



# Longboat Key News

August 8, 2025

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## InsideLook



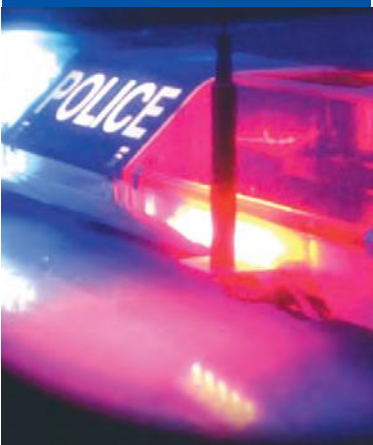
Picking up the pace of life ...page 3



LBK condo tops a slow week ...page 11



Your guide to tiebreak success ...page 13



Trapped or taking shelter? ...page 10

## Falling Prices Push Volume

Florida reported a year-over-year increase in single-family home sales for the first time since January - a rise of 2.8 percent in June.

This is a change in tone from the recent downward trend in the state's struggling housing market, according to the latest data by Florida Realtors. Falling prices might have helped:



in June, the median sale price of a single-family home in the Sunshine State was \$412,000, down 3.5 percent from a year earlier though still up a staggering 46 percent from

See Market, page 2

## COVID Variant Driving Up Cases

The new variant XFG, or "Stratus," has become the third-most dominant strain of COVID-19 this summer and is driving up case estimates in Florida.

Stratus is similar in symptoms and seriousness to other Omicron variants, but it may present a never-before-seen symptom: hoarseness.

New data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows Stratus accounted for 14 percent of cases. See Covid, page 2

## What's the big deal with seagrass cover levels in Sarasota Bay?

Concerns over the deterioration in the health of the bay manifested themselves in public meetings, culminating in a packed auditorium at Riverview High School.



The following is a report on the state of Sarasota Seagrass from outgoing Executive Director of Sarasota Bay Estuary Program David Tomasko.

Hopefully, you're aware of our recent good news on the health of the bay. If not, it's pretty basic, and it involved a couple of steps:

Concerns over the obvious deterioration in the health of the bay manifested themselves in a series of public meetings, culminating in a packed auditorium at Riverview High School in 2019.

Building off that energy, the SBEP worked with our partners to develop a Pollutant Load Reduction Goal (PLRG) back in 2021

A Water Quality Restoration Workshop, also held in 2021, determined that wastewater upgrades and stormwater retrofit projects that were mostly underway at the time were expected to be of sufficient magnitude that they would meet the bay's PLRG

By 2023, our water quality had improved enough that FDEP determined that none of the open waters of Sarasota Bay were out of compliance with their established numeric nutrient criteria

By 2025, SWFWMD informed us that seagrass coverage had increased by nearly 2,000 acres, a 19% increase. This is all good news – and it is due to the focused work that local governments have undertaken to reduce wastewater overflows, decrease the nutrient content of treated effluent from wastewater treatment plants, and the completion of two large regional stormwater treatment projects that were constructed in areas that had developed without stormwater rules in place.

The seagrass gains we've seen across the bay do not represent a pristine system. Not at all. And concerns about the bay's health continue. But...the bay did not tip over into the problems that were seen in the Indian River Lagoon over the past decade. That said, while the pattern of seagrass increase across the bay is positive, different parts of the bay are displaying different patterns.

For example, Upper Sarasota Bay (the area between Ringling and Manatee Avenue Causeways) has seen the greatest seagrass increase. But most of that increase is in areas that had previously lost coverage, and so we've really just re-gained what we had previously lost.

We've gained a lot there over the last two years, but we're still lower than what we had between 2008 and 2018. See Seagrass, page 12

## New grant allows for testing in south Sarasota County bays

New water testing sites are coming to southern Sarasota County to ensure water safety and education about bacteria.

It's all a part of a grant totaling \$400,000 over two years. Within the grant, one local nonprofit, Suncoast Waterkeeper, is able to add eight new testing sites, to better cover Sarasota County bays.

"Fecal indicator testing is going to occur weekly here but also on Turtle Beach but not on the gulf side, on the bay side," said Abbey Tyrna, executive director of Suncoast Waterkeeper.

"There are several other sites, if you've ever gone to the park right off of Vamo, or Indian Mound Park. We're testing eight new sites and we're looking for more.

