



# Longboat Key News

May 22, 2026

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## InsideLook



*A victory for tennis boredom ...page 11*



*A case of inedible snapper ...page 15*



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*Dog Day Afternoon ...page 10*

## Sarasota City argues over Downtown Master Plan and tables process after lone bidder voted down

*“I don’t give a damn if we have to start from scratch or whatever the deal is, this is our downtown... it is vehemently imperative that we get this right.”*

**STEVE REID**  
Editor & Publisher  
sreid@lbknews.com

Downtown Sarasota is a city in tension with itself. Glass towers climb over a bayfront skyline while neighbors fight over noise ordinances and shrinking setbacks. A billion-dollar transformation is rising at The Bay, a new performing arts center is on the drawing board, and just up the interstate, the sprawling shops and restaurants of University Town Center keep siphoning away the crowds.

The blueprint meant to guide all of it — to decide how tall the buildings rise, how the streets feel underfoot, and whether the heart of the city still belongs to the people who live there — is a quarter-century old. Everyone agrees it needs rewriting. Almost no one, it turns out, agrees on how.

That fault line cracked wide open on May 18, when the City Commission voted unanimously to suspend its long-awaited downtown master plan update — including the procurement behind it — rather than award a \$500,000 contract to the lone consulting firm left standing after two rounds of solicitation. The decision capped an afternoon of pointed public criticism from some of the region’s most prominent civic and

business organizations, and from members of the very committee the city had assembled to guide the work.

### A plan a quarter-century in the making

The push to refresh downtown Sarasota’s guiding document has been building for two years. Planning Director Steven Cover told commissioners the commission first directed staff to move forward with updating the downtown master plan in April 2024, and over the following months established a citizen ad hoc committee that eventually grew to 13 members. The current plan, Cover noted, dates back roughly a quarter-century; the city says about 85% of its recommendations have been implemented.

Marty Hylton, president of Architecture Sarasota — the organization that helped catalyze the entire effort with a speaker series featuring international planning experts — described the stakes. The visiting experts, he said, consistently emphasized the need for “deep and meaningful public engagement,” “radical transparency throughout the planning process,” and an ambition for

**See Master Plan, page 2**

## Mira Mar Residences Breaks Ground on South Palm Avenue

*Construction is officially underway on one of downtown Sarasota’s most historically significant blocks.*

Mira Mar Residences, an ultra-luxury condominium project on South Palm Avenue, held its official groundbreaking ceremony on the morning of Wednesday, May 20.

The event drew the project’s principals and a roster of local leaders. On hand were Patrick DiPinto, head of Sarasota-based Seaward Development, and his business partner, Michael Markovitz of Mira Mar Acquisition Company; project architects Rick Gonzalez of REG Architects and Igor Reyes of Nichols Architects; and city dignitaries including Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Heather Kasten and City Commissioners Liz Alpert, Jen Ahearn-Koch and Kyle Battie.



**Celebrating the groundbreaking of Mira Mar Residences on South Palm Avenue on May 20 are, from left, Brenda Patten of Berlin Patten Ebling; City Commissioner Kyle Battie; Patrick DiPinto, principal of Mira Mar Acquisition Company; and City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch.**

“This is an exciting day for the Mira Mar Residences project, as construction can officially begin,” said DiPinto, owner of Seaward Development. He called the prop-

erty “a true trophy site and one of the last great opportunities on South Palm Avenue,” noting that it spans nearly an entire city block.

**See Mira Mar, page 12**

## Coast Guard Plucks Injured Captain From the Edge of the Deep

**STEVE REID**  
Editor & Publisher  
sreid@lbknews.com

Out where the water turns from green to a bottomless blue-black, where the West Florida Shelf finally surrenders and plunges toward the deep Gulf, a fishing captain stood on a heaving deck on Tuesday, May 12, with a badly injured hand and a hard truth setting in: help was a long way off.

About 122 miles, to be exact. That is roughly the distance from Longboat Key to Miami — except there is no highway out here, no exit ramp, no hospital around the bend. There is only saltwater in every direction, the horizon unbroken, and a depth gauge that, this far out, reads in the hundreds of feet. The captain, a 56-year-old man hauling line aboard a commercial fishing vessel, had reached one of the loneliest working environments left in America.

Then he heard the rotors.

### The call

The chain of events that would

**See Rescue, page 13**

## Sarasota Weighs Takeover of Troubled Lido Key Park

*City leaders see local control as a fix for years of weekend chaos at South Lido Beach — but the mayor warns the county ranked it as its worst park for a reason.*

For years, Ted Sperling Park has occupied an awkward jurisdictional limbo: a roughly 150-acre stretch of beach, mangrove and nature trail at the southern tip of Lido Key that sits squarely inside the City of Sarasota but is owned and operated by Sarasota County.

Now city leaders are seriously weighing whether to take the park off the county’s hands — a move that surfaced repeatedly at the City Commission’s May 18 meeting and that supporters say could finally

**See Park, page 12**

**Master Plan, from page 1**

Sarasota to “become a national model for good planning.”

**The mission, and the money**

The goal, as staff framed it, was never to start from scratch but to update and build on the existing plan. Cover explained the distinction directly: the original downtown master plan was created from scratch for roughly \$300,000, while the proposed \$500,000 figure was for an update — “taking, working off the successes of the first plan and maybe some of the failures of the first plan and moving from there.”

The financial terms were a recurring theme. Procurement Official Renee Hayes told commissioners a cost analysis had pegged the update at roughly \$300,000 to \$500,000, with the city budgeting at the higher end. The selected firm, MKSK, had initially submitted a price of \$700,000 — \$500,000 for an initial three-year period plus \$100,000 for each of two one-year renewals — but through negotiation, Hayes said, staff brought the cost down to the \$500,000 budget. Commissioner Liz Alpert pressed on whether the dollar figure had been too low to attract top-tier firms; Hayes maintained it was not low for the scope, and attorney Robert Eschenfelder, advising the commission, noted that no vendor had used the formal question period to argue the budget was inadequate.

**A procurement that produced one finalist**

The heart of the controversy was how the city ended up with a single option. Hayes walked the commission through an exhaustive timeline: a first solicitation issued in September 2025 drew seven proposals, but was canceled in November over a problem with how local-preference points were structured. The commission voted to waive local preference in January 2026, and a second solicitation went out — reaching, by the city’s count, more than 27,000 registered vendors through its procurement platform. That round drew only three proposals, and by the time of the April interviews, two had withdrawn, leaving only MKSK.

Among the withdrawals was a pointed one. Renowned planner Andrés Duany’s firm, DPZ CoDesign, pulled out in late March, writing that its methodology and experience were “not congruent with the expectations of the envisioned planning process.” Mayor Debbie Trice zeroed in on the puzzle: “How did 27,000 only bring 3 bids?” Of 14 firms specifically flagged by consultants as good candidates, Hayes said, eight looked at the solicitation but only two ultimately submitted on both rounds.

**A chorus of opposition**

One after another, civic leaders urged the commission to stop and start over. Hylton’s Architecture Sarasota recommended the commission “not award the planning consultant contract to the sole remaining consultant” and reinitiate a process “built on the principles of transparency.” Heather Kasten, president and CEO of the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce, representing more than 1,500 member businesses, said it was “time to hit the reset button,” warning that “our city deserves better than what is left on the table approach” and that the choice was “a generational decision.” Kelly Brown, speaking for the Coalition of City Neighborhood Associations and its 22,000-plus households, said a process “that yielded only a single consultant candidate raises a significant concern about competitiveness, transparency, and long-term outcomes.” Christine Robinson of the Argus Foundation was blunter still: “You should have choices and they should be tough choices amongst several firms that are the best

in the country, but you don’t.”

