently pickleball “open play,” the most popular style of play, is accommodated on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays on the shared courts. Tennis “open play” is accommodated on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

When not in use on Tuesdays and Thursdays, pickleball “open play” continues on those days. “Open play” is a mini-tournament style of play that allows for social recreating of larger groups. Options to manage peak season “open play” demand were discussed as follows:

- Change Pickleball morning “open play” hours to designated times based on skill level. This is less preferred by the pickleball liaison than the current unrestricted “open play” and Town believes that would be difficult to monitor and enforce.
- Change Pickleball “open play” hours to afternoons only. This, says the Town, is much less preferred as many in the Town prefer social recreating in the mornings.
- Reservation system and part-time staffing. This is far less preferred as the pickleball liaison is concerned with how this would function with the “open play” style of social recreating. The Town agrees that it would add a layer of complexity and also notes that this would add cost and potential additional staffing elements.

A New Stripe...

Longboat Key Public Works is recommending the following: if the expanded parking appears to be working favorably during the early part of the 2024 peak season (January and early February), then Public Works can temporarily tape the remaining tennis court as a shared pickleball/tennis court as a “pilot” effort for the remainder of February, March, and April 2024. Public Works would then monitor and report back to the Town Manager.

Other enhancements Public Works is reviewing include adding lighting to the dedicated pickleball courts for evening and night play and adding a live feed camera so that pickleball users can self-manage demand.



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LONGBOAT KEY AUGUST 2023 MARKET UPDATE

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	AUG 2023	Y/Y %
Closed Sales	13	85.7%
Cash Sales	10	42.9%
New Pending Sales	11	22.2%
New Listings	9	28.6%
Active Inventory	34	3.0%
Months Supply of Inventory	4.3	43.3%
Median Sale Price	\$2,875,000	3.6%
Average Sale Price	\$3,398,462	27%
Dollar Volume	\$44.2 Million	135.9%
Median % of Original List Price	87.2%	-5.5%
Median Time to Contract	81 Days	131.4%

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EditorLetters

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

St. Regis landscaping

To: Longboat Key Commission
Good morning, (despite the power outage). As you soon consider approving the revised St. Regis surface parking plan next to Gulf of Mexico Drive please be insistent about the developer providing a revised and definitive dense landscape plan to screen the big support building close to GMD.
As the developer said the previous planed multi-level garage between this building and GMD would have hidden the unsightly support building from view but not with the surface parking plan which we supported.
The large AC compressors on the roof are visible from GMD and across the street at a perpendicular angle despite the white “decorative”, pervious, screen fencing structure on the roof.
Thank you for your diligent help on this St. Regis landscape plan issue and post construction follow up. Also, for your service to our beautiful Community.
Bob and Shannon Gault
Longboat Key

FEMA DR-4734-FL Informative material 9.21.2023

To: Longboat Key Commission
Please see the following and attached FEMA information #14 fact Sheet Q&A on Individual Assistance program /English and Spanish version, #015 FEMA daily Fact Sheet on Hurricane Idalia's recovery and DR-4734-FL FS 015 on First Amendment Rights in Federal Facilities. You can share this information with public, distribute via your media outlets or posts at your social media websites. Thank you very much for helping hurricane Idalia survivors on recovery efforts.
Manuel Portela
FEMA/Governmental Affairs

Some input from one of your constituents

To: Longboat Key Commission
Some input from one of your constituents- Please make rules for the newly dredged area that conform to regular public beach rules. These rules are my suggestion and the new rules need to be enforced. Please contact me if you would like to discuss this “new beach” issue. If you don't make the rules and post them clearly that will be the new “no rules” and a source of confusion. You have the opportunity to establish a Nature Preserve protection area that will be conducive to peaceful enjoyment of a great resource for Longboat Key. Please make the importance of this issue clear to the Police and Town Manager. The manatee photos, nesting area for birds and turtles, resident osprey, eagles, blue herons and other seabirds will appreciate your help. This is a manatee and wildlife “hot spot” in need of your action and attention to protect it.
Tom Mayers
Longboat Key

Some input from one of your constituents

To: Tom Mayers
Thanks Tom. I meet with the town manager tomorrow. Will discuss.

BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Storm Committee

To: Longboat Key Residents
The Town is seeking full time residents to participate in a Before/Post Storm Committee. This Community Committee would work towards assisting the Town Manager, Howard Tipton and our Town Emergency Coordinator, Fire Chief Paul Dezzi, in formulating ways the town communicates, meeting the needs of our community prior to an event occurring, and recovery efforts if needed after a storm. We are looking at holding our first meeting at the end of January, 2024. For those interested, please email your name and phone number to tadams@longboatkey.org. We ask that you help us spread the word to our full-time residents and share this information with them. Anyone with questions may call our office at 941.316.1944.
Tina Adams
Fire Administration Manager/PIO
Longboat Key Fire Rescue Department

Future Community Committee - Before/Post Storm Incidents

To: Michael Garey
The Town is seeking full time residents to participate in a Before/Post Storm Committee. Please reach out to Tina if you are interested in serving or perhaps forward to someone who may be. I missed seeing this email earlier, while I was on vacation.
Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Future Community Committee - Before/Post Storm Incidents

To: Kathy Callahan
Kathy, I wanted to make sure you guys saw this.
Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

City of Sarasota Joint Meeting Agenda

To: Longboat Key Commission
After discussion today with City Manager Marlon Brown, the agenda for the joint meeting on October 9th from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. between the Town and the City of Sarasota is as follows:
U.S. 41 & Gulf Stream Roundabouts Update (FDOT invited to attend)
St. Armands Complete Street Vision (City)
New Pass Dredge/Sand Update (City/LBK)
St. Regis/Town Center Update (LBK)
City Downtown Development Updates (City)
Fruitville Road Discussion (City)
Water Taxis (City)
Marlon mentioned that as part of the St. Armands discussion, the uses of the park in the circle (think winterfest) will be talked about as well as the continued need for pedestrian cross walk guards to provide opportunities for vehicles to get through during the busy season.
We will work with the City to get the agenda out formally and to provide any backup materials that may be produced in advance (although likely most of this will be discussion at the table).
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 7

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Just three lots to the ICW from this over 2,500 sf, coastal 2015 built home. Living area and kitchen open to the patio and contemporary pool. The privacy of the second level offers two guest bedrooms with full bath, plus an extra lounge.

