

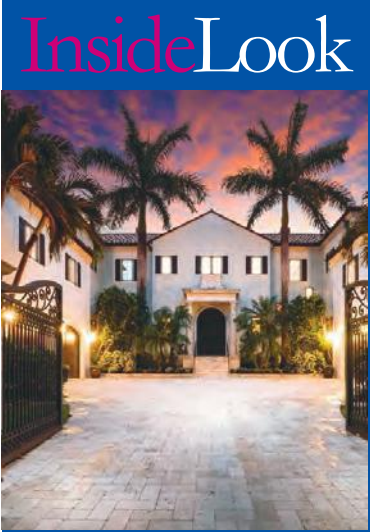


Longboat Key News

February 23, 2024

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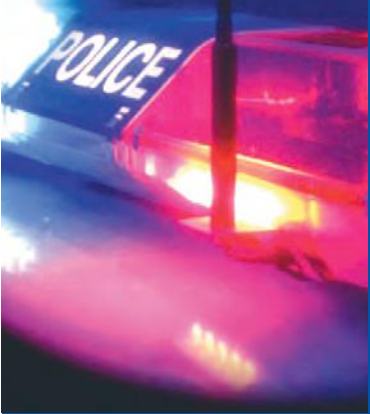
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Building a wine collection ...page 13



Un-civil disturbances ...page 10

Researchers assess Florida coral health following marine heat wave

Data from the research cruise will help NOAA and partners understand the extent of the record-high marine temperatures from the summer of 2023 on restored corals

A team of researchers from NOAA's Mission: Iconic Reefs program and partners from Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium and the Coral Restoration Foundation completed a scientific mission yesterday to quantify the impact of 2023's marine heat wave on corals in Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

Data from the research cruise will help NOAA and partners understand the extent of the record-high marine temperatures from the summer of 2023 on restored corals — which are nursery-raised and out-planted on the reef — and inform future restoration strategies to increase coral resilience.

Researchers aboard the contracted vessel M/V Makai surveyed 64 locations at five of the seven Mission: Iconic Reef sites — Carysfort Reef, Horseshoe Reef, Sombbrero Reef, Looe Key Reef and Eastern Dry Rocks — to examine the reef-building stony acroporid corals out-planted by the Coral Restoration Foundation, Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium and Reef Renewal.

This research follows a mission



Mission: Iconic Reefs field team member Cate Gelston, co-lead scientist on the assessment cruise, retrieves a transect tape after completing an outplanted coral health assessment survey. (Image credit: NOAA)

in August that assessed coral health during the height of the marine heat wave and incorporates data about how eight additional weeks of high temperatures affected corals.

Preliminary findings from the latest assessment provide insights into the current state of coral health:

Preliminary data indicate that less than 22% of approximately 1,500 staghorn coral (*Acropora cervicornis*) surveyed remain alive.

Only the two most northern reefs surveyed, Carysfort Reef and Horseshoe Reef, had any living staghorn coral.

Of the five reefs surveyed, live

See Reef, page 2

Rotary fuels pickleball passion on Longboat



Pickleball is all the rage on Longboat Key and the Longboat Key Rotary Club held a training and safety seminar last Wednesday at Bayfront Park Recreation Center. The fundraiser was organized by Susan Veshosky and the Platinum Sponsors were Realtors Chase and Bruce Myer (top photo).

Construction duo rescued from 13th floor in Downtown

On Feb. 14, two construction workers at the site of the DeMarcey Private Residences — located at 33 S. Palm Ave. in downtown Sarasota — were rescued after a cable broke on the “swing stage” on which they were standing to add stucco to the exterior of the structure, a Sarasota County Fire Department report said.

The men were outside the 12th and 13th floors of the condominium tower, the report added; they were about 60 feet in the air.

Other construction workers ended up bringing the men into the building by breaking windows, the report explained, even though members of the Fire Department's Special Operations team had deployed to the site, along with firefighters/medics.

“The two victims were wearing fall protection harnesses and were secured to their lifelines by fall arrest lanyards,” the report said.

The other cable had continued to support the stage after rescue personnel arrived, the report added, but both workers were suspended

See Workers, page 2

Workers, from page 1

in the air, the report indicated.

The Fire Department received the alarm at 11:22 a.m. on Feb. 14, with the Fire Station 1 crew arriving on the scene at 11:27 a.m., the report noted.

Fire Station 1 stands at 1445 Fourth St. in downtown Sarasota.

Rescue personnel made their way to the roof with rope safety equipment, the report continued. There, they established two anchors and then set up two lines to lower to the victims, “to

get them secured into a life safety rope rescue system.”

As the rope was being lowered to one of the workers, the report said, other members of the construction crew, who were on the 12th floor, “began breaking windows and removed the victim from his harness to pull him in.”

Fire Department personnel on the scene had attempted to stop the workers, the report pointed out, because of the “unsafe nature of what was being done.” However, the report added, “There was a large language barrier and they would not listen to on scene personnel from the fire department or the construction company.”

Reefs, from page 1

elkhorn coral (*Acropora palmata*) was found at only three sites: Carysfort Reef, Sombrero Reef in the middle Keys and Eastern Dry Rocks off Key West.

No live staghorn or elkhorn corals were observed at sample areas surveyed at Looe Key Reef in the lower Florida Keys.

All data collected during the assessment is currently undergoing thorough review and analysis.

Though anecdotal evidence from Mission: Iconic Reefs partners suggest that boulder, massive and brain coral outplants at a number of Mission: Iconic Reef sites — including Looe Key Reef — fared better during the marine heat wave, rough weather conditions during this mission prevented the research team from surveying more than the branching coral assemblages of staghorn and elkhorn coral.

“The findings from this assessment are critical to understanding the impacts to corals throughout the Florida Keys following the unprecedented marine heat wave,” said Sarah Fangman, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary superintendent. “They also offer a glimpse into coral’s future in a warming world. When the ecosystem experiences significant stress in this way, it underscores the urgency for implementing updates to our regulations, like the Restoration Blueprint, which addresses multiple threats that will give nature a chance to hold on.”