Perhaps the most striking testimony came from inside the tent. Erin DiFazio, a member of the ad hoc committee itself, told commissioners the process had “felt a bit like checking the box of community engagement” rather than a genuinely committee-driven effort. She said the committee had been left “largely in the dark,” with Sunshine Law restrictions cited as a barrier to their participation in the selection. Citing Duany’s withdrawal letter, she said the evaluation committee “appears to be seeking predetermined answers,” and warned that proceeding now “would be a waste of the taxpayers’ dollars.”

**The commission acts**

Vice Mayor Kathy Kelley Ohlrich moved to suspend all activity, including procurement, on the downtown master plan ad hoc committee until the city’s incoming manager could put the matter back on the agenda — a motion later amended, at Alpert’s request, to also allow the commission itself to revive it. “Clearly we have at least perception problem here,” Ohlrich said. “When that happens, you only have a window of time to make a course correction. If you don’t, your end product will be suspect and you will have wasted money. Now is the time to make the course correction.”

Commissioner Kyle Battie, who seconded, was emphatic about getting it right: “I don’t give a damn if we have to start from scratch or whatever the deal is, this is our downtown... it is vehemently imperative that we get this right.” Both he and the mayor stressed the timing of a new city manager arriving within weeks as an opportunity rather than a setback.

Importantly, the commission was careful not to disband the ad hoc committee, whose members had spent more than a year educating themselves on the issues. Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch sought explicit assurance the committee “would not be unseated,” thanking members for their investment of “time and energy.” Trice echoed the sentiment, saying she “would have voted against disbanding the ad hoc committee,” while gently acknowledging that any member whose “patience has worn thin” could step away without shame.

On legal advice, the commission took no separate vote to formally reject the MKSK contract — Eschenfelder noted “you don’t need to pass a motion to not do a thing,” and that leaving the door ajar preserved options for the new manager to potentially renegotiate. Alpert was careful to absolve staff of wrongdoing: “It’s not what you did wrong. You did it like you thought you were supposed to do it.” The companion budget amendment that would have funded the contract was declared moot.

**What the future holds**

For now, the downtown master plan update is on ice. The path forward runs through Karie Friling, the incoming city manager, whom Trice suggested “probably knows more about this... than we will ever have” when it comes to working with planning consultants. The ad hoc committee remains intact, the existing scope of services and negotiated contract remain on the shelf as starting points, and the question of whether to relaunch a third solicitation — with what Hayes warned would need “substantial changes” — now awaits new leadership.

The episode leaves Sarasota in a familiar spot: a process that several commissioners compared to the city’s first, failed city manager search, which ultimately yielded a stronger field on a second attempt. Whether a reset delivers the “bold and ambitious” planning effort civic leaders are demanding, or simply more delay for a plan already a generation old, will be among the first major tests for the city’s new manager.



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# EditorLetters



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

## St. Regis Arch

To: Editor

I have already expressed my views on this in an earlier letter. In good faith I tried to enlighten the seemingly implacable local forces of opposition that the arch should be seen rather as a virtue and not as an eyesore. It mirrors other much-loved arches past and present on other jetties, groins and piers around the world...the Cote d'Azur France, South coast of England, La Bella Italia, Australia, South Africa, and others. I'm certain some even exist and are loved right here in the United States of America.

The groin of itself is not a great beauty. It is functional at best but adorning it with the tastefully created and secure Arch adds a delightful human quirkiness. It's whimsical which is a quality we need more of these days. Not only are lifelong memories formed in special places like this but the arch itself provides a pleasing and tasteful frame for photographers to record magical moments and family treasures. It harms no one. It's size is proportionate, it's not an obstacle, it's safe and above all - it's fun! Already it's an established talking point and yes, it entertains and makes people of all ages feel good. Isn't that the whole point of life - especially on a wonderful barrier island on the Gulf of Mexico?

I do so hope that our truly outstanding visionary and selfless Longboat Key city fathers and mothers come to their senses before more money is wasted and

more hearts are broken. Ladies and gentlemen - do not tear this inoffensive arch down! We are better than this.

Michael Williams-Jones  
Longboat Key

## Longboat Key Bridge height

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

At our next commission meeting, I will be asking the commission if they would like to have an official position on the proposed height of the LBK Bridge.

John R. Chappie  
Mayor  
Bradenton Beach

## Longboat Key Bridge height

To: Bradenton Beach Mayor John Chappie

Dear John: Residents of north LBK are very concerned about the proposed fixed span bridge. Jim Haft, who co-leads LBK North, has reached out to Bradenton Beach, is hoping you will join our Mayor, Debra Williams, in our request to build a smaller, less intrusive structure.

Thank you John. Hope recovery is continuing on Bradenton Beach. I know you have been swamped.

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

## Longboat Key Bridge height

To: Bradenton Beach Mayor John Chappie

Just following up on my prior message. Is Bradenton Beach willing to send a letter to FDOT opposing the 78-foot mega bridge at Longboat Pass? If so, can you please send me a copy?

I've attached the letter that the Town of Longboat Key has sent to FDOT opposing the fixed bridge. Tal Siddique was going to send a letter as well, in support of the communities in his jurisdiction. Having a letter from Bradenton Beach would greatly assist our lobbying efforts to oppose the bridge.

James G. Haft  
Longboat Key

## Longboat Key Bridge height

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

I know you and I had spoken about the city potentially writing a letter. Just so we're not stepping on each other's toes, did you have any conversations with Mayor Chappie?

Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 6

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### Hideaway Bay





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# EditorLetters



### Letters, from page 4

#### Bradenton Beach -- Fixed Bridge at Longboat Pass

To: James Haft  
We had an all day commission meeting and medical staff put me on total rest. Tests this morning, I will copy now- but more tests today that will put me out.  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

#### Bradenton Beach -- Fixed Bridge at Longboat Pass

To: James Haft  
I have been in hospital for 7 days. Can you send me addresses? I only have phone which does not have them . Thanks  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner, Town of Longboat Key

#### Bradenton Beach -- Fixed Bridge at Longboat Pass

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
Hi BJ - No response to my latest request. Perhaps if you contacted them?  
Jim Haft  
Longboat Key

#### Bradenton Beach -- Fixed Bridge at Longboat Pass

To: James Haft  
The Mayor of Bradenton Beach is John R. Chappie who I have copied on your request. As

always have a great day.  
Terri Sanclemente  
City Clerk, City of Bradenton Beach

#### Home Rule Hero Award

To: Longboat Key Commission  
The Florida League of Cities has recognized Vice Mayor Penny Gold, Commissioner B.J. Bishop, and Town Manager Howard Tipton with the 2026 Home Rule Hero Awards for their outstanding advocacy during this year's Legislative Session. These awards honor local leaders who champion municipal self-governance and ensure local voices are heard in statewide decision-making.

The attached news release includes full details, including remarks from the recipients reflecting on the honor and the importance of Home Rule in our community. Please join us in congratulating them on this well-deserved recognition.

Tina Adams  
Fire Administration & Communications Manager/PIO  
Town of Longboat Key

#### Street light inquiry

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Charlie Mopps  
See below for a neighbor's inquiry. Is this possible for a streetlight on GMD? We live at 6225. Let me know, thanks! Sarah Also, could you please ask the Town to put a downward reflector on the street lamp just south of our houses?