KeyOpinion

Cancel culture cuts to core of our culture

Freedom of expression is a core tenet of the American story, and any effort to stifle the open exchange of ideas is a step toward totalitarianism. A free society must have the courage and knowledge to hear all ideas, even the most controversial ones.

GREGORY RUSOVICH
Guest Writer
rusovich@lbknews.com

Since 2011, my family has co-sponsored a lecture series held in New Orleans centered on free markets and civil discourse. This year, our Civil Discourse Speaker Series featured T.K. Coleman, Director of Entrepreneurial Education at the Foundation for Economic Education and Co-host of The Minimalist Podcast. Coleman was also highlighted in the Netflix documentary, “Less Is Now”. During his lecture, T.K. presented a powerful defense of free speech, open communication, and individual agency. He demonstrated the inextricable correlation between free speech and an open and prosperous society.



RUSOVICH

Freedom of speech can be scary. Someone may make a

remark we find offensive or challenge our own predisposed opinion or belief. T.K. urges that we do not walk away from these difficult discussions, but rather thoughtfully engage. “Everyday life, actually, everything that matters is to show up for conversations, and persist through the complexities of difficult conversations. “Free, thoughtful speech requires work. It requires knowledge, preparation, and intellectual curiosity—all qualities needed for a free society to flourish and prosper. It’s easier to exchange freedom for security, but history has shown that this barter is frequently a road to serfdom. A related, disturbing trend has taken hold on many college campuses to stifle, or even shout down contrary opinions. One of the more egregious examples of shutting down free speech occurred recently at Stanford Law School. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Kyle Duncan was invited to speak to the school’s students on a variety of Supreme Court cases. Apparently, Judge Duncan had previously made some statements deemed offensive to the intolerant young elites present. Hence, a mob shout down and walk out by the law students,

and a lecture to the Judge by a self-righteous administrator. This is not an isolated incident. Campuses throughout the country are reluctant, or even refuse to invite “controversial” speakers to present their viewpoints. Universities should be the pinnacle of free-flowing ideas, exchange, and debate. Ditching free speech for intolerance is dangerous. T.K. observes, “We desire a society that fosters good ideas and creative insights, while simultaneously seeking refuge from the unsettling words and conversations that arise when freedom of expression is upheld.” Cancel culture and safe spaces provide protection from contrary opinions and offensive language, but also deter a legitimate response. Limiting free speech also minimizes debate, ultimately damaging societal, as well as individual intellectual growth. Speaking up to defend one’s position requires thought, research, and idea formulation. Truth and progress can only be attained through testing ideas and opinions in conversations and dialogue. Relatedly, the need to listen and learn from other points of view is a critical quality for a democracy. T.K. stated succinctly, “Curiosity gives you knowledge.”

All positions and ideas are not created equal. A well-researched and thought through stance is better than one not studiously explored. Directly contradicting societal improvement and learning is the dangerous concept of relativism. Relativism undermines improvement and deters the search for truth. T.K. poses an interesting assessment, “If all ideas are equal, why work to learn?” The call to engage in difficult conversations is not an invitation to ruin Thanksgiving dinner over a heated political discussion. Knowing how to be discerning and empathetic is also a quality which can enhance understanding and productive exchanges. Listening empathetically can diffuse negative energy and improve knowledge. Our subsequent response is then more likely to gain respect. And, once again, wisdom from our speaker, “One can be right without being righteous.” Freedom of speech is critical to a free society. Is there free speech in China? Iran? Russia? How about North Korea? Of course not. Freedom of expression is a core tenet of the American story, and any effort to stifle the open exchange of ideas is a step toward totalitarianism. A free society must have the courage and knowledge to hear all ideas, even the most controversial ones. T.K. best summarizes our choice, “Debates over cancel culture, safe spaces, and hate speech serve as mere glimpses into a broader dilemma that has endured since the inception of the United States. Should we advance what is best by restraining what is worst, or should we champion a society where all viewpoints are free to be voiced, even at the risk of causing harm?”

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EditorLetters

Letters, from page 4

City of Sarasota Joint Meeting Agenda

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Tip.. can you help me, I'm not familiar with Triton Beach access point thanks?
Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

City of Sarasota Joint Meeting Agenda

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin
Sure, I'll catch you up on that next week when I see you.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Longboat Landings

To: Florida Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Administrator Hannah Westervelt
I hope all is well with you. I was revisiting the Oculus link to the Longboat Landings complaint and didn't see any action since May 3. Has the referenced Consent Order been sent?
Also, I was biking this morning and observed the attached trimming which used windowing instead of hedging and was curious if a permit had been obtained and if so had it been inspected since the trimming was completed. I'm attaching an image and a location. Please let me know if you need any other information. I'm going by the site this morning and will try and get the physical address.
Rusty Chinnis
Board Chair

Longboat Landings

To: Rusty Chinnis
Hope you've been well! Happy Tuesday! The Longboat Landings Consent Order was recently approved by our general council and is just awaiting signature and issuance. We can provide a copy once it is issued.