Fecal indicator testing targets a bacteria known as Internal Cocci in brackish water. In fresh water, it's known as E. coli.

Another area the grant is able to provide funds for is monitoring the mangroves in a program called Mangrove Rangers.

"Mangrove Rangers is a program where we monitor eight sites across the Sarasota Bay and Palma Sola Bay areas looking at chances in water quality. See Water testing, page 2



Gecko’s Raises Over \$11K for Mote to Honor Dr. Clark

On August 6, Gecko’s Hospitality Group (GHG) presented a check for \$11,070 to Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium in front of the Mote Science Education Aquarium (SEA), which is set to open soon at Nathan Benderson Park.

This donation is part of a partnership between GHG and Mote, through which proceeds from GHG’s signature philanthropic cocktail, the Shark Lady, directly support Mote’s world-class marine science research. The cocktail contains a mix of rum, blue curacao, pineapple juice and sour mix (with a gummy shark on top)! Since the specialty drink’s launch in 2018, GHG has donated approximately \$76,000 to Mote through this initiative.

The Shark Lady cocktail is named in honor of Mote’s Founding Director, Dr. Eugenie “Genie” Clark. Known worldwide as “The Shark Lady,” Dr. Clark was a pioneering ichthyologist who made groundbreaking discoveries about shark behavior, intelligence, and ecology. Her work helped dispel harmful myths about sharks and other apex predators, and her legacy continues to inspire the next generation of ocean stewards.



Gecko’s hospitality group owners, Mike Gowan and Mike Quillen, along with coo, Fiona Farrell, presenting Mote’s President & CEO, Dr. Michael P. Crosby, with a check for \$11,070.

Water testing, from page 1

mangrove habitat due to their vulnerability,” Tyrna said.

For more information on Suncoast Waterkeepers, or to reach out to them for a suggestion on a new testing location, visit their website: [www.suncoastwaterkeeper.org/contact](http://www.suncoastwaterkeeper.org/contact)

Covid, from page 1

cent of COVID-19 cases in late June. Stratus was first detected in Southeast Asia in January, but didn’t show up in U.S. surveillance reports until May, when it represented 0 percent of infections. The World Health Organization classified XFG as a “variant under monitoring” in June.

The CDC said that as of July 29, its COVID-19 forecasting models show infection rates in Florida are growing.

Overall, the projections show infections are growing or likely to grow in 40 states and are unchanged in nine others. The highest rates of transmission are in the South, Mid-Atlantic, Northeast and Midwest.

The public health agency also said COVID viral activity in wastewater remains “low” nationally, but at least 10 states had “high” or “very high” levels, as of July 12.

With 13 sites reporting, viral activity in Florida is currently high.

For the seven-day period ending July 31, 2.14 percent of emergency room visits in Florida had been for COVID-19.

Market, from page 1

2020.

While it is too early to call this a market shift, experts believe this small increase could indicate that buyers are coming around to the current challenges facing them, including rising costs and historically elevated mortgage rates.

Florida experienced a housing boom during the pandemic, when the rise of remote work allowed hundreds of thousands of people to relocate to the state. The explosion in demand resulted in house prices booming to unprecedented highs.

Over the past couple of years, Florida built more new homes than any other state in the country in an attempt to meet demand. But in the meantime, as mortgage rates suddenly shot to 6-7 percent and employers started issuing return-to-office orders, demand cooled down.

The Sunshine State—especially its most overheated markets—has found itself with more homes for sale than buyers are willing to purchase under the current situation. Facing dwindling interest and falling sales, sellers in Florida have increasingly slashed their asking prices in recent months, while some markets—like Tampa—are reporting double-digit+ price drops.



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# KeyHealth

## Changes, little bit by little bit

*It's clear three ten minute walking bouts - intervals - are better for overall conditioning than thirty minutes at a time.*

**MATTHEW EDLUND**  
Guest Columnist  
news@lbknews.com

"I can't change," people tell me. "I want to. I can't."  
Yet the research landscape is changing. And now it's arguing that small shifts, little changes bit by bit, are more than effective. When interspersed among times of rest, when cells and tissues remake and regenerate themselves, they can make more effective contributions to your health – physical, mental, social and spiritual.  
Behavioral change is challenging. For many who feel ill, they may appear insuperable. The example of interval exercise training is just one example of how human body programming can be rewritten, quickly and expeditiously. Exercise is just the start – food and rest can also be redone in small yet significant ways.