Sarah Karon  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 7



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# EditorLetters



## Letters, from page 6

### Mar Vista

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
 Tip- FYI- Response provided to Ms. Lopez below. Ms. Lopez's initial correspondence was directed to the Commission & Commissioner Karon.  
 Allen Parsons  
 Planning and Zoning Director  
 Town of Longboat Key

### Mar Vista

To: Patti Lopez  
 Thanks for sharing your concerns. We've had a team effort in the investigation and follow-up. Below are responses to your questions:  
 Question regarding restaurant vs. wedding venue: Mar Vista is restaurant. Internal events/groups are allowed.  
 Question regarding occupancy: Town Code Enforcement staff investigated the number of seats and found seating for 140 people, which included waiting area seating. The maximum # of seats allowed by prior Town approval is 169 seats.  
 Reports of illegal parking & vehicular related safety hazards will continue to be monitored by the Police Department and addressed accordingly. If there are specific conditions or concerns you see, please feel free to contact the Police Department non-emergency phone # 941-316-1201 or, if it's a more urgent life-safety matter, please call 911. We appreciate you bringing any concerns to the Town.  
 Allen Parsons  
 Director Planning, Zoning & Building Department  
 Town of Longboat Key

### Mar Vista

To: Longboat Key Commission  
 I am writing to formally report several safety and compliance concerns with Mar Vista Restaurant.  
 I have observed the following issues that require immediate attention:  
 Is Mar Vista a restaurant or a wedding venue? How does the town determine occupancy if it is a wedding venue over a restaurant?  
 - Capacity Violations: The restaurant appears to be seating patrons well beyond the legal capacity limits.  
 - Illegal Parking: There is frequent illegal parking associated with the establishment, which is impacting the surrounding area.

- Safety Hazards: The overcrowding and blocked access points present a significant danger to patrons in the event of an emergency.  
 - Traffic Congestion: The high volume of visitors and poor parking management are causing substantial traffic issues in the neighborhood.  
 I am bringing these matters to your attention to ensure the safety of the public and compliance with local laws. Please let me know if you require any further information to investigate these concerns. Thank you for your assistance.  
 Patti Lopez  
 Longboat Key

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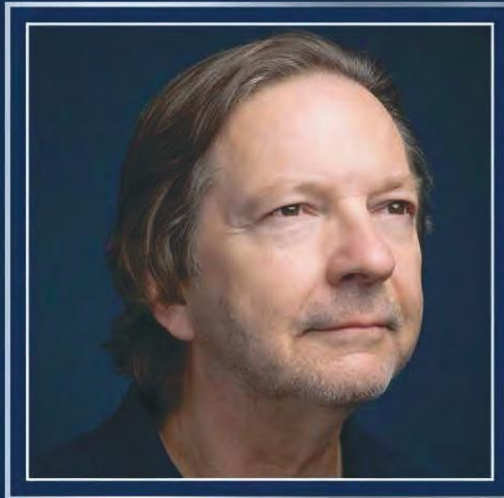
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## Spotting Negative Friends and Fake Friends

### How do I spot friends being fake about **Patience**

*Patience*

To spot fake friends regarding **patience**, pay attention to their actions and words. True friends will demonstrate loyalty & support. True Friends show the ability to speak truthfully, while fake friends may drain your energy or compete with you instead of celebrating your growth.

**Patience**, is a virtue that enables individuals to endure difficult situations and respond with grace rather than anger. It reflects a deep forbearance and self-control, allowing believers to remain steadfast in their faith and relationships despite challenges or injustices they may face.

It is helping someone with challenges instead of punishment, control, judgement. It is helping and leading you when you need help and giving help with nothing expected in return.

However, we hope for something we have not yet seen, and we patiently wait for it. **Patience** can be influenced by personality traits such as conscientiousness, agreeableness, and openness to new experiences. Additionally, emotional regulation and personal history also play significant roles in how patient a person can be in various situations.

### How do I spot friends being fake about **Goodness**

*Goodness*

To spot fake friends regarding **goodness**, look for signs such as emotional manipulation, financial pressure, or a focus on personal loyalty rather than leading you closer to Christ. Genuine friendships should encourage faith, humility, and a deeper connection to:

- Love
- joy,
- peace,
- patience,
- kindness, = How do I spot friends being fake about **Kindness**
- goodness,
- faithfulness,
- gentleness
- self-control
- truth

Fake friends may drain your peace and act differently in private compared to public interactions.

Look for unspoken truths - also called "half-truths." Look for deception. Look for deceit. Look for lies.

Look for lovingly guiding, comforting, and producing the fruit of moral excellence.

### How do I spot friends being fake about **Faithfulness**

*Loyalty*

To spot fake friends regarding **faithfulness**, look for signs such as their lack of loyalty during tough times, their tendency to drain your peace, and their focus on your success rather than your struggles. Genuine friends will support you and speak truthfully, even when it's difficult, reflecting guidance in their actions.

To check your friends' and loved ones' **faithfulness**, observe their consistency in support and honesty in your relationship, as true friends are reliable and candid. Additionally, consider their willingness to engage in acts of kindness and their interest in your needs, which are key indicators of a faithful friendship.

**Loyalty** is an important part of all relationships, especially for close, long time friends. Life teaches us about being faithful and supporting one another, whether it's with family, friends, or partners. **Loyalty** means standing by someone's side during tough times and celebrating with them during happy moments. These values help build trust and strengthen our connections with others.

Shut out all hatred and selfishness, all deliberate hypocrisy or falsehood.

Being faithful involves traits such as loyalty, commitment, honesty, and respect for boundaries. These characteristics help maintain trust and strengthen relationships.

Refraining from cheating or infidelity

Being loyal and supportive in a relationship

Forgiving and working through conflicts and challenges together

Trusting in one's partner and their relationship

Respecting one's partner and their feelings

Keeping promises and commitments

Prioritizing the relationship and making efforts to maintain it

Communicating openly and effectively with one's partner

Being honest and transparent with one's partner

### How do I spot friends being fake about **Gentleness**

*Gentleness*

Fake Friends with Fake Gentleness -

To spot fake friends regarding **gentleness**, look for signs of manipulation or emotional pressure rather than genuine support and encouragement. True friends will embody the positive results of actions, such as love, peace, and kindness, rather than seeking personal gain or attention.

Red Flags Manipulative People Hold

They Play the Victim

They Withhold Information; They Tell Half-truths; They have untold Truths;

They Turn it into a "You" Problem

They Seek Self Pity

## How do I spot friends being fake about **Self-control** **Self-Control**

Individuals with low self-control often struggle with impulsivity, making it difficult for them to stick to plans or manage their emotions effectively.

- **Impulsivity:** Acting on whims without considering the consequences. For example, spending money on unnecessary items rather than saving.
- **Difficulty Delaying Gratification:** Struggling to wait for rewards. This could be as simple as choosing to eat a dessert immediately rather than saving it for later.
- **Inconsistent Behavior:** Fluctuating between being disciplined and succumbing to temptations. You might stick to a workout routine one week but abandon it the next.
- **Emotional Outbursts:** Losing temper quickly over small issues. For instance, yelling at someone in traffic rather than taking a deep breath and moving on.
- **Procrastination:** Putting off important tasks, leading to last-minute stress. This is often seen in students who wait until the night before a deadline to start working on a project.
- **Substance Abuse:** Using drugs or alcohol as a means to cope with stress or emotional pain. For example, someone may regularly drink to escape feelings of anxiety or depression.

## How do I spot friends being fake about **Truth** **Truth**

Fake friends often show inconsistent behavior, offering support only when it's convenient for them and failing to be there during tough times. Their friendship can feel more like a performance than a genuine connection, leaving you drained and questioning their true intentions.

Sometimes the fake friend stays silent instead of speaking the truth to defend you when words or circumstances make people question your values.

Watch out, fake friends aren't always obvious. Sometimes, they're silent when it matters most. They don't trash you, but they don't defend you either. They don't betray you loudly—they just fail to show up quietly. Social rejection activates the same brain regions as physical pain. So when a friend you trusted ghosts you, mocks you, or subtly excludes you—it's not "just in your head." It's happening to your nervous system.