Florida’s coral reefs are the backbone of the region’s tourism and recreation economy, and provide important ecological services to coastal communities. The health of Florida’s coral ecosystems has declined since the 1970s due to damage from hurricanes, heat-induced bleaching,

disease and increased impacts from human activities.

The assessment will support the ongoing restoration efforts of Mission: Iconic Reefs, a NOAA-led, partner-driven initiative to restore nearly 3 million square feet of coral reef — the equivalent of more than 50 football fields — at seven iconic sites within Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, through pioneering restoration efforts involving growing and transplanting corals. The goal is to restore diversity and ecological function to the reefs by returning coral cover at target reef sites to a self-sustaining level.

In the summer of 2023, corals in the Florida Keys faced the hottest ocean temperatures on record, and the longest-lasting marine heat wave recorded in three decades. The marine heat wave prompted emergency evacuation of in-water nursery corals to land-based nurseries to limit heat exposure. Collaboration between Mission: Iconic Reefs and coral conservation practitioners safeguarded the genetic diversity of coral reef-building species.

“We are fortunate to have the unwavering dedication and expertise of multiple partners collaborating with NOAA to restore this critical ecosystem,” said Jennifer Mooore, co-lead of Mission: Iconic Reefs and Endangered Species Act coral recovery coordinator for NOAA Fisheries. “The assessment results, complementary research efforts from partners and lessons from emergency activities over the summer will inform effective and innovative restoration strategies to support the health of Florida’s coral reefs.”

Learn more about NOAA’s response to the 2023 marine heat wave and coral restoration efforts in Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary:



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Boasting all the amenities required for luxury living, this SMART home's inspired style highlights spectacular water views that stretch out to the Gulf of Mexico from just about every room of the nearly 6,600 square-foot interior. Stacked glass sliders create a seamless transition to outdoor living, opening to the glass-railing terrace, summer kitchen, built-in grill, and spiral staircase that leads down to the waterside hot tub. Boaters will appreciate the deep-water dock with multiple lifts.

NEW CONSTRUCTION TO BE BUILT



WEST OF TRAIL - HIGHLY DESIRABLE LOCATION \$9,750,000
Waterfront location, this custom home is situated on a quiet cul-de-sac steps to Siesta Key. Offering nearly 5,350 AC/SF, with an open concept floor plan, highly desirable finishes and touches, and 4-car garage, you will be impressed. Work with builder direct to create your dream home.

GULF FRONT NEW CONSTRUCTION



LONGBOAT KEY • 6489 GULFSIDE DRIVE \$16,900,000
Fabulous Gulf front lot offering nearly 100 ft. of sandy beach, this gorgeous DSDG Architect designed home is a rare find. Boasting almost 6,000 AC/SF, this spectacular home is custom built with the finest details throughout. Architect designed landscaped exterior and 4-car garage.

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Bay Isles Residents,
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Editor
Letters

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.

Country Club Shores Water Main Replacement

To: Kimley-Horn Engineer Ashley Miele
Please see the attached RFI's and respond at your earliest convenience, thanks. You're most welcome! Thanks for all you do!
Harlan Sunquist, Jr.
Spectrum

Country Club Shores Water Main Replacement

To: Spectrum Harlan Sunquist, Jr.
Please see the response to RFI #5 attached. We have proposed a slightly revised alignment on the north end in hopes to save some trees, if preferable to you and your team once data has been collected in this area, but I don't see any other options for this connection other than the original design.
We cannot proceed with abandoning the existing two water mains and installing the new pipeline in the same corridor due to several concerning factors but I'm open to other ideas that are outside the right of way and not impacting other utilities if you have any.
Ashley Miele
Engineer
Kimley-Horn Engineering

Country Club Shores Water Main Replacement

To: Spectrum Harlan Sunquist Jr.
I've seen a few pictures now with some unacceptable BMPs. We need to get this addressed as soon as possible. The impact to the canal is significant and will cause fines and environmental impacts.
Please be sure to get on site and check it out today. We'll need a new plan in place for next week to avoid these impacts, so they no longer occur. I'll try to reach out later this morning to discuss.
Ashley Miele
Engineer
Kimley-Horn Engineering

Country Club Shores Water Main Replacement

To: Kimley-Horn Engineering Ashley Miele
Good morning Team , Ramon and I spoke to Spectrum yesterday and stopped all operations until all BMP's were addressed.
They have since that time adjusted their operations and made all areas more than adequately stabilized. They have made a commitment to address on a daily basis. Thank you Spectrum for taking action immediately to address these issues.
Guy Matricciani
Construction & Facility System Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Country Club Shores Water Main Replacement

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Good morning Tip, I believe Commissioner Coffin had made a comment yesterday. Here is Guy's feedback below, should be taken care of now.
Isaac Brownman
Public Works Director
Town of Longboat Key

Country Club Shores Water Main Replacement

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin
This is provided in response to the concern you shared yesterday regarding construction work that might negatively impact the canals in CCS. Our construction and facility manager Guy Matricciani addressed this on February 16th with Spectrum and believe they have made modifications to correct the situation. We'll continue to monitor.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 7

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569 BAYVIEW DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

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

Delight in scenic views of Sarasota Bay in this custom-designed 4-bedroom, 4.5-bathroom PENTHOUSE in the gated resort-style Tangerine Bay community on the southernmost tip of Longboat Key. The spacious condominium features soaring ceilings, skylight, great room with gas fireplace, marble gallery for displaying artwork, and private gated courtyard. All bedrooms are ensuite. Sliding glass doors in the primary suite and great room open to a tiled terrace where you can start your day with a cup of coffee while watching the sunrise. An additional west-facing terrace boasts stunning sunset views.



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

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



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648 BAYVIEW DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

Boater's dream property on oversized (19,994 sf) rarely available cul-de-sac end lot with a brand new 320-foot seawall located in Sleepy Lagoon, on the north end of Longboat Key. This location offers fantastic panoramic views of Bishops Bayou and the ICW. Situated on nearly a half-acre lot is a 3-bedroom, 4,157 sq. ft. home, which could be renovated or removed creating a build site for an incredible custom home.