MATTHEW EDLUND

### Interval Training

Over forty years ago a Russian sports defector provided the "secret" of national team's success in long distance running.  
You don't just run long. You run short distances. Fast.  
To win the distance races you needed to sprint. The body then redeveloped. Muscles quickly changed, joints reconfigured. Most importantly, the brain changed, and all the interconnections thereof. The body as information system was reintegrated and rebuilt, making it faster for the long and short haul.  
Today, short fast intervals, of ten to sixty seconds at a time, are thought by researchers to reset insulin sensitivity. If people moving fast just two to four minutes total a day can markedly decrease their risk of diabetes, that would be a huge public health success. Some researchers are starting to argue that one minute's exercise a day, done absolutely flat out, may produce major improvements in sedentary folk's physical health.  
Fortunately such fast intervals can be tried almost anywhere. You can walk up and down stairs as fast as you can. Do squats. Walk fifty seconds at your standard pace, then ten seconds racewalking, shifting back and forth on your way to work.  
One great advantage of interval training's is that it can be performed as part of humdrum, ordinary activity. Telemarketers wired into headsets still need to go to the lavatory. If you have a stairs, you have a ready made workout place.  
How does interval training work biologically? Short bursts may – may – turn on hundreds of muscle relatively quiescent muscle genes. Muscle cells may create proteins that reach the brain and lead to new brain cell growth. Heart muscle cells may change their configuration and integration.  
It remains unclear what truly happens. But it's a lot. And interval training can be used by someone with only seconds at a time, applied throughout the day. That gives the body a chance to rest, to remake and repair itself before the next burst.

It's already becoming clear three ten minute walking bouts are better for overall conditioning than thirty minutes at a time.  
The science behind interval training has a long way to go. But behind all interval training's helpfulness lies rest – the time the body uses to intelligently remake itself.

### Short Rests

Several years ago an editor told me no one would be interested in rest unless it could "be done quickly." What if, I asked her, I provided dozens of techniques that could be performed in a minute or less?  
That might work, she said.  
So I wrote "The Power of Rest." Personally, my favorite daily technique is Paradoxical Relaxation. What better way to engage rest than by not relaxing? Paradoxical relaxation uses attention as the way to bring the body to Herb Benson's relaxation response in a matter of seconds.  
Though many wish to rest and restore anyplace and anywhere, more are interested in a surprisingly rare commodity – sleep. Today, people don't get enough sleep.  
That's why there are naps.  
Before industrialization, humans napped routinely. Now many Fortune 500 companies will



fine or fire people found napping on the job.  
Yet fighting human biology is not a wise practice. Many companies have found short naps rest and restore people for the relative productivity "dead zone" of the early to mid afternoon.  
Naps as short as six minutes have been found to help people recharge. Naps longer than a half hour often move us into "deeper" phases of sleep that leave us with "sleep inertia," the awful leaden feeling of rising out of sleep prematurely and semi-consciously.  
So ten or fifteen minute naps can greatly help people feel more alert and alive throughout the rest of the day. It can make them more capable of getting work done more effectively, and having the time and energy for interval exercise training.  
How can you learn to nap? If worksites are impossible (and many people can quickly adjust to napping in chairs) you start nap training on non-work days.  
Find a comfortable place to lie down or sit. Put a nightmask over your eyes to cut light exposure and behaviorally tell your brain it's sleeptime. Set your cellphone or watch to chime at ten or fifteen minutes.  
Then let your mind wander. To the dreams you'd like to have that night. To tropical seas brimming with spectacular species. To the best hike or walk you ever had.  
If your chime wakes you before you think you've slept, do not despair. You will still have some useful rest. About half of people who get into stage 1 sleep, even for ten minutes, don't think they slept at all (we are often quite poor at knowing when we're in slumber, a major problem on the roads.)

### Bottom Line

Little bits count. They count in exercise, in resting, in eating. Choosing vegetables rather than bread can start a major shift in one's diet and weight. And continuing activity, even for short intervals, reshapes body and brain.  
The body is intelligent. Treat it as smart and it gets smarter. Balancing activity with rest has worked for thousands of years.  
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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.