As for the other concern, it is difficult for me to tell the exact location. If you are able to provide a physical address, it would be very helpful and we can look into the matter more closely and investigate.
Hannah Westervelt
Environmental Administrator
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Annual Recognition (Medal Day)

To: Longboat Key Commission
Annually we recognize those members and teams for the outstanding work and achievements throughout the year. We will be holding our Annual Medal Day on October 4, 2023 at Firehouse 91 (north firehouse) beginning at 9 a.m.
We would welcome you to join us if your schedule allows. We will have light refreshments and coffee available. Thank you and hope to see you there.
Paul Dezzi
Fire Chief
Town of Longboat Key

Bridge Street resort enters planning stage

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debbie Murphy
Hello you may be aware of this project but new info seems to say it's on a fast track. My concern is impeding traffic off our island especially as an evacuation route. Longboat Key paid an attorney consultant for the St. Armand's hotel project so I hope this one, which has even
See Letters, page 11

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632 MOURNING DOVE DR	2,743	\$2,895,000	3	2	1	79	\$2,550,000
627 OWL WAY	3,023	\$2,550,000	2	3	1	83	\$2,350,000
311 FIREHOUSE CT	2,743	\$2,495,000	3	3	1	0	\$2,495,000
549 YAWL LN	1,702	\$1,990,000	3	2	0	44	\$2,000,000
2425 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#6A	1,513	\$1,795,000	2	2	0	93	\$1,695,000
2425 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#13A	1,513	\$1,695,000	2	2	0	80	\$1,600,000
1085 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#305	1,819	\$995,000	3	2	0	225	\$995,000
100 SANDS POINT RD Unit#225	1,492	\$799,000	2	2	0	60	\$750,000
805 SPANISH DR N Unit#38	1,405	\$640,000	3	2	0	147	\$632,500
719 SPANISH DR S Unit#210	1,237	\$559,000	2	2	0	93	\$559,000
17 TWIN SHORES BLVD	960	\$329,900	2	2	0	24	\$325,000



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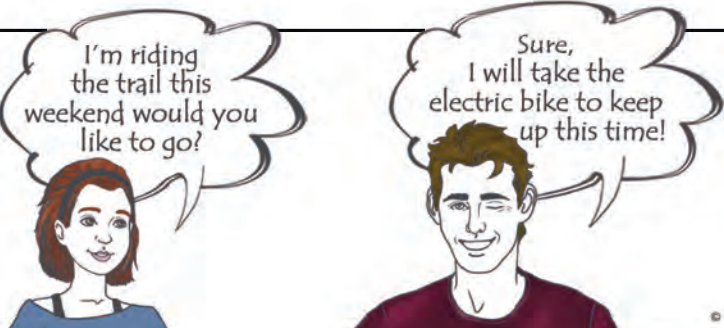
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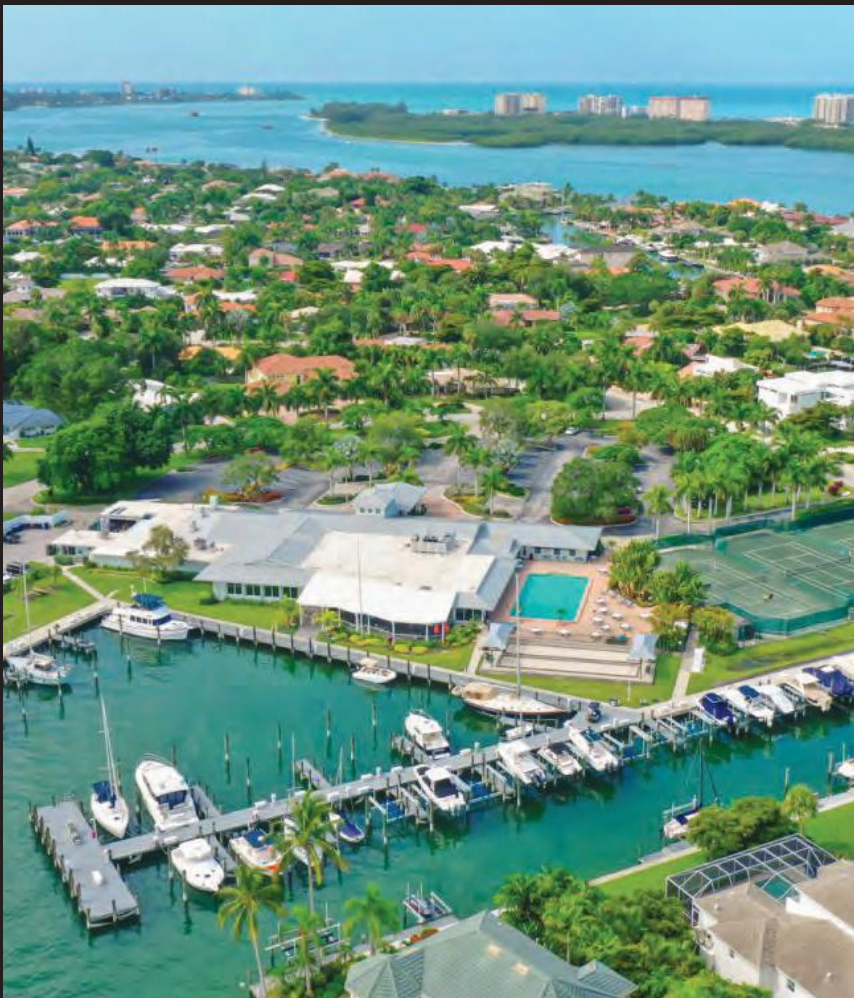
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BUYER REPRESENTED | \$3,300,000



114 N. WARBLER LANE
SELLER & BUYER REPRESENTED | \$3,100,000

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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.