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2110 HARBOURSIDE DR., #547 | LONGBOAT KEY

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

KeyOpinion

The race to the bottom looms in 2024

Together, the two parties are giving Americans exactly what they don't want — a Biden-Trump rematch. But Biden is the only Democrat that Trump can beat. And Trump is the only Republican that Biden can beat. So here we are.

GREGORY RUSOVICH
Guest Writer
rusovich@lbknews.com

The Democrats stubbornly support a confused and feeble President Biden for re-election. The Republicans continue to rally around a chaotic and divisive former President Trump for their standard bearer. Together, the two parties are giving Americans exactly what they don't want — a Biden-Trump rematch. But Biden is the only Democrat that Trump can beat. And Trump is the only Republican that Biden can beat. So here we are.

Special Counsel Robert Hur, appointed by Attorney General Merrick Garland to investigate Biden's abuse of handling classified material, reported that the president's mental capacity was sorely lacking. Hur wrote that he wouldn't bring charges for improper retention of classified information in part because "Mr. Biden would likely present himself to a jury, as he did during our interview of him, as a sympathetic, well meaning, elderly man with a poor memory." The president couldn't recall which years he was vice president or even when his son Beau died.



RUSOVICH

Shortly after the report was issued, an angry Biden took to the White House podium to condemn it. But he made matters worse during his tirade by confusing Egypt's president with Mexico's. The man is unable to do most interviews (Team Biden refused even the usual soft ball Super Bowl pre-game interview). He will not debate in the fall as he lacks the mental prowess to do so.

At this point in his presidency, Biden is the most unpopular president in the last 75 years. RealClearPolitics reports his current favorability rating at 39.3%. According to a recent ABC News/Ipsos poll, 91% of Independents and 86% overall said Biden "is too old to serve as president." On the two most important issues to voters (inflation and immigration), his approval rating is 36.2 and 31.2 respectively. Per Roll Call, every president after Jimmy Carter has had a lower inflation rate than Biden at this point in his presidency. While the rate of inflation has slowed this past year, key items such as groceries and energy prices have soared. On the immigration issue, the Administration not only has refused to take any executive action to tighten border security, but also has abolished every previous executive order designed to mitigate illegal immigration.

Republicans have no basis for gloating. Like a herd stampeding toward a cliff, the GOP rides with Trump. His increasing legal troubles; mockery of former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley's husband's absence (he's serving overseas); inability to secure suburban, independent voters; and his overall irresponsible, and sometimes reprehensible, behavior gives Republicans every reason to jettison him. Solid, viable alternatives such as Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis emerged and were quickly dispatched by party fealty to Trump. Haley continues to fight with vigor, grit and class,



but her chances of overcoming the former president's formidable lead are slim. Trump's legal problems also are causing financial woes for both his campaign and the Republican Party. A Business Insider analysis has found that Trump supporters funded at least \$52,431,858 in legal services in 2023 through the two political action committees controlled by the GOP frontrunner. Trump's legal bills are burning through money that would otherwise be used primarily to support GOP messaging and congressional candidates. The Republican National Committee (RNC) may also be vulnerable to throwing money toward Trump's legal defense. Lara Trump, the former president's daughter-in-law whom he endorsed as RNC co-chair, thinks it is "absolutely" a "big interest" to Republican voters for the RNC to pay his legal bills. She also said the Democrats are flush with money, and the RNC needs to raise \$500 million to compete. It's hard to raise this kind of cash when donors are being told their contributions may be used to pay for Trump's legion of lawyers.

The former president's ongoing references to a smart and accomplished Nikki Haley as "birdbrain" have further eroded his possible outreach to moderate and suburban voters. And military families don't appreciate his slams of her husband, Michael, who was tapped last year by the South Carolina National Guard to serve a one-year deployment in Africa. "What happened to her husband? Where is he? He's gone. He knew. He knew," Trump has bellowed, seemingly implying that Michael's service somehow translates as abandoning his wife during the campaign.

Despite all of this, polls forecast a Biden vs. Trump matchup within the margin of error. Both parties are taking significant risks with their two very flawed candidates. Unless one party wakes up quickly and alters course, we will be relegated to witness the race to the bottom. There are no unknown quantities. Voters can easily compare the results of the Biden presidency with that of the Trump presidency and determine which they prefer. Perhaps in 2024, it's best to ignore all the noise, compare records and vote. And to hope that 2028 brings sanity back to the body politic.

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 4

Country Club Shores Water Main Replacement

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Got it, thank you for your quick response on this Tip and Isaac. I will forward it to the president of association 4.
Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Country Club Shores Water Main Replacement

To: Lynn Larson
Lynn, sorry for the delay on this we’ve been out of town. Can you please forward it to the person that mentioned this issue to me at the meeting? I have forgotten her name thanks, Gary.
Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

De-Annexation Request by Island Across from Shore Restaurant

To: Longboat Key Commission
Thank you for your public service on behalf of our community. If we understand correctly, you have been asked to consider a request that the island across from the Shore Restaurant be “de-annexed” from the Town.
If we understand correctly, you have been asked to consider a request that the island across from the Shore Restaurant be “de-annexed” from the Town of Longboat Key. And we might understand correctly that the first step in consideration of any such request is the performance of a feasibility study.
We will follow with interest the results of that study to see if it identifies any advantages to the Town and its residents of such an annexation.
But we can identify in advance significant disadvantages, especially to those of us who live within sight, sound, smell and environmental and recreational impact of the island.
As we all discovered with the sand bar noise invasion (that, happily, seems to have stopped, thanks!), maintaining Town jurisdiction over code and other compliance on that island will be critical to protecting the interests of those of us who, from our homes, can see the island and the views beyond it, hear sounds created on the island, be impacted by barge and other cargo traffic from the Town dock to the island, be impacted by environmental effects emanating from the island, be impacted from smells traced to the island, and so on.
(An example of the latter: the overwhelming odor from a recent pump-out of the septic systems on the island and the off-loading of the pump-out materials into a tanker truck at the Town dock caused some of us to think that a major sewer leak had occurred in the Village. Fortunately, a Public Works expert responded immediately to our call about this and confirmed that the Town’s sewer systems were intact.)
We very much appreciate in advance the upcoming hard work the Commission and Town staff will need to do on this important issue. And we very much appreciate everything else you do to maintain the paradise we call home.
Henry and Donna Rae Smith
Longboat Key