- Disappear in hard times and reappear for fun.
- Pretend to care but they don't
- Make jokes at your expense—and say you're "too sensitive" if you call it out.
- Only support you when you're not doing better than them.
- Offer conditional friendship, depending on what you can give—not who you are
- Constantly make you feel like you have to shrink or edit yourself around them.

## How do I spot friends being fake about **Courage to support me** **Support or Help**

Courage, as a gift from the Holy Spirit, empowers believers to face challenges and fears while acting in accordance with God's will. It is not the absence of fear, but the ability to make the right choices despite it.

Friends that will have the courage to defend you, or will not remain silent when your integrity is questioned will also have the following to make the courage strong and the courage successful:

- Self-confidence
- Conviction
- Integrity
- Leadership
- Self Intuition
- Action
- Compassion
- Objectives - Goals
- Confront problems, conflicts

Fake friends will not have the courage to defend you.

People without courage often exhibit avoidance behaviors, such as shying away from challenges or difficult emotions, and may struggle with self-doubt and fear of failure. They might also lack the ability to confront uncomfortable situations or admit their mistakes, which can hinder personal growth and relationships.

## How do I spot friends being fake about **Empathy with me in sad times and joyful times**

Fake friends often lack empathy, meaning they do not care about your feelings or struggles, and may dismiss your emotions while expecting you to support them. This one-sided dynamic can leave you feeling drained and unsupported.

A friend with low empathy may struggle to understand or respond to your feelings, often focusing more on their own issues. This can lead to a one-sided relationship where emotional support is lacking, making it difficult to connect deeply.

A lack of empathy isn't always easy to detect, but there are a few signs that can help you determine if you or a loved one might not be empathetic:

- Being extremely critical of other people
- Blaming the victim
- Not forgiving people for making mistakes
- Feeling like other people are too sensitive
- Not listening to other people's perspectives or opinions
- An inability to cope with emotional situations
- Lack of patience for other people's emotional reactions
- Reacting with impatience or anger when frustrated with other people
- Feeling baffled by other people's feelings
- Believing that negative things won't happen to you
- Not thinking about or understanding how your behavior affects other people

## How do I spot friends being fake about **Love As A Friend** **Caring**

The supremacy of love over spiritual gifts.

Love is about what we do. It is NOT physical.

True love is selfless, sacrificial, and deeply concerned for others.

It is not about seeking personal gain but about giving without expecting anything in return.

**Finding Fake Friends and True Friends In Life - keep reading THE LONGBOAT KEY NEWS**

**CONTACT BOB PARRISH TODAY:**

\* Address: 12 Date Avenue | Bradenton, FL \*

 Voice or Text: 941-302-2926 \*  Email: BobParrishlbk@gmail.com

# OnPatrol



The following are actual police reports as written by Longboat Key Police Officers. They are edited for length, punctuation and to protect privacy.

## Animal

May 15  
8:05 a.m.

Officer Maple was dispatched to Bayfront Park for an aggressive dog in the dog park. Upon his arrival, Officer Maple met with the complainant who stated a small white dog was fighting with other dogs and he had witnessed at least 4-5 attacks and he had to physically separate the dogs. Officer Maple located the owner of the aggressive dog who claimed he had never been approached by the complainant before today and his dog likes to play a bit rough but he has never seen the dog bite another dog or person and was confused on the police involvement. He stated the complainant was aggressive towards him and stated he was going to hurt/kill his dog if it kept attacking others. No cameras were available to review and he did not witness any aggressive nature by the dog who was friendly towards people. Officer Maple informed the owner of the reportedly aggressive dog that he could be open to civil issues if the behavior continues and causes injury to others. Case clear.



## May 18 Person

8:44 a.m.

Officer Castro was dispatched to Wedge Lane in reference to a suspicious person. The complainant who recently moved onto Wedge Lane called the police department to report a suspicious man wandering around. She said that the man had a head lamp and was walking around the property for approximately two hours. The woman advised that she did not call the police yesterday because she did not want to be a bather. However, she decided to call on this day in case something

had happened. Officer Castro and Officer Mathis walked the property and all appeared to be secure. In addition, Officer Mathis contacted the property owner using contact information, the man was a worker fixing the landscaping lights. The man advised that the work has been done at night since the lights need to be accommodated and aimed at the right place. The man said he will call the police and also let the neighbors know when the worker returns to the property. Case clear.

## Citizen assist

10:45 a.m.

Officer Maple responded to Bayou Sound for a report of a reckless driver. The complainant reported that a black Toyota has been seen several times speeding inside the neighborhood. The complainant advised that earlier today she observed the vehicle driving on Bayou Sound at a high rate of speed, which she believed it was traveling between 50 and 55 mph. She said that she followed the vehicle to Bayou Sound where the vehicle parked in a driveway. Finally, she advised that a young man exited the vehicle and confronted her and asked her to leave the property. Also, a woman came out from the residence, who is believed to be the driver's mother. Officer Maple explained to the woman that the police department is limited in its ability to enforce traffic laws inside the community due to its roads being private. Officer Maple advised her to contact the HOA and make a formal request for traffic enforcement if the problem continues. Case clear.

## May 16

Boat  
12:51 p.m.

Officer Maple responded to the 7300 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a suspicious boat. The complainant reported that a few boats were parked illegally in a marked boat prohibited area in Greer Island. Sgt. Smith contacted the occupants of the boats and were advised of the town ordinances. The boat operators immediately complied and moved the boats. Case clear.

## Lights

9:09 p.m.

Officer Martinson was dispatched to the 2800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on a call of a suspicious person in regards to a group of men fishing on the beach with lights. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson advised them that it was turtle nesting season and white lights were not allowed on the beach at night. The men stated they were unaware that turtle season had already started and apologized. The men turned off their lights. Case clear.

## May 17

### Person

4:01 p.m.

Officer Nazareno responded to Gulfside Road for a suspicious person call. Upon arrival, the caller advised that the two unidentified men had left the abandoned property in a black Tesla prior to Officer Nazareno's arrival. The caller was unable to provide a registration tag and direction of travel. The caller further advised that the subjects did not attempt to enter the abandoned house and were flying a drone on the property. Case clear.

## May 19 Airpods

12:00 a.m.

Officer Troyer was dispatched to the 5400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive to handle lost airpods. Officer Troyer spoke with the caller who said he was at a public beach on Longboat when he lost his airpods. He said he was tracking the device and observed the airpods were pinging at a location on Siesta Kay. The man contacted the Sarasota Police Department, however, they wouldn't start the recovery without a police report already filed. Case clear.

## Chairs

4:28 p.m.

Officer Troyer was dispatched to the 3400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a disturbance. The complainant called the police department and reported two men in a verbal argument. Upon arrival, Officer Troyer met with the employee of the resort who said they had beach chairs set out on the property that is an area meant for guests or residents of the resort. The employee said there is a constant issue where non-guests use their chairs without permission. The employee observed a man wearing a speedo and a woman wearing a bathing suit, using the chairs without permission. The employee also said there was a sign posted next to the chairs to apprise people about the chairs. The employee confronted the couple about the chairs and asked them to return the chairs, as they did not have a right to use them. The employee said the couple told him they would continue using the chairs and would return them when they were done. The employee told them no, which the couple told them to call the police. The employee said there was no argument. Officer Troyer met with the couple on the beach and observed them using the chairs. Officer Troyer also observed the sign which reserved the chairs for resort residents and guests. Officer Troyer asked the couple approximately two more times to kindly put the chairs back, which they did not make any attempt to get up and return the chairs. Officer Troyer then demanded the couple return the chairs. The couple then became irate at Officer Troyer for demanding them to put the chairs up and felt he was rude for demanding they put the chairs back. In the end, the couple put the chairs up, however they were not happy. Case clear.