Sept. 15

Abandoned 911

9:45 a.m.
Officer Ramsaier responded to the 5500 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for an abandoned 911 call. Upon arrival, the officer was met with the complainant who stated that he was doing work for the hotel and relocating the phone lines from one officer to another. He said he accidentally knocked the phone off line which caused the line to go dead. Case clear.

Sept. 16

Suspicious vehicle

3:39 a.m.
Officer Montfort while on patrol observed a vehicle parked and occupied at the entrance of Overlook Park. Sgt. Montfort made contact with the occupant who stated he was waiting for park opening to fish. The man said he was going to attempt to catch lady fish. The man was advised to relocate until the park opens at 5 a.m. The man complied and was sent on his way. Case clear.

Dog on the beach

3:45 p.m.
Officer Connors while on marine patrol in the area of Greer Island, observed a small dog on the beach which had swam from a nearby boat. Officer Connors advised the owner via the PA system, that dogs were not allowed on the beach. The owner acknowledged, waved and returned the dog back to the boat. Case clear.

Boating citation

4:45 p.m.
Officer Connors while on marine patrol, passed through South Lido and Big Sarasota Pass and observed a personal watercraft operating with two passengers with the rear passenger not wearing the required personal floatation device. Officer Connors observed the operator to be operating at a fast speed, conducting J type turns and donuts and from a short distance away, he observed the rear passenger get thrown off the personal watercraft as the operator was conducting these types of maneuvers. Officer Connors approached the watercraft and advised the operator the reason for the stop. The operator stated that he was just picking up his friend who was swimming in the water. The operator stated that he was just picking up his friend who was swimming in the water. The operator was unaware that he had been watching him. Officer Connors issued the operator a citation. Case clear.

Sept. 17

Suspicious vehicle

3:39 a.m.
Sgt. Montfort while on patrol, observed a vehicle at Bayfront Park after closing. Sgt. Montfort made contact with the operator and owner of the vehicle. The owner stated he was on his way home and stopped to use the restroom. The registered owner was advised of the park hours and sent on his way. Case clear.

Sept. 18

Citizen assist

6:35 a.m.
Officer Martinson was dispatched to Spanish Main Drive North for a citizen assist. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson was met by the caller and they pointed out the unmanned dinghy drifting northbound in the bay. Manatee Sheriff’s Office was notified since the Marine Unit was not in service. Case clear.



Citizen dispute

3:18 p.m.
Sgt. Puccio and Officer Miklos were dispatched to the 3800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a citizen dispute between a property manager and a construction crew. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos came into contact with the complainant who advised the construction crew installing the fiber cables for internet struck a water line to the complex. The complainant advised she had to turn the water off to the whole complex to stop the leaking water. The complainant stated she was unaware of any digging occurring near the 3800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Miklos spoke to the construction crew supervisor who advised he had taken the steps of calling 911 and having them mark any buried cables prior to his work. The complainant advised he believed the leak was near the sidewalk next to a filled in hole. At approximately 2:42 p.m., Public Works arrived on scene. Public Works attempted to locate and fix the water leak. The water was turned back on and a large stream of water appeared near the sidewalk and the filled in hole. The construction crew supervisor agreed to bring his equipment back to the location and attempt to locate the leak. At this time, the Public Works employee advised Sgt. Puccio and Officer Miklos that they did not need to stay at the location. Case clear.

Sept. 19

Found property

12:00 a.m.
Officer Green arrived at the lobby of the Longboat Key Police Department to turn in found property. At the time, she handed over what appeared to be an upper set of dentures. They were turned in cleaned by the finder and it will be held for 90 days as per policy with hopes of finding the owner. That concluded Officer Green’s involvement. Case clear.

Traffic hazard

6:13 p.m.
Officer Martinson was dispatched to the 1600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a traffic hazard. A ladder in the roadway in front of St. Regis. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson noticed the ladder was not in the road but was up in the grass. Public Works was notified to pick up the ladder. Case clear.

Sept. 20

Citizen assist

11:42 a.m.
Officer Ramsaier was dispatched to the 200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a citizen’s assist call. Upon arrival, Officer Ramsaier was met by two people who stated they came across a set of bones which looked like a spine and called police. The officer arrived at the location to where they found the set of bones. Officer Ramsaier called the Sarasota Medical Examiner who advised for the officer to take a photo and send it via text message to determine if the remains were human or not. Officer Ramsaier sent two pictures to the medical examiner who replied back that the bones were not of human remains. Case clear.

Suspicious incident

7:51 p.m.
Officer Ferrigine responded to Russel Street for a civil disturbance. Upon Officer Ferrigine’s arrival, the complainant advised that there were two men at her door. The complainant stated the men were trying to sell her internet services and would not leave her property for 20 minutes. Officer Ferrigine conducted an area canvass for the men and was negative. Case clear.

Citizen assist

11:28 p.m.
Officer Ferrigine responded to the 3600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a water line that broke in an apartment unit. The text of the call stated the caller was elderly and was too weak to turn the valve off. Upon Officer Ferrigine’s arrival, there was a heavy amount of water coming down from the ceiling into the garbage area from under the unit. Officer Ferrigine met with the caller who appeared to be confused about the issue. Longboat Key Fire Department responded and was able to turn the water off. The complainant had over an inch of standing water in his unit. The Fire Department was able to get some of the water out of the unit for the night while a clean up crew can respond in the morning. Case clear.