## Short term rental

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
 Thanks for sharing this email. We will review and let you know.  
 Howard N. Tipton  
 Town Manager  
 Town of Longboat Key

## Short term rental

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
 Can we take care of this?  
 BJ Bishop  
 Commissioner  
 Town of Longboat Key

## Short term rental

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon  
 To all, I have spoken to John Simmons at code enforcement about the weekly rental at 501 Norton Street. I explained to John that every Saturday 10-15 new people arrive for a week's stay. My backyard has become a campground with 5 canoes, multiple chairs, rock climbing walls, mini golf, ping-pong table, flashing arcade games, floats and towels all spread out and of course the nightly pool gatherings until late night. The residents on Norton have to put up with the 6-7 garbage bins that the raccoons have a blast with. David Woods just ignores my calls and John Simmons told me that there was nothing he could do because it is advertised as a 28-day minimum stay. We have residents who have taken pictures of all the different cars that change each week, and the property manager moves garbage bins in front of vacant homes to look better for him. John Simmons was almost making me defend myself for even complaining, by saying could I not just let it go through the summer?  
 This is not a residential neighborhood when you have 10-15 New People every Saturday. John told me that I did not understand how difficult it was to make the short-term rental program stay in line. That's his job and David Woods job. Therefore, if the job can't be enforced (which John claims in cannot) then we don't need a code enforcement division.  
 I have lived here 32years and at no time did we ever have a situation like this, nor have I ever been told by a town employee that it was my fault for wanting some type of bliss while residing on Longboat Key. Thank you for listening and I hope we can get a resolution to an unhappy situation for many of us in Sleepy Lagoon.  
 Katharine Girle  
 Longboat Key

## Short term rental

To: Katharine Girle  
 I can't imagine what you have had to deal with - we need your neighbors to be good neighbors.  
 BJ Bishop  
 Commissioner  
 Town of Longboat Key

## Short term rental

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
 BJ, I know you have more than enough to deal with right now and I appreciate your help. Thank you.  
 Katharine Girle  
 Longboat Key

Short term rental  
 To: Katharine Girle  
 Catherine - I have asked town manager to get this resolved.  
 BJ Bishop  
 Commissioner  
 Town of Longboat Key

## Miscellaneous Issues

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
 Good morning and thank you, Commissioner, for passing along these questions from your constituents. Please encourage them to contact the PZB office for options. If there are minor (i.e., non-life/safety related) outstanding items (such as landscaping or irrigation) remaining, a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (TCO) could be issued, which would allow occupancy until those items are completed.  
 Regarding the St. Regis, it is still the case that staff has not received an application for changes to parking or the addition of tennis/pickleball courts. St. Regis is still operating under a TCO. Staff has been issuing extensions in 90-day increments, while St. Regis continues to work on closing-out outstanding requirements. While not common, there are projects around the state, and locally, that have had extended periods of operating under a TCO. Staff is working with the St. Regis developer to close out the project and, based on continued good faith efforts, has not pursued revoking, or no longer extending, the TCO due to the serious implications to the resort and property owners. Staff has also been informed that the St. Regis developer will be pursuing a Variance request from certain Town Code requirements within the flood control ordinance. I will share those details with the Commission when we receive them. Please let me know if you have any questions.  
 Howard N. Tipton  
 Town Manager  
 Town of Longboat Key

## Miscellaneous Issues

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
 Several friends have recently finished new homes on Longboat Key. The question arose about final occupancy permits. One friend had asked about landscaping being completed and the second person asked why the St. Regis is being allowed to operate despite the fact that they do not have a final occupancy permit, but they could not move into their home with just a minor issue outstanding.  
 The first point about landscaping was in the heat of summer it was not a great time to install landscaping. They understood sod or grass but not plants. I thought it was a great point. I am not familiar with the level of landscaping we have in the code before occupancy permits can be released.

See Letters, page 5

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# EditorLetters



**Letters, from page 4**

Second point seemed particularly appropriate. The St. Regis was opened a year ago. They have a number of dead trees in front of the property and recently have floated ideas in the newspaper regarding additional construction of parking and tennis and pickleball courts. None of those projects, staff has stated, have been submitted for consideration. I would hope we would not consider further work on the site when they have not completed the work necessary to have a permanent occupancy permit on their initial project. Is there a deadline for how long they can continue to operate without a permanent occupancy permit? And, if the answer to that question is no, should there be a time limit?