## May 20

Garage door  
11:45 a.m.

Officer Maple was dispatched to Bayside Drive for an open garage door. Upon his arrival, Officer Maple canvassed property and located one unlocked window too high for any entry and an open garage door. Officer Maple attempted to close the garage door by using the wall mounted garage door opener with no luck. Officer Nazareno and Officer Maple were successful in manually closing the door. Officer Maple attempted to contact the homeowner with no luck. Case clear.

## Citizen assist

2:26 p.m.

Officer Barrett was dispatched to Harbourside Drive regarding a possible floating dock creating a navigational hazard in Sarasota Bay. Upon arrival, Officer Barrett noticed a large object that appeared to be a severely damaged floating dock approximately one half mile behind the residence. The object did not have any identifiable markings on it and was dilapidated. To mitigate a navigational hazard, Officer Barrett towed the object to the Bayfront Park kayak launch, secured it and requested public works to dispose of the object. Case clear.

## May 21

### Citizen assist

11:33 a.m.

Officer Maple was contacted by Sgt. Montfort about a boat that had dragged anchor off the restaurant. A vessel was reported by the restaurant owner. Upon arrival, Officer Maple with the complainant who stated the sailboat had dragged anchor and was now resting against his dock. Officer Nazareno and Officer Maple tied off vessel to the moorings. Running the numbers for a Florida registration came back to the owner who Officer Maple contacted and he stated he did not own a boat. Officer Maple notified FWC who said they would open a case but it could take weeks or months before a removal. Case clear.



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# BreakPoints



## Sinner Wins Everything, Feels Nothing, Cramps on Schedule

*A Penetrating Investigation Into the Most Important Joint in Sports, the Boringest Man to Ever Win Everything, and Pickle Juice.*

**STEVE REID**  
Editor & Publisher  
sreid@lbknews.com

I want to begin this column with a hard-hitting piece of investigative journalism, which is that men's tennis is currently being held hostage by a 23-year-old's wrist.

I am not making this up. Carlos Alcaraz — the Spaniard who plays tennis the way a golden retriever plays with a sprinkler, i.e., with no plan and total joy — tweaked his right wrist in April at his hometown tournament in Barcelona. This is like injuring yourself doing a victory lap. And the wrist, being the diva of the human skeleton, has since announced that it will be missing the clay season, the French Open, the entire grass season, and Wimbledon, and is “evaluating” the U.S. Open the way I evaluate whether to go to the gym.

Tennis experts have responded to this news with the calm, measured tone you would expect, which is to say they are running through the streets screaming. One former world No. 1, Jim Courier, helpfully compared the situation to Juan Martín del Potro, a man whose wrist betrayed him so thoroughly that he eventually had to hit backhands by gently sawing at the ball like he was opening a difficult package. This is the kind of reassurance you want during a health scare. (“Don't worry, it's probably nothing! Just like the Hindenburg!”)



REID

### A Brief Scientific Explanation of the Wrist

The wrist is a complex structure consisting of approximately 8,000 tiny bones, all of which are named after Renaissance painters, and all of which can fail simultaneously and without warning. Doctors do not actually know how the wrist works. What they do know is that when a tennis player injures one, the correct medical procedure is to issue a series of Instagram statements containing the words “prudent,” “cautious,” and “stronger,” in escalating combinations, until the fans calm down or the season ends, whichever comes first.

The complexity here is real. A wrist is not a hamstring. A hamstring you can sort of bully back into service. A wrist is the part of your body that decides whether a tennis ball goes screaming into the corner or gently into the back of a spectator named Gerald. Rush it, and you don't just lose matches — you lose the thing, the magic flick, the shot that made Gerald put down his \$19 stadium beer and go “WHOA.” Alcaraz's whole game is built on that flick. Asking him to play without trusting his wrist is like asking a magician to do card tricks with oven mitts.

### Meanwhile, In The Land Of The Living

With Alcaraz sidelined, the entire tennis world now belongs to Jannik Sinner, a man who is currently ranked No. 1 and who plays tennis with the warm, spontaneous flair of a high-end Scandinavian dishwasher. I say this with respect. He is magnificent. He wins everything. He has a Masters 1000 win streak that recently passed Novak Djokovic's record, which is the tennis equivalent of out-stubborn-ing the world's most stubborn man.

But — and here is where I must put on my Serious Journalist Hat — at the recent Italian Open in Rome, Sinner played a semifinal against Daniil Medvedev and something interesting happened. Sinner won the first set easily. Then Medvedev won the second. Then, in the third set, while leading but visibly struggling, Sinner suddenly required a MEDICAL TIMEOUT, during which physios massaged both of his quadriceps while a look of profound suffering crossed his face.

Medvedev, who is the most relatable man in sports because he is permanently one bad bounce away from filing a formal complaint with the universe, immediately began arguing — in French, which is the official language of tennis grievances — that you are NOT ALLOWED a medical timeout for cramps. A commentator agreed, noting, and again I am not making this up, that Sinner appeared to be “sipping on his pickle juice,” which is a real anti-cramp remedy and also would be an excellent name for a rock band.

Now, I am not saying that the modern champion has perfected the art of developing a sudden, mysterious, hydration-adjacent ailment at the exact moment a match tightens, in the grand tradition of a certain 24-time Grand Slam champion who could pull a hamstring, a heartstring, and a sympathy violin all in the same changeover. I am simply observing it, the way a nature documentarian observes a lion. Then, as if scripted by a god with a sense of comedy, it started raining, the match was suspended until the next day, and Sinner got to go take a nap. Some guys have all the luck and also the pickle juice.

### But Is Carlos Okay???

This is the question on everyone's mind, and the answer is: he is doing GREAT, if your definition of “recovering from a serious wrist injury” includes “lying face-down in clay for a fashion magazine.”

While his ranking points evaporate, Alcaraz has been busy shooting a spread for Vanity Fair in which he poses artistically with clay smeared on his face, dressed in white, looking like a Renaissance painting titled Saint Carlos, Patron of Not Currently Playing Tennis. The internet's reaction was divided between “he's gorgeous” and “sir, please pick the racket back up,” with one fan noting that tennis now appears to be Carlos's “day job.” Which, given the wrist, is technically accurate.

The greater danger, however, looms on the horizon, and that danger is named Ibiza.

History tells us that Alcaraz, when freed from the burden of competition, makes a pilgrimage to Ibiza — the Spanish island whose chief exports are nightclubs, sunburn, and questionable decisions — where he has previously been filmed singing “We Are the Champions” at full volume in a state of advanced celebration. His own agent once said of these trips, and I quote a man whose entire net worth depends on this kid's wrist, “It scares me personally.” That is the sound of a man watching his retirement plan do a conga line.

### How Will His Game And Mind Survive?

Here is my expert prediction, and remember, I have correctly predicted zero (0) sporting



events in my life.

The body part heals on its own schedule and cannot be negotiated with, bribed, or sung to. The mind is trickier. Alcaraz must now do the hardest thing in sports, which is nothing — sit still, stay composed, resist the urge to grab a racket and “just test it real quick,” and trust that the magic flick will still be there when the 8,000 painter-bones reconvene. He must remain patient while a Scandinavian dishwasher quietly wins everything and the TV ratings, deprived of a shot-maker who makes people gasp, settle into the gentle flatness of a region's third-most-watched curling final.