Sept. 21

Noise

7:34 a.m.
Officer Ramsaier was dispatched to Kingfisher Lane to meet with the complainant regarding noise from a construction site. The complainant stated they started work prior to 8 a.m. Officer Ramsaier made contact with the complainant who said that he is the supervisor on site for prepping the construction site for a pool at the location. The construction supervisor stated that he was unaware of the Longboat Key noise ordinance. The man said he was subcontracted by the company to the construction site. The worker was instructed regarding the noise ordinance rule and that hours of construction were only between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Case clear.

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 7

fewer alternate access routes, will merit attention. Thanks.
<https://www.islander.org/2023/08/bridge-street-resort-enters-planning-stage-at-city-hall/>
Laurel Gilbert Phillips
Longboat Key

Bridge Street resort enters planning stage

To: Laurel Phillips
Good evening. Thanks for sharing this article and for bringing this project status to my attention. I am surprised it has gained this much traction. The last time I checked, I had believed that the project had been put on hold due to community opposition regarding concerns over traffic congestion.
I am forwarding your email with my reply to our Town Manager for further comment regarding potential negative impacts to evacuation route accessibility. I am also copying our Town Attorney. I agree that we need to remain vigilant on how the feasibility for this project progresses.
Debbie Murphy
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Bridge Street resort enters planning stage

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debbie Murphy
Thank you so much Deborah- this has everlasting consequences for the North end.
Laurel Gilbert Phillips
Longboat Key

Request for appointment

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
We met yesterday at Medge's terrific opening. She is such an inspirational and dynamic person.
I would like to request a meeting with you regarding:
The Art of Performance series at Ringling Museum:
<https://www.ringling.org/explore/art-of-performance/>
Sarasota World Affairs Council:
www.sarasotawac.org
My goal is to inform you, other commission members, and LBK residents about these unique programs which both greatly contribute to our larger community. Thirty minutes max meeting time when possible.
Thanks in advance for your consideration and thanks again for supporting Medge...special

person!
Christopher Thorpe
Sarasota

Request for appointment

To: Christopher Thorpe
I have time available this coming Tuesday and Thursday afternoons (September 19 and 21). Let me know when you are free and where you would like to meet.
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Request for appointment

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
Many thanks for your reply. Let's plan for Thursday afternoon at either Longobad Key City Hall or Ringling if you would like to do a visit there and late lunch/early dinner at The Grillroom. I know it's a drive for you.
No problem for me to come to Longboat Key City Hall as I work from home in Phillippi Creek/Landings area.
Attached is flyer for Sarasota World Affairs Council (SWAC) lecture next month and link below to Tribune article on Ringling's program:
<https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/entertainment/arts/2023/09/17/ringlings-art-of-performance-series-plans-a-year-long-festival/70729906007/>
Please let me know a good time on Thursday afternoon at either City Hall or Ringling... they're open until 8 p.m. on Thursdays.
Christopher Thorpe
Sarasota

Tiger Dam System (Flood Control-Replacement of Sandbags)

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
It was a pleasure meeting you at the League of Cities. I tried calling you on your cell a min ago, went to voicemail. Thank you for stopping by the booth.
You said you would put me in contact with the right person in your City. Can you help me with that? I want to do a quick presentation to your Public Works, Emergency management individuals to educate them on preparation and prevention. I would also love to hear more about what they are doing to mitigate the flood issues.
I have attached the brochure in case you want to share it internally.

See Letters, page 12

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SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Editor Letters



Letters, from page 11

Please feel free to call or email me anytime if you have any questions. I'll be your point of contact if you need anything regarding flood control or preparation for a hurricane or storm.
Stefano Nardi
US Flood Control Corp

Tiger Dam System (Flood Control-Replacement of Sandbags)

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
I know you're busy preparing for Idalia, I wanted to let you know we have Tiger Dams in stock and ready for immediate mobilization.
Stefano Nardi
US Flood Control Corp

Tiger Dam System (Flood Control-Replacement of Sandbags)

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
I hope this message finds you well. I'm following up again to see if you had a chance to review my previous email about the Tiger Dam System. I believe it could offer valuable flood control solutions for Longboat Key.
Would you have a few minutes this week for a quick call to discuss this further? Looking forward to your response.
Stefano Nardi
US Flood Control Corp

Tiger Dam System (Flood Control-Replacement of Sandbags)

To: Stefano Nardi
Stefan I - are these feasible for residential use? Had a lot of flooding here last week.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Tiger Dam System (Flood Control-Replacement of Sandbags)

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
Yes, we use the Tiger Dam System for residential projects, primarily here in Florida. You're more than welcome to share my contact information with any residents in the area.
If the Town has any flood control needs, you can send me the address. I can either measure it via Google Earth or visit the location personally to assess it. Generally, we would need the following information to provide an accurate quote for the right size and configuration:
Project location with full site address, and your business address.
If possible, photos and or a Google Earth map that shows the areas of the site that need protection.
Approximate linear footage needed
Overall height of flood protection needed
The type of surface the dams will be placed on (concrete, asphalt, grass, sand)
Type of flood water expected – rising, rushing, storm surge, wave action, wake from passing vehicles.
Water source to fill Tiger Dams – Fire Hydrant, Flood Water, Free standing water source – lake, river, etc. Let me know if you have any questions.
Stefano Nardi
US Flood Control Corp

Beaches

To: Longboat Key Commission
I just read over again the article in the newspaper with your responses to the concerns I expressed at the budget meeting.
Many of our fellow citizens are of course away and thus unable to appear. Otherwise, I might not be the lonely voice in the wilderness I am now. It amazes me how disrespectful and patronizing some of you are, with your high-falutin' "Rules of Conduct."