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

**Proposed Name Change for Gulf of Mexico Drive**

To: Lillian Sands  
Thanks for your note. I am aware of the letter suggesting that Gulf of Mexico Drive be renamed, as well as some opposition to that proposal. Your concerns that the costs and inconvenience of a name change are uncertain and could be extensive are well taken. At this point, we are unaware of any explicit or implicit legal requirement that LBK even consider such a step. Should that happen, I am sure we will explore every possible ramification in public before acting.

Ken Schneider  
Mayor  
Town of Longboat Key

**Proposed Name Change for Gulf of Mexico Drive**

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider  
I am aware that there is a proposal to change the name of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Just a few months ago, residents were devastated by Hurricane Helene (myself included). I suspect the person/s who created this proposal were neither devastated nor live on this street.

While I could debate the merits of such a senseless proposal with no huge upside in my mind, I think your main concern should be protecting and helping residents and businesses thrive. A name change may sound simple but this proposal is a costly move for residents right now. With the median age of residents being around 72, luddite homeowners like myself will need to engage assistance to change utilities, banks, subscriptions, etc. Businesses will need to update websites in addition to these.

The additional costs per household (both time and assistance) could run approximately \$200-\$300, and businesses would pay out approximately \$350-\$900 for the additional HTML coding. All told, you would be agreeing to impose approximately \$2-\$4 million in direct costs to businesses and residents (mainly due to stationery, address updates, forms, helpers, and web updates—while older residents would incur higher costs for assistance). This does not include municipal signage which could cost tens or hundreds of thousands added to the municipal budget.

I would like to know what measurable improvement this name change will mean for our community because I only see mounting costs and inconvenience at a time we are struggling (and snowbirds are not around to weigh in on this at all).

How will this change genuinely benefit our residents and businesses after we have covered the expense and recovered from all this upheaval? Why add this now rather than focus on the many things Longboat Key desperately needs to recover?

If the town persists with this proposal, I suggest we engage an independent appraisal of the benefits and costs. That is money worth spending before devastated residents waste a bunch of time and money.

Lillian Sands  
Longboat Key

**Miscellaneous Issues**

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
No rush but they intrigued me, as well.

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

**Miscellaneous Issues**

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
Thank you, Commissioner, for your questions. Let me review and get you some answers shortly.

Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

**Public Comment Period Open for Draft 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan**

To: MPO Chair Commissioner Dr. Neunder and MPO Board members:  
As noted below and in preparation for presentation to and discussion by the MPO Board at the September 29, 2025 MPO Board meeting (and adoption at the October 20, 2025 MPO Board meeting), the public comment draft of the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update is now available online. The LRTP addresses state and federal transportation planning

requirements needed to use federal and state transportation funds in our region.

MPO staff continues to work closely with your jurisdictional staffs to refine and finalize the document in preparation for adoption by the MPO Board. Some summary, introductory or background sections are still being prepared; if there are any key points you'd like to add or see included, please let us know. While the plan horizon is 2050, the process is iterative with updates every five years so there is hope that additional infrastructure funds will become available allowing delivery of more projects that can be funded based on current revenue projections.

We'll present a thorough overview at the September Board meeting. If you'd like to review or discuss any sections or aspects of the plan update with MPO staff prior to that time, please let me know and we will meet with you at your convenience.

David L. Hutchinson  
Executive Director  
Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization

**Public Comment Period Open for Draft 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan**

To: Longboat Key Town Staff  
The draft 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan - "Invest Today, Transform Tomorrow" - is now available for public comment. The chapters, technical reports, and supporting documentation can be accessed via the MPO website at [www.mympo.org/2050-lrtp-public-comment-page](http://www.mympo.org/2050-lrtp-public-comment-page).