Will he hold it together? Probably. He's 23, he has roughly nine more careers left, and he genuinely seems to like being alive in a way most champions forgot to learn. Tennis just has to survive the wait — which, like a wrist, will heal slowly, painfully, and only if everyone agrees to stop poking it.

In the meantime: drink your pickle juice, avoid Ibiza, and for the love of God, somebody get Gerald another beer.

# RINGSIDE

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## Editorial Clarification

This is a clarification of the recent article in the May 15 edition, “Longboat Key Gave Up Its Insularity for Beach Money; The Parking Lot Is the Receipt,” in which it implies that the Town has developed a new deal with the state to help pay for Beach Nourishment. It states “For most of its history, Longboat Key paid its own way to the water. Residents taxed themselves to truck in sand, groomed their own shoreline, built their own parks and kept access intentionally quiet. For most of its history, Longboat Key paid its own way to the water. The bargain was simple: pay for the beach, keep the beach. The mainland could go to Lido, Siesta or Cortez.”

In actuality, the Town has been partnering with the State to conduct beach nourishment for at least 26 years as Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Project Funding Agreement 00ME02, dated December 13, 2000 demonstrates. This is the Local Government Funding program (LGFR) through the Beach Management Assistance Program, that the FDEP administers. This 2000 agreement has all the parking spots for all the Public Beach

Asses listed, including 100 public parking spaces at Bayfront Park, which is the requirement for Primary Beach Access point, according to Florida Administrative Code 62B-36. As your article correctly indicates, the Town’s first beach nourishment took place in 1993 and started participating in State Funding program soon thereafter. So for most of the Town’s History in Beach Management, it has been part of this program. As the article indicated, Sarasota County did assist in the improvements to Bayfront Park in 2017-2018. With all the improvements, additional parking spots were needed to make up for those lost in the development.

This program has saved the Town’s Citizens up to 28% of the total program costs for its beach building efforts. This is a critical percentage as the article correctly points out that the costs of beach nourishments have been increasing at a very fast rate.

In addition all of the shoreline along Longboat Key is considered public, through the establishment on the Erosion Control Line (ECL) most of which was established in either 1977 or 1991. This line was set along the Mean High Water Line at the time it was established. All land seaward of that land is considered lands of the State (Public). An example is below.

### Mira Mar, from page 1

#### A trophy site with a storied past

The Mira Mar opened in 1922, conceived by Chicago industrialist Andrew McAnsh and built in roughly 60 days — fast enough to earn the nickname “the 60-Day Wonder.” Stretching nearly 400 feet along Palm Avenue, it was the city’s first hotel and first luxury residences, part of a complex that once also held an auditorium, a casino and a cigar factory. The auditorium was razed in 1955 and the hotel in 1982, leaving the Mediterranean Revival apartment block that the new project will preserve and restore.

The road to groundbreaking was not smooth. When Seaward sought to demolish the aging building in 2022, the city’s Historic Preservation Board refused. Rather than appeal, DiPinto’s team spent nearly two years crafting an alternative: fully restore the original structure while funding the roughly \$29 million rehabilitation with revenue from the new condominiums. The plan required rezoning the site from Downtown Core to Downtown Bayfront — a change neighbors opposed and planning staff initially recommended against — before the City Commission approved it unanimously in 2025. Preservation advocates have since called the

project a model. “We finally have a developer who is listening to the community,” said Erin DiFazio of the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation. National firm Suffolk Construction, recently the builder on the Waldorf Astoria New York restoration, is the general contractor.

#### Resort-level living

When complete, the development will offer 70 residences across two 18-story towers, with expansive three- and four-bedroom floorplans and amenities the developer says will rival any five-star Gulf Coast resort. Planned features include a 19th-floor Sky Speakeasy Lounge, a 70-foot resort-style outdoor lap pool, a wellness retreat with indoor water-therapy pools, an infrared sauna, steam and massage rooms, and a dog spa with an open-air turf park. Services will include complimentary valet parking, a hospitality concierge, resident handyman service, a lifestyle activities coordinator and a luxury car-and-driver service. Prices start in the high \$3 millions, and the towers were designed with stepped, “wedding-cake” setbacks to protect bay views, light and breezeways for neighboring buildings. Completion is targeted for the end of 2028.

### Park, from page 1

bring order to one of the region’s most contentious public spaces.

The idea is tied to a broader conversation about creating a city parks district, and it drew support from both residents and commissioners. But the discussion also laid bare why the county may be willing to let the park go, and why the city should think carefully before saying yes.

#### A park nobody seems to fully control

The central problem with Ted Sperling Park is structural. Because it is county property within city limits, the county has no enforcement arm of its own and must rely on the Sheriff’s Office, the Sarasota Police Department, or the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to police it. The result, residents say, has been years of weekend chaos along South Lido Beach: reckless jet ski operators, party boats anchored offshore with blaring stereos, and what neighbors describe as a destination that has spun out of control.

Speaking during public comment, David Rayner — a former resident of the Orchid Beach condominium next to the park and a board member of the Lido Key Residents Association — told commissioners he had been raising concerns about the park for nine years before finally giving up and moving. He praised the prospect of a city purchase but was blunt about his experience with the county, which he called “horrendous to deal with” over the prior seven to nine months. According to Rayner, the county had at one point asked staff to compile a list of its problem parks, and he told the commission that Ted Sperling Park ranked at the top of the 16 parks identified. Rayner also claimed the park generated more than 360 substantive police complaints in 2022 and 2023 — incidents he said ranged from suspicious persons to marine accidents and fires. “Buy the park,” he urged the commission. “Create the park district. Don’t let parks be the last thing on the agenda.”

#### A death that intensified the stakes

Looming over the entire debate is a tragedy. In June 2025, 19-year-old Luis Guevara, an infielder in the Baltimore Orioles’ minor league system, was killed in a head-on collision between two personal watercraft off South Lido Beach. Guevara, a Venezuelan native who signed with the Orioles as an international free agent in 2023 and was playing his first season in the United States, died of his injuries after all four occupants of the two jet skis were thrown into the water.

Rayner referenced the death directly, linking it to what he described as illicit jet ski rentals operating at the park.

The fatality galvanized both governments. In July 2025, the city and county each directed staff to draft ordinances restricting the beaching and mooring of motorized vessels within 300 feet of shore and to examine unlicensed commercial watercraft rentals. The county had already approved an ordinance regulating commercial activity in its water-access parks, though implementation was suspended after the 2024 hurricane season damaged boat launches and bulkheads. County Commissioner Mark Smith championed an exclusion zone around the park, but that effort hit a wall in late 2025 when the FWC signaled it would require “substantial competent evidence” before permitting a 300-foot motorboat exclusion zone — leaving the regulatory fix potentially a year or more away.

#### Why the city thinks it could do better

At the May 18 meeting, Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch made the case for a city takeover most forcefully. She pushed back on the framing of Sperling Park as simply a “problem park,” arguing the label reflects the county’s circumstances, not the park’s inherent character. “It’s one of their top problem parks list because it’s difficult for them to manage it,” she said. “It’s not a priority for them to manage it because it is so far out of the scope for them.” For the city, by contrast, “since it’s in the city and it’s right there... it will be far more efficient for the city to do it.”

Ahearn-Koch pointed to the city’s existing parks operation as a model, praising the work of city parks staff and arguing the city could bring the same standard to Sperling. She suggested practical tools the city could use to get the park “under control” — limiting hours, capping occupancy, and similar measures — while protecting the preserve. The goal, she said, would be to “protect the nature, protect the preserve, protect the turtles and the birds and the beach,” and protect the public, including swimmers she described as repeatedly getting into trouble in the water.