Makes me wonder why I even bother. I put a lot of work into this, you know.
And nothing given back to the taxpayers of this town. Not one penny.
I mentioned that there will be unforeseen expenses as a result of Hurricane Idalia, and perhaps others, God forbid.
Such as the devastation at Gulfside Beach. See the picture in the paper, if you haven't bothered to come up and see it.
Of course, if past is prologue, this will just be punted to the next beach renourishment later in this decade. It's going to take some doing to restore some semblance of fiscal sanity to Longboat Key. I note that Mr. Tipton stated, "...the budget will go down by that amount next year."
Really? We will remember you said that!
Jim Whitman
Longboat Key

September 18 St. Regis Hearing Mayor's Notes

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
Attached are Mayor's Notes for the September 18 Special Meeting. Copies will be on the dais for you.
Savannah Cobb
Deputy City Clerk
Town of Longboat Key

September 18 St. Regis Hearing Mayor's Notes

To: Longboat Key Deputy City Clerk Savannah Cobb
Also looking for the Staff Report for Monday. It's not in the red biner and may have been circulated earlier?
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Longboat Key

Sept BIEO Meeting Cancelled

To: Longboat Key Commission
The September 19th BIEO Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 19th has been cancelled.
The next meeting date will be provided soon. Please let me know if there are any questions.
Stacey Johnston, MMC, City Clerk
City of Holmes Beach

September 18 St. Regis Hearing

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle
Are there Mayor's Notes for Monday's meeting?
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Boat gone

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
They must've heard us talking after Tennis! I just watched the boat leave the dock. Thank you for your help and support - it's greatly appreciated. Of course I'm assuming they didn't just go to get gas!
Todd Callahan
Longboat Key

Water costs after Idalia

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
Hello Ken, sorry to write this over a weekend but many homeowners in Sleepy Lagoon will have to refill pools, spas and add sprinkler times to save lawns. How can we ask LBK en masse to lower a water rate to get our properties back on track? I took it on myself to let the others know what's possible. Many thanks.
Laurel Gilbert Phillips
Longboat Key

See Letters, page 14

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WineTimes

What to Look for in a Varietal

What should we expect to see and taste in a wine made from the best-known fine wine grape on the globe?

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

Say we order a glass of Cabernet Sauvignon at a wine bar and inspect and taste it. What should we expect to see and taste in a wine made from the best-known fine wine grape on the globe?

Note that the varietal Cabernet Sauvignon also has a major role in blended red wines from the Bordeaux region of France. Except in the USA, a varietal wine must have 85% of its contents made from a single grape variety (75% for the USA); nonetheless, because Bordeaux labels its red wine by the name of the region (as commonly done in France), a Bordeaux wine containing 85% or more Cabernet Sauvignon would still have Bordeaux on the label. Nothing stays the same in the world of wine. Winemakers excel at creating and working around rules.

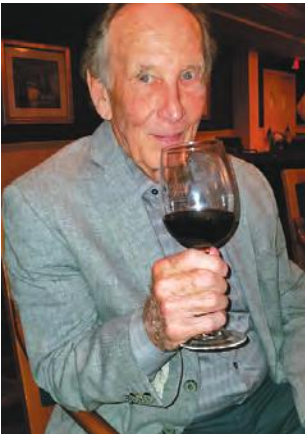
A good example of a Cabernet Sauvignon varietal or a Bordeaux consisting largely of Cab will have a deep red or purple color, an aroma of dark red or black fruit, a vanilla taste due to aging in oak barrels, and astringent tannins lingering in the mouth. Aging in barrel and bottle for several years or more will change the color (lighter red), aroma (less fruity), and astringency of tannins (smoother). Many less well aged and less expensive Cabs, and some costly ones, have a vegetal, herbaceous, grassy taste of green Bell pepper. Thanks to Courtney Magrini Schiessl Magrini, Editor-in-Chief of the highly regarded online magazine SevenFifty Daily for a heads up to Alex Russan's hot off the press article about the source of the green taste: a chemical compound, pyrazine. Anyone looking for more on the science of pyrazines in wine should read Russan's informative article.

Many wine reviewers see the pyrazines that contribute to green tastes in Cabs as a defect; others see the green pepper taste as a defining characteristic. Wines with structure from riper fruit grown in hotter and dryer vineyards, careful winemaking technique, and longer aging have less of this grassy taste. De gustibus non est disputandum (it's a matter of taste). The affordable 2019 Aviary Birds of Prey Red Blend (\$16) from California shows hints of green pepper in first tastes. Black plum, vanilla, black pepper, mocha, and tobacco take over after first taste. Softened tannins round out the characteristic tastes of a Cab varietal.

Another Bordeaux red blending wine, Cabernet Franc, a parent of Cabernet Sauvignon in a union with Sauvignon Blanc, rarely appears as a varietal but has a leading role in many premier Bordeaux red blends. It has many of the same tastes that it has passed on to its equally thick-skinned progeny, Cab, though typically more pepper, fennel, and spice. The prized and outrageously expensive Château Pétrus Bordeaux (\$don't ask) blends Cabernet Franc with Cabernet Sauvignon.