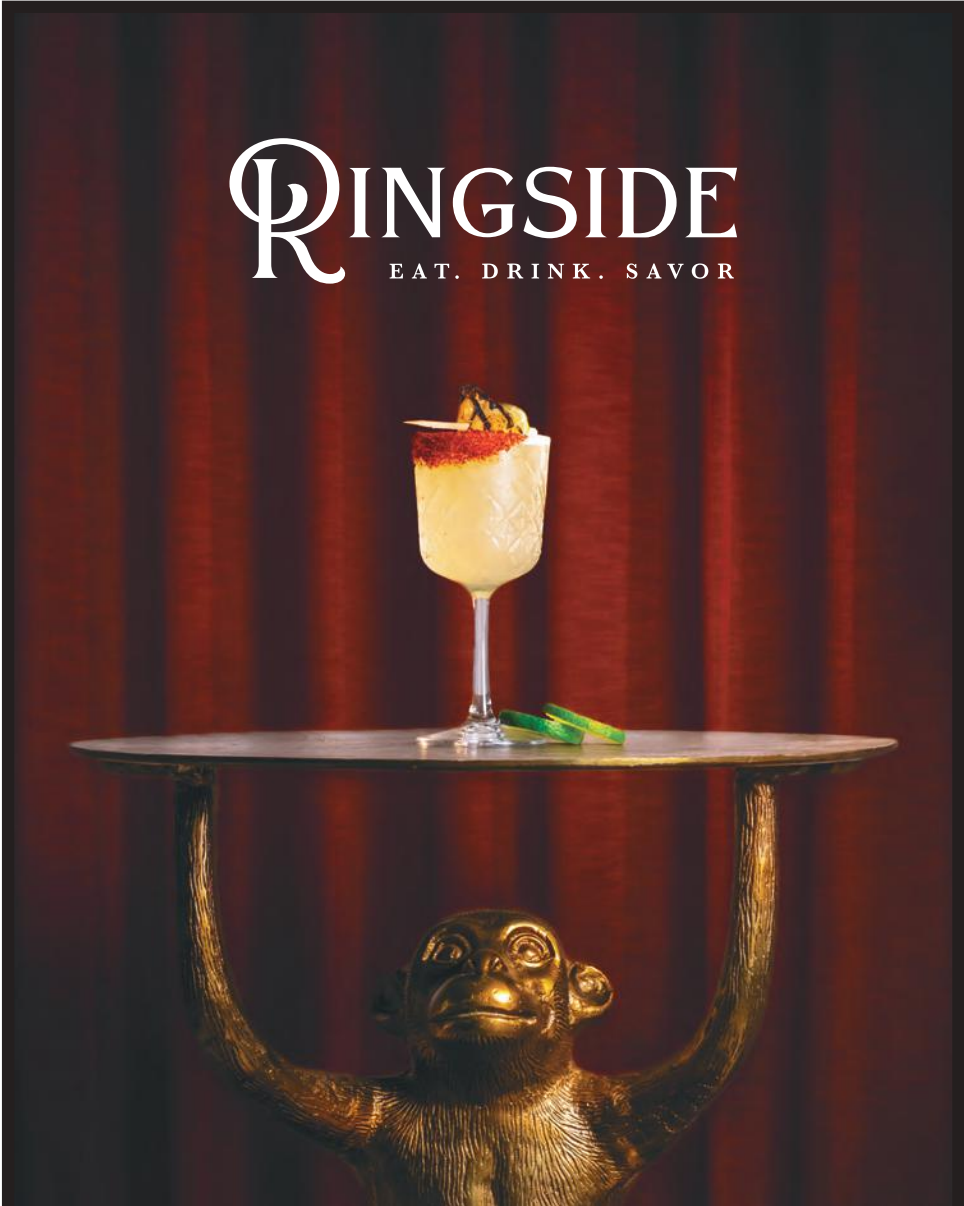
Any comments provided during this period will be incorporated into the final draft. Public comments should be submitted by September 5, 2025.

There are several ways to make a public comment:  
Use the Public Comment Box on the MPO website:  
[www.mympo.org/2050-lrtp-public-comment-page](http://www.mympo.org/2050-lrtp-public-comment-page)  
Call the MPO office at (941) 359-5772.  
Send an email to the MPO at [mpo@mympo.org](mailto:mpo@mympo.org)  
Mail a letter to the MPO Office: 8100 15th St E, Sarasota, FL 34243  
A printed copy of the 2050 Long Range Transportation will be available at the MPO Office for anyone wishing to review it in person.

Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to schedule a meeting to discuss the draft.

Nina Venter  
Wenonah (Nina) Venter  
Senior Planner  
Sarasota/Manatee MPO

See Letters, page 6



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Letters, from page 5

Oak trees US 41 median

To: Jana Hoefling

I wanted to get back to you about the tagged oak trees in the medians on North Tamiami Trail north of 14th street. I had a phone conversation with Mr. Richard, Landscape Architect at FDOT, and he also confirmed with Ulysses at FDOT, that the ribbons were used for tree surveying but the ribbons no longer have any meaning, and the ribbons will be removed but the trees will stay. Yea.