De-Annexation Request by Island Across from Shore

To: Henry and Donna Rae Smith
Thank you - valuable input.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

De-Annexation Request by Island Across from Shore

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
You’re most welcome! Thanks for all you do!
Henry and Donna Rae Smith
Longboat Key

Grants Coordinator- Contact Information

To: Longboat Key Commission
Good morning Commissioners, I wanted to follow up my presentation with an email so everyone has my contact information below.
I appreciated all your comments and suggestions and will begin working on those soon. Please don’t hesitate to reach out if needed. Thank you again.
Kalee Shaberts
Grants Coordinator
Town of Longboat Key

Grants Coordinator- Contact Information

To: Longboat Key Grants Coordinator Kalee Shaberts
Thank you Kalee great job yesterday. Your effort is certainly helping to accomplish our goals.
Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Longboat Key (Sarasota) - Floodplain Management Ordinance (LFD) Status

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
FYI- I received a copy of the letter referenced in the email below. It’s addressed to the Mayor.

See Letters, page 8



Cindy Fischer

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SOLD



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

SOLD



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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 7

In case you're asked, we have satisfied FEMA's requirement.
Allen Parsons
Planning, Building and Zoning Director
Town of Longboat Key

Longboat Key (Sarasota) - Floodplain Management Ordinance (LFD) Status

To: Town of Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director
Allen Parsons
I wanted to follow up to let you know FEMA Region hasn't yet processed the approval sent to them on January 16, 2024. Unfortunately, that means the city will get the 30-day letter (a notice of suspension). You've done everything correctly – they're the ones running late. Conn is reminding them that they have had yours in their queue for two months. Thank you for your understanding and patience as we resolve this matter.
Michael Burchette
Bureau of Mitigation
Florida Division of Emergency Management

Longboat Key (Sarasota) - Floodplain Management Ordinance (LFD) Status

To: Longboat Key Commission
Regarding this letter, the Town Commission approved the Floodplain Management Ordinance in January. FEMA is behind in their paperwork and should not have sent the letter that they did as we are waiting on them. We are compliant.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

HB 7049

Good morning, MPO Chair Mayor Brown and Board Members,
Below FYI is the latest legislative session update from the

MPOAC on HB 7049 which proposed elimination of the MPOAC and numerous changes relating to MPOs.
David L. Hutchinson
Executive Director
Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization

HB 7049

To: Metropolitan Planning Organization Board Members
Good morning, MPOAC Governing Board Members and Staff Directors. I've been waiting for it, and it finally came through late last night. Rep. McFarland has proposed an amendment to HB 7049 that substantially rewrites it. Unfortunately, it still abolishes the MPOAC. In a nutshell it does the following:
Removes the authority of the Florida Transportation Commission to review the Department's performance but places all public transit agencies under their purview to evaluate performance. The FTC will no longer be conducting a review of the Tentative Work Program.
Allows MPOs that merge to increase the Board size to 35 members subject to the review of FDOT and approval by the Governor.
Removes the word "programming" from the MPO statutes.
Requires the Lee and Collier MPOs to conduct a feasibility study on consolidation by February 28, 2025.
Allows the FDOT to convene MPOs of similar size for the exchange of best practices.
Training SHALL be provided to MPO board members by the Department, CUTR or ISTREET.
MPO's within the same urbanized area shall develop a regional long-range transportation plan and pool resources for regionally significant transportation infrastructure projects.
It is the MPO's responsibility, in collaboration with the department, to identify, prioritize, and present to the department a complete list of multimodal transportation projects consistent with the needs of the metropolitan planning area. It is the department's responsibility to program projects in the STIP.
Each MPO may execute a written agreement with the

department, which shall be reviewed, and updated as necessary, every 5 years, which clearly establishes the cooperative relationship essential to accomplish the transportation planning requirements of state and federal law. Roles, responsibilities, and expectations for accomplishing consistency with federal and state requirements and priorities must be described and formalized in the agreement. The agreement shall describe and formalize the MPO's responsibility, in collaboration with the department, to identify, prioritize, and present to the department a complete list of multimodal transportation projects consistent with the needs of the metropolitan planning area. It is the department's responsibility to program projects in the STIP.
The department shall establish, in collaboration with the MPOs, quality performance metrics. Each MPO must, as part of its long-range transportation plan, in direct coordination with the department, develop targets for each performance measure within the metropolitan planning area boundary. The performance targets must support efficient and safe movement of people and goods both within the MPO planning area and between regions. Each MPO must report progress toward establishing performance targets for each measure annually in its TIP. The Department will evaluate and post on its website whether each MPO has made significant progress toward its target for the applicable reporting period.
The amendment makes other minor changes for the MPOs as well, but they address things the MPOs are already doing.
The bill will be heard in the Infrastructures Strategies Committee this morning. I'll keep you posted.
Mark E. Reichert
Executive Director
Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council

Traffic solution

To: Longboat Key Commission
The traffic on this island is atrocious. How can you ever get any good employees to stay and work on the island? Traffic

See Letters, page 11

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1932 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#224	1,192	\$629,000	2	2	0	89	\$610,000
4835 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#304	1,393	\$1,170,000	2	2	0	7	\$1,141,000
2295 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#112	1,235	\$1,400,000	2	2	0	133	\$1,400,000
2425 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#13B	1,470	\$1,749,000	2	2	0	24	\$1,725,000
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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.