An article by Boursiquot et. al. in the Australian Journal of Grape and Wine Research 15:144-155. 2009 presents results of DNA testing that identifies the parents of another major Bordeaux varietal, Merlot, as Cabernet Franc and the obscure grape Magdeleine Noire de Charentes. Usually thin-skinned, except in hot summer ripening areas such as Washington State in the USA and the Okanagan Valley in Canada, the grape produces wines with dark fruit aromas but less astringent tannins than Cabs. Widely grown in the Right Bank subregion of Bordeaux, it produces wines that drinks younger than Left Bank Cab wines and blends well with Cab Franc, Cab Sauv, and traces of Malbec and Petite Verdor.

The Sauvignon Blanc varietal from Bordeaux, often blended with Semillon in a White Bordeaux, has a smaller following worldwide than Sauvignon Blanc grown in the inland Loire Valley in France, notably in the vicinity of Sancerre, and across the globe in New Zealand, California, Australia, South America, and South Africa regions capable of growing grapes for



acidic wine with citrus and other tropical fruit aroma and taste. Another article by Russan in Sevenfifty Daily attributes the citrus, passion fruit, and other tropical fruit tastes to chemical compounds generally known as thiols. The thiols mimic chemicals found in citrus and tropical fruits. Thiols define a style of Sauvignon Blanc wine associated with New Zealand. In the Wairau Valley of New Zealand, winemakers develop wines that have tropical fruit aromas and tastes. The backbone of high acidity works well with shell and fin fish dishes, root vegetables, and mild cheeses. The warm, sunny, dry, and maritime weather in the Wairau Valley, and its gravelly soil, reduce leaf canopies of grape vines and help winemakers produce wines replete with thiols and mere hints of pyrazines. The 2021 Cloudy Bay Sauvignon Blanc (\$30) showcases the tropical fruit aromas and tastes. In contrast, Sauvignon Blanc wines of the style of Sancerre in the Loire Valley of France have more of a flinty edge with stronger grassy and savory tastes.

The Burgundy region east of the Loire Valley in France specializes in red Pinot Noir and white Chardonnay varietal wines. Perhaps the grapes do not take well to blending with other red or white wines. For whatever reasons, red Burgundies consist exclusively of Pinot Noir grapes and Pouilly-Fuissé, Chablis, and other White Burgundies consist exclusively of Chardonnay grapes.

Reports of Pinot Noir in eastern France date back the 14th century. The thin-skinned grape tends to be difficult to cultivate and temperamental about climate. The Pinot Noir grape thrives in cooler but not too cold climates that have more cloud cover than favored by Cabernet Sauvignon. The wine usually has a lighter red color than a Bordeaux or Cab. It has the aromas and tastes of sweet red fruit such as cherries, raspberries, and cherries, despite being a dry wine with little to no residual sugar. It has less in the way of astringent tannins. Younger Pinot Noir have brighter red color and more pronounced fruit tastes. As the wine ages in the bottle, it evolves to more of a brick red color and a taste of dried fruit, baking spices, and subtle tannins. The Pinot Noir grape has migrated successfully to Germany, the Carneros area within the Napa Valley of California, vineyards around Mendocino, the Willamette Valley of Oregon, Tasmania and the Margaret River region of Australia, the Otago Valley of New Zealand, and similar terroir in South America and South Africa. The 2021 Patricia Green Cellars Reserve Pinot Noir (\$30) from the Willamette Valley of Oregon represents the best of Burgundian and new world Pinot Noir. It has first tastes of red fruit, a soft tannin mouth feel, and a lingering finish.

White wine offshoots of Pinor Noir, such as Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc in Alsace and Germany, Pinot Gris/Grigio in Oregon, California, and Italy have prospered outside Burgundy. These wines have more body than many white wines and have some aging potential. Except for California Chardonnay style of buttery and oaky tastes, white wines in the Pinot Noir family tree have crisp citrus zest first tastes with a structure that lets these wines linger on the palate.

Our overview of what to look for in varietals shortchanges some of the great wines of the world. Most of the other varieties of wine likely appear, for good reason, in blends. The blends of Syrah in the Rhone Valley of France, Malbec as a blending wine in Bordeaux, Garnacha blends in Spain have given us a flimsy pretext for bypassing Rhone Syrah and Australian Shiraz, Argentine and Chilean Malbec, and Spanish Garnacha and Rhone Grenache varietals. Stay tuned for more in later episodes on varietal wines made from these grapes.

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 Otego 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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KeyStormwatch

Hurricane Preparedness on Longboat Key

The last hurricane hit land South of us, and this one hit North of us. At times I feel like we are dodging bullets.