Mayor Debbie Trice was supportive but injected a note of caution, twice flagging the realities the city would inherit. “The county put that on the top of their problem parks list,” she reminded colleagues. “So we should bear that in mind.” She also raised the physical nature of the land itself: “It is a large, swampy area” — a reminder that the park’s mangrove preserve and beach come with real management demands.

#### Where it goes from here

City Attorney Joseph Polzak told commissioners the park has been the subject of both internal and external discussions, “especially now with the parks district discussion,” and offered to open formal talks with his counterpart, the county attorney, if the commission directed him to. He noted he already had “kind of a dialogue” going with the county attorney on the topic and would coordinate with the incoming city manager, who was set to start within two weeks. Vice Mayor Kathy Kelley Ohlrich said she would be interested in pursuing those conversations as well.

The commission did not take a formal vote to acquire the park at the meeting; the discussion was directional, with Ahearn-Koch noting, “I do [want to move forward]. But we are five people” — an acknowledgment that any acquisition would require full commission action. The practical effect was a green light for staff to keep exploring a transfer and to fold the question into the larger parks-district planning effort.

#### The bottom line

Ted Sperling Park is at a crossroads. It is a beloved and ecologically significant piece of public land — popular with kayakers paddling its mangrove tunnels and beachgoers watching the sunset — that has also become a flashpoint for public safety, a jurisdictional headache, and the site of a young athlete’s death. The city’s interest in acquiring it reflects a belief that local control could finally deliver the enforcement and stewardship the park has lacked. But as the mayor’s cautions suggest, taking ownership would mean inheriting a swampy, sprawling, hard-to-police preserve that a resident told the commission the county ranked as its most troublesome park. Whether the city can succeed where the county struggled — and whether the long-delayed watercraft restrictions ever clear their regulatory hurdles — will determine what the future actually holds for South Lido Beach.

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## Rescue, from page 1

carry the captain back to dry land began with a single radio request that crackled into the watch floor at Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg. A crewman was hurt. The wound — sustained while hauling line, the punishing, repetitive heart of commercial reef fishing — was beyond what a deckhand and a first-aid kit could manage at sea.

Watchstanders did the math fast. After consulting with the patient's condition, they determined he needed a higher level of care than anyone aboard could provide, and they made the call that turns an ordinary Tuesday into a race: launch the helicopter.

At Air Station Clearwater — the busiest Coast Guard air station in the country — an MH-60T Jayhawk crew spun up. The Jayhawk is a four-person, twin-engine machine built precisely for moments like this: designed to fly up to 300 miles offshore, hold station over a target for up to 45 minutes, and bring people home with fuel to spare. It cruises around 140 knots — better than 160 mph — which still meant the better part of an hour of nothing but water sliding beneath the cabin before the fishing boat would ever come into view.

## What it's like out there

To understand the distance is to understand the danger. Closer to shore, a hurt fisherman can be reached in under an hour by a fast response boat from a station like Cortez. But 122 miles is a different country.

This is the shelf edge — the place where the broad, relatively shallow West Florida Shelf, which reaches roughly 120 miles off Tampa Bay, drops away into the true deep. Oceanographers put the shelf break off this stretch of coast at around the 75-meter line — about 250 feet down — and just beyond it the bottom falls toward thousands of feet along the steep face known as the Florida Escarpment. These shelf-edge waters are studded with drowned, ancient reefs that have drawn fishermen for more than a century, prime grounds for grouper, snapper, and tilefish. They are also the reason a captain would steam two days from port, working long lines up from the bottom by hand and machine, far from anyone who could help if something went wrong.

Out here, weather builds with nothing to stop it. Swells roll in unbroken from across the Gulf. A fishing vessel becomes a small, moving, pitching target — and the helicopter has to thread a hoist cable down to it without ever touching down.

## The hoist

Once the Jayhawk arrived overhead, the crew put their rescue swimmer into the equation — the Coast Guard's most physically demanding rating, a person trained to drop from a hovering aircraft into open water or onto a rolling deck. The swimmer reached the captain, assessed his injury, and readied him for the lift.

Then came the part that looks effortless on the news and is anything but: the rescue basket, lowered on a cable rated to 600 pounds and just 200 feet long, swinging beneath a 21,000-pound helicopter that is itself fighting wind, rotor wash, and the up-and-down motion of the boat below. The pilots hold a hover by feel and instrument. The flight mechanic runs the hoist. Inches matter. The captain was loaded into the basket, hoisted clear of the deck, and brought safely aboard.

From there the Jayhawk turned east for the long run back to the mainland, delivering the captain to Tampa General Hospital. The Coast Guard did not release his name or condition, and the hospital declined to discuss it, citing privacy. The name of the fishing vessel was not made public.



## “Precise execution”

For the people who do this work, the long odometer reading is exactly the point.

“Executing a medevac more than 100 miles out in the Gulf requires precise execution,” said Chief Petty Officer Sean Deaton, a command duty officer at Sector St. Petersburg. “The quick and decisive actions by both our command center and air station personnel led to this successful rescue, demonstrating the proficiency and readiness of our crews to respond whenever and wherever they are needed.”

It is a readiness this stretch of coast has leaned on before. Just last year, during Hurricane Milton, a Clearwater-area aircrew found a fishing captain 30 miles off Longboat Key clinging to a floating cooler after an overnight ordeal in 20-foot seas. The Jayhawk fleet has saved more than 13,000 lives since entering service in 1990.

On this Tuesday, the tally rose by one — a captain who left port to work the deep reefs, got hurt where help is hardest to reach, and came home anyway.

*The U.S. Coast Guard urges all mariners heading offshore to carry reliable, redundant communications — a working VHF radio and an EPIRB emergency beacon can be the difference between a rescue and a tragedy. More information is available at uscg.mil.*



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## Town of Longboat Key ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS

The Longboat Key Town Commission will be accepting applications for appointments to the Charter Review Committee.

**Article II, Section 20(b) of the Town Charter states: The Town Commission, at its discretion, shall appoint a Charter Review Committee to review the Charter but in no event shall such review be less than once in a ten (10) year period from the date of adoption of this Charter.**

Members selected to serve on this Committee will be responsible for review of the Charter and will provide recommendations to the Town Commission on any proposed amendments. Individuals appointed to this Committee are subject to Florida's Sunshine Law as provided for in Chapter 286, Florida Statutes, and Florida's Public Records Law as provided for in Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, and **MUST be available for in-person meetings during the months of July and August 2026.**

All applications must be submitted to the Office of the Town Clerk **by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on June 15, 2026.** The Town Commission will host a Meet and Greet on June 22, 2026, to meet interested individuals and will make final appointments at the June 29, 2026, Town Commission Special Meeting.

Applications are available at the Office of the Town Clerk or can be downloaded from the Town's website at [www.longboatkey.org](http://www.longboatkey.org).

For additional information, please contact the Office of the Town Clerk at 941-316-1999. Applications may be sent via e-mail to [tclerk@longboatkey.org](mailto:tclerk@longboatkey.org), submitted in person, or by mail to:

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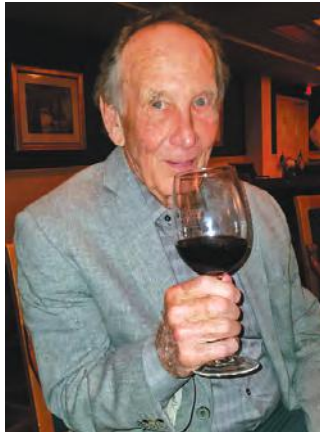
## The Case of the Overcooked Snapper Francaise

*Don't settle for ill-prepared food and drink. Diners deserve better. They can and should reject anything that fails to live up to the highest standards.*

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

This article has two parts. The bad part happened at a restaurant in Sarasota Florida. We reserved a table for a holiday dinner.