Feb. 16 Public service

5:41 a.m.
Officer Maple was dispatched to Old Compass Road for a public service call. Upon his arrival, he met with the complainant at Binnacle Point Road who stated a contractor across the canal has been working early in the morning and utilizing bright white lights that are shining into her home and keeping all the occupants awake. Officer Maple met with the offender who was unaware of the disturbance he was creating. The man redirected the light and covered windows to help the situation. Case clear.



present at the construction sight. Officer Swinford advised them just to always have at least one lane of travel in the roadway open. No issues to be addressed at this time.

Parking

6:14 p.m.
Officer Ferrigine responded to Broadway for a parking complaint. Upon his arrival, Officer Ferrigine spoke to the complainant and the issue was resolved with the restaurant with parking on the sidewalks. Case clear.

Fire

11:18 p.m.
Officer Mathis was dispatched to the 4600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a structure fire. Upon his arrival to the incident location, no fire or smoke was visible. Longboat Key Fire Department arrived and advised it was possibly an electrical issue with a faulty water heater. No police services were needed. Case clear.

Feb. 17 Parked truck

5:33 p.m.
Sgt. Montfort was dispatched to Bogey Lane for a water truck parked in the area for several hours. Sgt. Montfort arrived on Bogey Lane and observed at least a dozen or more construction vehicles in the area. Due to the posted construction and water main repair, no violation was observed. The vehicle was legally parked and not obstructing the roadway. Case clear.

Feb. 19 Raccoon

8:08 a.m.
Officer Miklos was dispatched to the 6800 block of Pine Street in reference to an animal in a dumpster. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos observed an injured raccoon in a construction dumpster. Officer Miklos requested Sarasota Sheriff’s Dispatch have Manatee Animal Services en route for the raccoon. Case clear.

Keys in the condo

8:51 p.m.
Officer Nazareno was dispatched to the 6700 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a citizen assist call for a lockout. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno made contact with the resident who advised that her and her husband locked their keys in the apartment and had left the second floor sliding door unlocked. Officer Nazareno was unable to access the second floor sliding door and advised the resident to contact a locksmith. Case clear.

Feb. 20 Traffic

12:11 p.m.
Officer Miklos responded to the 3700 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to heavy traffic. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos concluded the traffic was part of the FDOT construction projects, which the town of Longboat Key was aware of. Case clear.

Feb. 21 Disturbance

12:44 p.m.
Officer Swinford was dispatched to Cedar Court in reference to a disturbance. Complainants advised construction equipment was blocking the roadway. Upon his arrival, Officer Swinford saw there was no equipment blocking the roadway. Officer Swinford spoke with individuals

Feb. 22 Vehicle registration

10:00 a.m.
Officer Pescuma was dispatched to Spanish Drive South in reference to a VIN verification. Officer Pescuma came into contact with a man who advised her father was selling vehicle and was registering the vehicle in Indiana. The Dodge Caravan was checked through ELVIS confirmed registration which expired April 2023. The proper paperwork was filled out and returned. Case clear.

Civil disturbance

7:15 p.m.
Officer Ramsaier and Sgt. Butler were dispatched to Longboat Club Road for a call of a civil disturbance. Upon arrival, Officer Ramsaier was met by the complainant who stated she asked an unknown man to leave the beach because it was private property and the man told her to get out of his face. There were no threats made in the presence of officers. Attached is a map of property line showing the property line. The Code Enforcement confirmed, via Longboat Police Department, the only part of the property that is private is the grass leading up to the edge of the sand. The complainant stated the individual they are in a dispute which was outside of the grass area and onto the beach. According to the code enforcement map this individual was on a public beach. Case clear.

Suspicious person

7:46 p.m.
Sgt. Butler while on patrol, was stopped by residents on Gulfside Road who stated that a suspicious person was hanging around vehicles parked in the beach access handicap parking. Upon arrival, Sgt. Butler observed a man and woman while walking around vehicles. A consensual encounter was made and the individuals stated they were picking up garbage on the beach.

Feb. 23 Car open

3:04 a.m.
Sgt. Montfort while on patrol in the area of North Shore Road, observed a red Toyota SUV with its rear hatch open. The vehicle was bearing an Iowa license plate. Sgt. Montfort approached the vehicle and observed an array of different items. Moreover, Sgt. Montfort looked through the front window to see no items had been disturbed. Additionally, Sgt. Montfort checked numerous other vehicles in the area which all appeared secured. Sgt. Montfort returned to the vehicle and subsequently secured the rear hatch. Officer Ferrigine arrived and the officers conducted an area canvass of Greer Island with negative results. It appeared the registered owner of the vehicle may have forgotten to secure the rear hatch. A business card was placed under the windshield wiper requesting a call back. Case clear.

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 8

from middle of the island can sometimes take over an hour to get to go to one of the bridges. There has to be a remedy to this solution, bus, train, boat, ferry something. My employees and staff that I work with all say they looking for jobs off the island as it's too hard to get to work on time in the afternoons or it takes too long to get off.

Regarding this letter, the Town Commission approved the Floodplain Management Ordinance in January. FEMA is behind in their paperwork and should not have sent the letter that they did as we are waiting on them. We are compliant.

Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Traffic solution

To: Cam Wig
Thank you for your email regarding traffic, it frustrates us all. Can you please identify yourself and your business?
Debra Williams
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Form 6 Litigation Solicitation

To: Longboat Key Town Commission
Attached is the latest information from the attorneys pursuing the Form 6 litigation. They circulated a list of all municipal resignations relating to the Form 6 filing requirement. The resignation of former Town Commissioner Debbie Murphy is reflected in the circulated spreadsheet.
Maggie D. Mooney
Town Attorney
Town of Longboat Key

Form 6 Litigation Solicitation

To: Longboat Key Town Commission
Attached to this email is a second email from the law firm of Weiss Serota providing a copy of the two (2) lawsuits they recently filed on behalf of multiple municipal officials and 26 cities relating to the Form 6 obligation. The (2) lawsuits were filed in federal and circuit courts and request declaratory and injunctive relief.
The law firm representing the plaintiffs in these cases is indicating that other plaintiff(s) may still be added into the litigation. They have included proposed resolutions for consideration should other cities wish to participate.
I am forwarding this recent email to the Town Commission for information purposes. My recommendation and the Town Manager's recommendation regarding the Town's involvement in this litigation has not changed. We do not recommend that the Town Commission participate in this lawsuit.
If any of you want to discuss this proposal and our recommendation, please feel free to reach out directly to either Tip or me.
Maggie D. Mooney

Town Attorney
Town of Longboat Key

Form 6 Litigation Solicitation

To: Longboat Key Commission
Yesterday, I received an email that was sent to all Florida City Attorneys from a local government law firm that is soliciting municipal clients for a lawsuit to declare the new law that requires municipal officials to file a Form 6 disclosure [pursuant to section 112.144(1)(d), Florida Statutes] unconstitutional and invalid. If successful, the proposed lawsuit would seek to enjoin enforcement of the law.
The law firm that is advancing this proposal would: (1) require the adoption of a resolution in a form similar to the one attached, (2) seek a \$10,000 flat fee payment from each municipal client for the litigation services, and (3) require waivers of conflicts of interest associated with the law firm's representation of multiple municipal clients in this action.
Tip and I have discussed this proposal and the Town's potential participation in litigation; while intriguing, neither of us recommend that the Town participate. One of several reasons is due to the fact that the Town Commission is moving forward later this month (on 1/22/24) with an appointment to the 1 Commission seat vacancy that occurred due to the Form 6 requirement.
Despite our recommendation, Tip and I agreed that forwarding this communication and initiative to the Town Commission for information purposes was important. At this

time, I have not heard whether other surrounding cities in our region are considering participating in this action.
If any of you want to discuss this proposal and our recommendation, please feel free to reach out directly to either Tip or me.
Maggie D. Mooney
Town Attorney
Town of Longboat Key

Grants Coordinator- Contact Information

To: Longboat Key Grants Coordinator
Thank you Kalee great job yesterday. Your effort is certainly helping to accomplish our goals.
Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Grants Coordinator- Contact Information

To: Longboat Key Town Commission
Good morning Commissioners, I wanted to follow up my presentation with an email so everyone has my contact information below.
I appreciated all your comments and suggestions and will begin working on those soon. Please don't hesitate to reach out if needed.

See Letters, page 15

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Sarasota City News

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The new canaries in our coal mine

The problem is that we don't know really know why insect populations are declining so rapidly.

MATTHEW EDLUND, MD
Guest Writer
edlund@lbknews.com

People hate insects. They bite, snap, sting, and kill. Perhaps the most hated animal on the planet is the mosquito, despised for bringing malaria, dengue fever, sleeping sickness and a host of other fatal and disfiguring diseases. The most frightening sci-fi film monsters from “Alien” to “Starship Troopers” are giant, intelligent insectoids. Whether it’s the ticks bringing Lyme Disease or the vicious black flies of the north woods, lots of us would be happy to see insects gone. The problem is, we might be, too.

Insects are a large part of the animal biomass of our planet. They are crucial to our survival in many ways, particularly as pollinators. People are vaguely aware than pollinating bees, necessary to so many of our crops, have been dying or disappearing in large numbers. They are less aware than many other insects are pollinators. Without these pollinators, crops don’t grow.

And they are disappearing, too. A recent study out of northwest Germany from the Krefeld Entomological Society found that in the period of 1989 to 2013, the biomass of insects fell 76%. The Krefeld Entomological Society has been studying, collecting, researching insect populations since 1905.

They were surprised when traps set in 1989 in nature reserves – protected areas of woodlands, meadows, forests and marsh generally adjacent to farms and sometimes fallow lands of farms themselves, demonstrated massive declines in biomass populations through 2013. So they checked many sites, 63 all told. They checked them in summer and winter, at expected

peak and depressed population times.

Insects kill many pests that human despise. And moths, butterflies, and flies may be as important for pollination as bees, whose marked decline is increasingly blamed on the behavior changing effects of neonicotinoid insecticides.

The bigger problem is that we don’t know really know why insect populations are declining so rapidly.

It’s hard to understand what losing three quarters of a population does to the world. So try this experiment: a three quarters population decline in the United States from 1989 to 2014.

The decline would not be completely even. Sparsely populated areas like central Nevada might not see the precipitous declines that occur in large cities. But if we were to extrapolate from the insect data, the largest part of the decline would occur in the first 13 years.

Imagine your hometown with three quarters of the population gone. Who would be the pediatricians? The hairdressers? Who would teach the few children left?

With these kind of population shifts, “downsizing” would not automatically create smaller, functional communities. The basic glue of the economy and society would be gone. The most likely result would be chaos.

Indeed, such catastrophic population decreases have only occurred in modern times as the result of near genocidal wars. But even conflicts like WWII did not produce anything like the devastation now going on in animal populations.

And humans are very mobile. If areas are still ecologically sustainable, humans move in, often from far afield. Devastated Germany and Russia saw their populations expand following the war.

That is not happening with animal populations worldwide. Many species are going extinct, disappearing altogether.

So for us, the insects are the canaries in our coal mine. Indeed, canaries are probably suffering – populations of German birds are way down, too. In 1948 there were about 2.5 billion people on Earth. Now there are more than three times as many. Our industrial and food footprints are much longer.

Magical thinking won’t help us this time. It will be much harder to feed us if the insects are gone.



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Building a basic wine cellar doesn't have to involve digging and new construction.

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

Building a basic wine cellar doesn't have to involve digging and new construction. Only a fortunate few have the resources required to build and stock an authentic wine cellar. Better to begin small with a refrigerator or wine cooler and a simple wine rack. Put the money into wines instead of containers.

We keep very few wines more than a year. If you need one of the wines that improve after more than a year in the bottle, presumably stored reclined at a constant temperature between 35 and 60 F, buy a bottle from a wine retailer or on the web. You'll be able to return it or ask for a refund if it's spoiled.