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Guest Writer
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When hurricanes come, some people leave the island and some people stay. As crazy as it might sound, there are a variety of reasons that people stay on the island. Some have no family or friends they can go to. Some refuse to leave their home that they have had for decades. I refer to this as the “Going Down with the Ship” mentality. Then there are others who don’t believe it will be as bad as the meteorologist on the television says because they have local knowledge. If you know in your heart of hearts that you will always evacuate when there is a possibility of a hurricane, have a plan, know where you will go and where you will stay. Regardless of the reason and regardless if you stay or go, we all need to be prepared. You can start by filling your bathtubs with water, just in case they turn the water off. Even after the hurricane it might take a few days to get the water back on and you may need to flush a toilet or water plants. This water would be great. If you don’t have a bathtub and only have showers, like myself, you can fill trashcans full of water and sit them inside the shower. You also want to make sure the gas tank in your car is full, in fact during hurricane season always refill at half tank so you are ready. You would be surprised how quickly long lines form at the gas stations. Another item on the list that should be done sooner rather than later is stock up on some bottled water. I don’t mean hoard it, but at least get a couple cases. Make sure all of your electronics are fully charged. This includes, but is not limited to phones, iPads, laptops, and back up batteries and chargers. Make sure you have new batteries in your flashlights, so you won’t have to worry about them giving out on you. You should also have some candles and matches or lighters. I would recommend to keep the matches in a water proof bag. I have some battery-operated candles which really came in handy after the hurricane last year. We also filled our freezer drawer with ice so it would help keep our food cold if we lost power, and freeze gallon jugs to put in the fresh food section of your fridge I would also recommend buying some canned veggies, canned meat, and snacks that do not need to be refrigerated. Oh, and don’t forget the wine. If you lose power, the fewer times you have to open your refrigerator the better. If you do stay on the island and ride out the hurricane, I would suggest that you make sure to move your cars to the highest elevation that you can to lessen your chances of getting them flooded. Don’t forget about your recreational items as well. Tie down those boats and/or raise those lifts as high as you can. Also, make sure that all kayaks, paddleboards, and bicycles are secure. If you have a nervous nelly pet like I do it might be best to visit your veterinarian ahead of time to see if they can give you something to help keep your fur baby calm. I find it helpful to keep a hurricane preparedness kit and/or a bug out bag stocked and ready. You never know when you might need them. Items to have in a hurricane preparedness kit could be things like a whistle in case you need to signal for help, a first aid kit, working flashlights, candles, dry matches, water, food - 3-day supply of non-perishable food, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, extra batteries, moist towelettes, manual can opener, local maps, cell phone with chargers and battery backup, garbage bags for sanitation. personal hygiene items, fire extinguisher, disposable eating supplies



like plates, cups, utensils, tools like a wrench and/or pliers to turn off utilities and Cash. You could have some of those same items in a bug out bag, meaning a bag you need to grab if you are making a quick exit from the island. You also might want to include things like a change of clothes, a credit card, medication, and anything you might need for your pet. And don’t forget those critical documents and your pre-prepared insurance inventory. The last hurricane hit land South of us, and this one hit North of us. At times I feel like we are dodging bullets. Some say it is because of ancient Indigenous Tribes and the agreement they made. Others say it is because of how we are physically located on the coast. Let’s face it, there are risks no matter where you live. It could be earthquakes in California, tornadoes in the Midwest, avalanches in Colorado, wild fires, nor’easters, and the list goes on and on. No matter what the reason we are lucky to be able to come out on the other side of a hurricane with minimal issues. We are certainly counting our blessings to live in an island paradise.

Letters, from page 12 Bacteria levels after Idalia

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission
My last email update spoke about the impacts of Idalia on our bay and watershed. In contrast to Irma and Ian, we were on the strong side (it passed to the west of us) of this storm, in terms of storm surge. Irma and Ian brought us lots of rain, but the prevailing winds (which move counter-clockwise) mostly pulled water out of the bay – remember the pictures of manatees stranded on seagrass meadows in Sarasota Bay after Irma (see attached)? On the other hand, Idalia brought us water levels (aka storm surge) that was about 3.5’ higher than the water was expected to be, based on tide stage and moon phase. Lucky for us, the storm surge was starting to go back down just a few hours before the spring high tide that was on its way, which could have added another foot on top of that event. At the long-term gage in St. Pete, the storm surge peaked at 5.9’ above MLLW, at about 10 AM on Wednesday, August 30. In our region, MLLW is about 2 feet lower than Mean High Water, which means that this storm brought us a surge that was about 4 feet higher than the average high tide, and about 5 feet higher than the average sea level. Not huge, but not inconsequential, as water covered much of Lido Key, it covered most of Cortez and Longboat Key Village, and came close to coming over the top of both Manatee Avenue and Cortez Road. Lots of damage to roads on Casey Key, and severe damage to the road on Manasota Key. When that surge of water drained back into the bay, it brought with it the grass clippings and dog poop and yard debris that is found across our watershed. Simply put, the water quality took a hit afterwards, but seems to be recovering. After storms such as this, it is most important to recognize that it might not be safe to be on or in the water, due to high levels of pathogens. That was the case after Hurricane

Charley in 2004, and after Ian in, in 2022. But what about after Idalia? In our region, the beaches themselves are sampled by FDOH, and after initial calls to stay out of the water, the conditions on our beaches have been safe for swimming for some time now. For the bay itself, we’ve just received bacteria results from September 5th, less than a week after Idalia’s land-fall. The bacteria data comes from Suncoast Water Keepers, which collects the samples and gives them to Benchmark Laboratories, which is a great lab that meets all regulatory guidance for sampling procedures. For Sarasota County, seven bay sites were sampled on September 5th, and only one site – Bayfront Park / Marina Jack exceeded guidance criteria. For Manatee County, all four sites sampled on September 5th had low levels of bacteria, including the north side of Palma Sola Causeway. Salinities were high across the bay, which reflects the lower amounts of rainfall we received (compared to Ian). After Ian, the lower part of the bay took between 2 and 4 weeks for bacteria levels to drop down to safe levels. After Idalia, it looks like bacteria levels were back into the good range in less than a week. This might be related to the fact that the saltier conditions of the bay led to more rapid die-off of pathogens than occurred after contaminants were washed in from. Not sure if that’s the case or not, but for whatever reason, it appears that the bay’s health is likely to recover more quickly after Idalia than was the case after Irma and Ian. Thanks – again – to Suncoast Water Keepers for not only collecting the bacteria data, but for also sharing it in such a timely manner. Have a good weekend and see you at our Policy Board meeting next Friday! Dave Tomasko Executive Director Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

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