We ordered starters from the regular menu. When we asked about sparkling wine, the server suggested Prosecco, not our favorite, and neglected to mention the Spumante on the menu. We ordered a Spumante with the starters, then a still wine with the entrees. Orders of entrees included a Snapper Francaise dish. When the dish arrived, the person who ordered it tasted the Snapper and made a face. The person called for the server and said that the dish had been overcooked and did not appear to be fresh. The server hesitated and returned the dish to the kitchen but quickly returned with it and told us that the chef had checked the dish and found it fresh and properly prepared.



Now it happened that the person who had ordered the Snapper Francaise had grown up in New Orleans and that person and others in the party had worked at four-star restaurants. They knew how Snapper Francaise should taste and, further, that a fine dining restaurant (one that charges over \$30 per entree on the menu) would not hesitate to accept the return of a dish that a diner did not find acceptable. Instead, the kitchen refused to replace or cancel the order. After settling a check for over \$100 per person, the dispute about the Snapper Francaise spilled over into the reception area.

The hostess at the reception desk began screaming at our party, other members of the restaurant staff came forward to confront us, and the chef came out of the kitchen brandishing an empty wine bottle and threatening harm. A man came from the back of the restaurant and began pushing us toward the front steps. He pushed a person in our party to the floor. We called the police as did the restaurant. The resulting melee left us bruised. The restaurant has banned us from returning to the restaurant. Not a chance of that happening unless one of us has a stroke and develops an uncontrollable urge for Snapper Francaise with a side of assault.

We won't name the restaurant since we don't pan a restaurant based on a single visit. We will say that their reviews on the web indicate infrequent but troubling conflicts with some customers. Not a good sign. We failed to check for that before making a reservation. Our search for a basis for comparison, another restaurant serving Snapper Francaise, led us to not one but two Sarasota Florida venues for

fresh finfish and shellfish. Kacey's Seafood and More on Lockwood Ridge and Kacey's Seafood on Fruitville Road offer friendly service and excellent food and drink at reasonable prices.

The starters include several tasty items: Chilled Ahi Tuna, sesame crusted and served over a seaweed salad (\$13) and Crab Cakes (\$15), not ideal but much better than the usual Florida attempts to match Chesapeake Bay standards. The Seafood Gumbo of shrimp and cod with Andouille sausage (\$7 cup) stretchg the range of gum-bos in that it lacks okra, and the Lobster Bisque (\$7 cup), light on the lobster meat, despite our quibbling prove tasty. The large Fried Shrimp and the Lobster Roll (\$29 but with the ominous MARKET PRICE note) have a devoted following.



A longtime-member of the staff recalled that the Lockwood Ridge location where she worked was the original Lazy Lobster location before it opened on Long Boat Key. Owner Michael Garey, well regarded for his role in the Kiwanis Lawn Party on City Island, and his partners renamed the Lockwood Ridge location Kacey's Seafood and More.

It was under Kacey's Classic Entrees on the menu of the Fruitville Road location that we found the perfect foil to the overcooked Snapper Francaise. The Kacey's Snapper Francaise (\$29) presents a thick filet of meaty snapper dipped in egg batter and lightly seared in a sauce of white wine and lemon butter. The interior of the fish remains moist and succulent and redolent of salt air. The glaze of the sauce enlivens the flavor of this classic dish. Case closed.

Don't settle for ill-prepared food and drink. Diners deserve better. They can and should reject anything that fails to live up to the highest standards.

*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.*

### Longboat Key News Sarasota City News

PO Box 8001  
 Longboat Key, FL 34228  
 941-387-2200  
 www.lbknews.com

Steve Reid, Editor & Publisher  
 sreid@lbknews.com

Associate Publisher  
 Melissa Reid

Sales  
 Lillian Sands  
 Steve Reid  
 ads@lbknews.com

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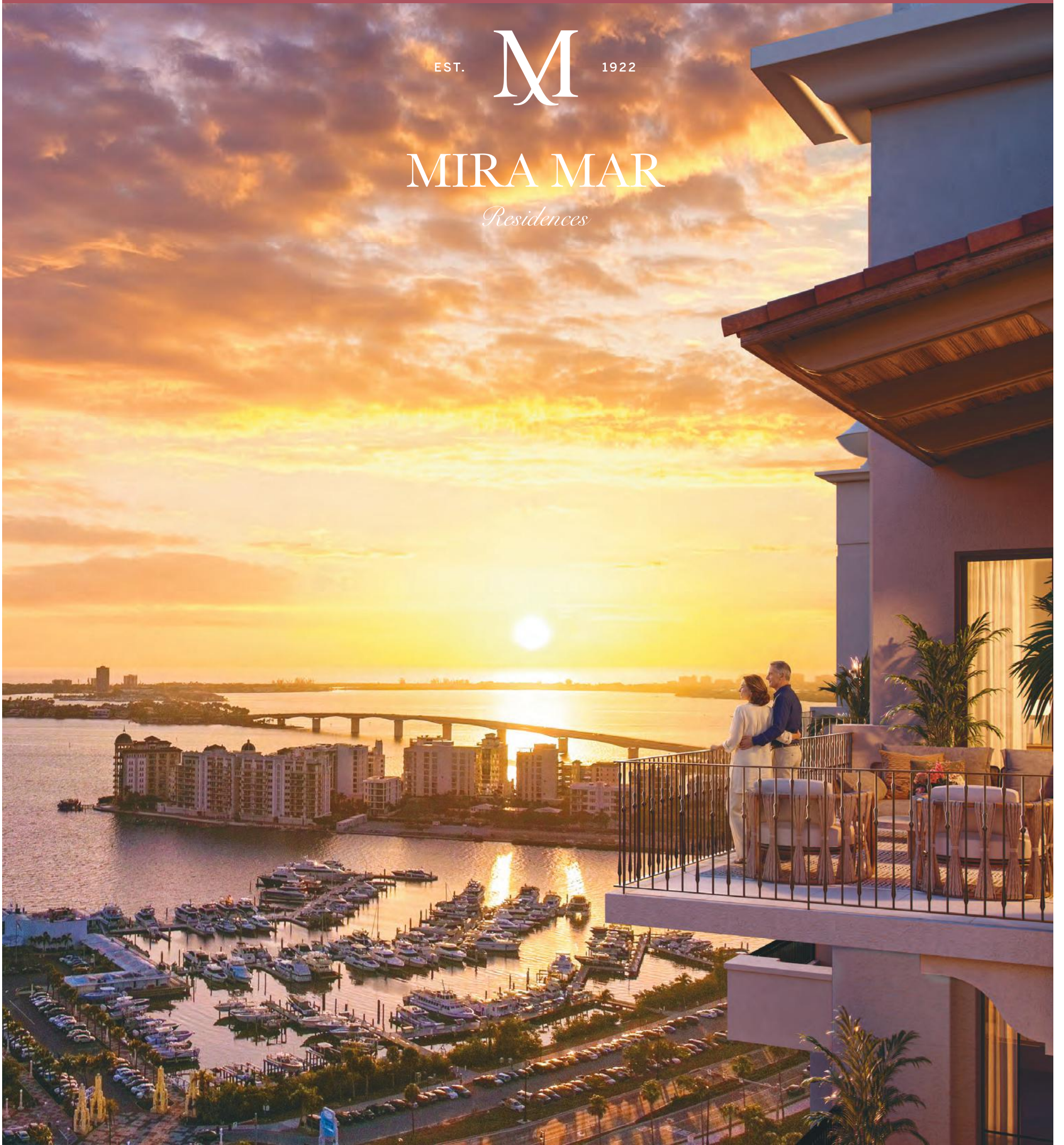
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