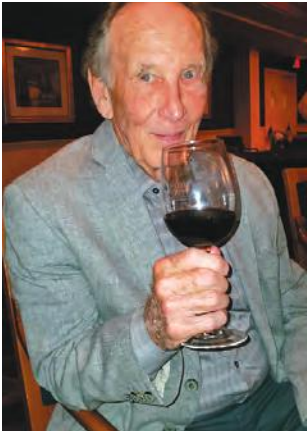
A basic wine cellar doesn't have to do more than optimize buying of wine. When you see a bargain price of a wine that you like or would like to try, buy it and hold it until the right time to drink it.

We often stock wines in groupings related to foods. Looking forward a month or more, we envision the foods of the season that we plan to enjoy. The types of food depend on our tastes, preferences, and, and of course, budgets.

A bottle or two of wines in each of these categories, if relevant to your preferences, will set the stage for easy and enjoyable wine and food pairings

For Appetizers or as an Apéritif

A wine with a tray of nibbles or bite-sized pieces of veggies helps break the ice at a gathering and encourages interactions among guests. A dry sparkling wine bottle chilled in a freezer until cold to the touch (check after 15 minutes) will perk up most guests. A bottle of crisp white or rose' wine can stay in the refrigerator (not freezer) until the time comes to serve it. The 2022 Susano Balboa Wines 'Crios' Torrontes (\$12) from Cafayate, Argentina, has a sweet aromatic scent and a clean



peach and citrus acidity that blends lovingly with veggie and fruit tastes.

With Finfish and Shellfish

For lighter finfish, scallops, crab, and shrimp dishes, we recommend a clean, crisp, and acidic white wine with enough acidity to add citrus and and starfruit tastes yet remain in the background. The Chateau La Graviere Bordeaux Blanc of equal parts Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon brings out subtle flavors of food from the sea, lake, or river. Enjoy this classic French wine at a price of \$12.

With Vegetarian Dishes

Hearty casseroles of various combinations of roasted potatoes, corn, carrots, squash, turnips, beets, beans, eggplant, broccoli, cauliflower, onions, peppers, or greens deserve a white wine with depth. The 2022 Pine Ridge Chenin Blanc-Viognier (\$12) combines the clean and dry tastes of a Chenin Blanc with the honey and fruit tastes of the Viognier.

With Bird, Veal, Pork, Sausages

For lighter meats, we immediately think of Pinot Noir. Unfortunately a fine Pinot Noir would blow the budget. A Gamay wine such as a Beaujolais would in an earlier era proven a good choice, but today the prices of better Beaujolais have moved out of the bargain class. Instead, we opt for a wine grape that California winemakers billed as a Gamay for years until DNA testing revealed it as another, quite obscure variety.

The 2022 J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines Wildflower Valdiguié' (\$12) serves well as a lighter red wine that complements lighter meat dishes.

With Lamb and Beefsteak

Savory red meats call for big red Bordeaux, a California Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, or an Australian Shiraz. The better versions of these wines unfortunately have price tags well outside what we are hoping to find for a basic wine cellar. We would opt for a worthy substitute, the Alexander Valley Cabernet (\$19). This big red wine comes from a region with a growing reputation for refined red wines. It has the mature tannins and savory tastes that Cabernet Sauvignon lovers prefer to pair with rare beefsteaks and lamb chops.

With Cheese or For and With Desserts

A half bottle of an ice wine costs more per ounce than the other wines in a basic wine cellar but should be savored in small doses with rich cheeses and desserts. The 2021 Duck Walk Vidal Blanc Ice Wine (\$19 375ML) comes from late harvest grapes frozen on the vines. The grapes have a high concentration of sugars and intense flavors.

The selections recommended for a basic wine cellar will cost around \$86 if bought at retail prices, perhaps a bottle or two at a time. We trust that you will expand your cellar gradually and replace bottles that you enjoy with similar wines.

S. W. Hermansen has used his expertise in econometrics, data science and epidemiology to help develop research databases for the Pentagon, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Agriculture, and Health Resources and Services. He has visited premier vineyards and taste wines from major appellations in California, Oregon, New York State, and internationally from Tuscany and the Piedmont in Italy, the Ribera del Duero in Spain, the Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale in Australia, and the Otago Valley in New Zealand. Currently he splits time between residences in Chevy Chase, Maryland and St. Armand's Circle in Florida.

Rich Hermansen selected his first wine list for a restaurant shortly after graduating from college with a degree in Mathematics. He has extensive service and management experience in the food and wine industry. Family and friends rate him as their favorite chef, bartender, and wine steward. He lives in Severna Park, Maryland.

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Letters, from page 11

Kalee Shaberts
Grants Coordinator
Town of Longboat Key

Underground Project: Phase 2 Demolition beginning

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

I am pleased to report that FPL's pole removal contractor, IRBY Construction, is on the island disconnecting power lines and removing overhead transformers in Phase 2. These pictures below are along North Shore Road. They began some work yesterday along Broadway Street as well.

Isaac Brownman
Director Public Works
Town of Longboat Key

Green space is needed

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Liz Alpert
The little rant you gave at the end of the meeting last night and the overuse of "vilify" compels me to write. You do not or refuse to understand the importance and value in green space in our city. Did you know we exist with a formula of green space per population? And we are less than approved amount although Bobby Jones acres will help.

Do you not understand the extreme dollar value of our parks like Payne and Ken Thompson parks? Two of the most valuable properties owned by the city with Lido Beach the most valuable!

You lack institutional memory when you consistently berate citizens who protested the Sarasota Symphony at Payne. My commission and those following spent millions to close the old city trailer park, move or replace those who needed financial assistance, paid big bucks to remove old sewer and water lines and refurbish the land for safe use. A lot of money came from Local Option Sales Tax dollars, a commitment for a park.... not to 'give away' 9 acres to a for-profit entity that does not expressly serve our city residents. It took years and millions of dollars to reclaim that damaged land and create a beautiful green space. Undoubtedly you did not have that history in mind last night when you vilified me and past commissioners who devoted a lot of money to the park development. Do you not recall the potential demand by the Payne family to take back their gift?

Do you not know it is always about money\$\$a Free Land gimme!

Re: your additional vilification about 'you people who stand in the way' of free land giveaway for profit I am thinking you referred to KT park, another situation of your failure to have institutional memory. Years ago Mote built a small research facility and morphed into a moneymaking event space demanding more and more land for their coffers as a not for profit. My commission turned down their last request to take more park space and declared a policy of no more commercial entities in KT Park.

Somehow you fail to realize the importance of parkland to a community. You forced the RIDE group to go to the Prep board keeping their commercialization open for discussion when you could/should have said 'No Way.'

I do not understand why you do not understand.

As an aside, you vilified me with a poor and incorrect response to my letter re planning dept by saying I 'attacked staff' when every word and question in my letters was absolutely verifiable. The staff does work for you and for citizens like me.

You chose not to cause an investigation to the hoax of the gorilla mess caused by one of your own, your apology to CityPAC was

ACROSS

- 1 Anchorage
- 5 Vice President Burr
- 10 Middle Ages invader
- 15 Goggle
- 19 Round dance
- 20 Day's march
- 21 Likeness
- 22 Spoken
- 23 Eagerly anticipating
- 24 Ora pro ____
- 25 Out
- 26 Little brook
- 27 Final outcome
- 29 Dignified woman
- 31 Crime-lab materials: abbr.
- 32 "Winnie ____ Pu"
- 34 Bulldog of New Haven
- 35 Holy wars
- 38 Proceeds
- 39 Parade strutters
- 44 Originated
- 45 Director Lubitsch
- 46 Havens
- 47 Pt. of A & P
- 49 Damage
- 50 Cloth-making nettle fiber
- 52 Sinned
- 53 Ballpoint pen inventor
- 54 A Truman
- 56 Pseudonym
- 59 Thor, Loki, et al.
- 60 Station
- 62 In the ____ of: surrounded by
- 63 Marzipan source
- 64 Descendants of Esau
- 67 Drone
- 68 ____-on-Hudson, NY
- 70 English Channel port
- 71 Cabals
- 73 Harmonize
- 74 Discredits
- 75 Second home
- 78 Elusive
- 81 Spot for an icicle
- 82 Borgnine role
- 83 Very poor
- 85 Extremely
- 86 Initial: abbr.
- 87 Rouen cathedral painter
- 88 Has deep feelings for
- 90 Curly coifs
- 92 Scary quality
- 94 Went too fast
- 95 Customer
- 96 Rock's Brian
- 97 Affair of honor

Parlez-Vous?

Edited by Linda and Charles Preston

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- 99 Prix fixe meal
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- 110 Raines of film
- 111 Old region in Asia Minor
- 112 Mimicking
- 113 One of the lagomorphs
- 114 Vivid display
- 115 Perfume ingredient
- 116 Seed covering
- 117 Commune in Sicily
- 118 Immobilizing spray
- 119 Market
- 120 Kefauver
- 121 Take a break
- 5 Anchises and Aphrodite's son
- 6 Jots
- 7 Dramatist David
- 8 Obstinate or dogmatic
- 9 Shelters
- 10 Tint
- 11 Omnia vincit ____
- 12 So long, in Soho
- 13 Not fer
- 14 Depicted
- 15 Howe of hockey
- 16 Soprano's song
- 17 ____ Sunday
- 18 "Vogue" rival
- 28 Ouida's "____ Two Flags"
- 30 Architect's annexes
- 33 D-day craft
- 35 Door part
- 36 "Dies ____"
- 37 Appetizer
- 38 Gloomy
- 39 Convex molding
- 40 Hospitality
- 41 "____ the pale moon rising ...": Reif
- 42 Justification for existence
- 43 Kind of quartet
- 45 Make a scene
- 48 "____ Prayer"
- 51 Make ____ of: record
- 52 Firstborn
- 53 Cause to bog down
- 55 Always: music
- 57 Personify
- 58 Vatican attraction
- 59 Countertenor
- 61 Apple seeds
- 63 Burned completely
- 64 Ford failure
- 65 Expand
- 66 Steeples
- 69 Land measures
- 72 Baltic Sea people
- 75 Sheet of stamps
- 76 Wrappers
- 77 Walter or Willis
- 79 Aquatic bird
- 80 Eddie of the Senators
- 82 Odes sung by one
- 84 Crimean conference site
- 87 Rich source
- 88 Sch. of Baton Rouge
- 89 Run
- 91 Chess great
- 93 Have reference to
- 95 Line dances
- 97 "The Wreck of the Mary ____"
- 98 Beatrice's lover
- 99 Semester
- 100 Inter ____
- 101 Voting group
- 102 Party giver
- 103 Aware of
- 104 Level at Shea
- 106 Waterfall fallout
- 107 Superman's flame
- 108 White-tailed eagles
- 109 Exploit

weak, you didn't invite the others to participate and you failed in causing an administrative investigation the possibility of which you were twice apprised. To say I am disgusted is too little.

Mollie Cardamone
Sarasota

Green Space is needed

To: Mollie Cardamone

My point was not whether any of those projects was good or bad for the city. My point was we can object to them without vilifying the person who brought the project. But I was mostly referring to the treatment of people who come before the Commission. They should be treated with respect, no matter who they are. However, the tendency to vilify anyone we don't agree with is my bigger point. People should not expect that if they appear before the Commission and propose an idea or state a view that they will become

the subject of derision, persecution, and humiliation.

It is interesting that you would criticize that I had the courage to apologize to CityPac because I thought it was the right thing to do. I have not prevented anyone else from doing the same. As far as the investigation, I was informed that we did not have the authority to do so because there was no evidence of a crime. At the meeting was the first time I heard that there could be an administrative investigation. However, that would not accomplish what you think it would. I will have Pat Robinson contact you to explain.

Liz Alpert
Mayor
City of Sarasota

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