Jen Ahearn-Koch  
City Commissioner  
City of Sarasota

Oak trees US 41 median

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch

Thanks so much for the follow through.

Jana Hoefling  
Sarasota

Oak trees US 41 median

To: Jana Hoefling

Thanks! I called and left a detailed message. I'll let you know what I find out.

Jen Ahearn-Koch  
City Commissioner  
City of Sarasota

Oak trees US 41 median

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch

Please see information from Verne below.

Patrick Robinson  
Deputy City Manager  
City of Sarasota

Oak trees US 41 median

To: Sarasota Deputy City Manager Pat Robinson

The best I can do is Ulises Valles at the DOT.

Verne Hall  
Utilities Director  
City of Sarasota

Oak trees US 41 median

To: Sarasota City Utilities Director Verne Hall

Copy that, thanks.

Patrick Robinson  
Deputy City Manager & Public Safety Director  
City of Sarasota

Oak trees US 41 median

To: Sarasota Deputy City Manager Pat Robinson

I will do some more digging.

Verne Hall  
Utilities Director  
City of Sarasota

See Letters, page 8

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# EditorLetters



Letters, from page 6

**Oak trees US 41 median**

To: Sarasota Utilities Director Verne Hall  
Verne do we have a point of contact at FDOT I can give to the Commissioner so she can ask FDOT questions about the trees?  
Patrick Robinson  
Deputy City Manager & Public Safety Director  
City of Sarasota

**Oak trees US 41 median**

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch  
Let me see if I can find out if our people have a POC on this project.  
Patrick Robinson  
Deputy City Manager & Public Safety Director  
City of Sarasota

**Oak trees US 41 median**

To: Sarasota Deputy City Manager Pat Robinson  
Thank you for the follow-up on this Mr. Robinson, I do appreciate it! Per FDOT and the trees in the medians, as this was the main concern, should I follow up with someone specific at FDOT? Let me know your thoughts.  
Jen Ahearn-Koch  
City Commissioner  
City of Sarasota

**Oak trees US 41 median**

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch  
Just a follow up regarding whether the oak trees in the median on 41 will be protected during the upcoming pipe work. What do the colored ribbons on some of the trees signify? Thanks for all you do for our city and its inhabitants.  
Jana Hoefling  
Sarasota

**Utility Wires Down**

To: Ellie Baxter  
I am glad that the wires were taken care of!  
Mayor Liz Alpert  
City of Sarasota

**Utility Wires Down**

To: Sarasota City Mayor Liz Alpert  
Thank you. The wires were taken care of. We really appreciate your taking the time to help.  
Ellie Baxter  
Sarasota

**Utility Wires Down**

To: Elinor Baxter  
I'm sorry you're having a problem getting this resolved. I am copying the city manager and deputy city manager so that the appropriate staff can respond.  
Liz Alpert  
Mayor  
City of Sarasota

See Letters, page 12

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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.*

## Aug. 1 Burglary

1:28 p.m.

Officer Van Dyke responded to the 5900 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a burglary attempt. Upon further investigation, the case was updated to a suspicious person call for service. It was determined that no crime occurred. Upon arrival, Officer Van Dyke and Officer Troyer canvassed the property and determined that no forced entry had been attempted. A few moments later, the individuals matching the description from the caller were on scene. They advised that they were land surveyors and they need the dimensions for all coastal properties per EPA guidelines. They handed the officers a business card. Officer Van Dyke called the homeowner and advised her of the results. She was satisfied with the results of the investigation. Case clear.



7:57 a.m.

Officer Pescuma while conducting traffic enforcement observed a speeding driver traveling northbound on Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Pescuma estimated the driver to be traveling 47 mph in a 35 mph. Officer Pescuma used the radar to determine he was traveling at 48 mph. Officer Pescuma conducted a traffic stop on the Chevrolet pickup truck and made contact with the driver. Officer Pescuma provided the reason for the traffic stop and advised the driver that he was observed doing 48 mph in a 35 mph zone. Officer Pescuma then asked for the operator's driver's license in which the driver handed the officer a Guadmalan Passport and stated that he did not have a valid driver's license nor was ever issued one. Officer Pescuma conducted a FCIC/NCIC check with his name and date of birth which confirmed

that he did not have a valid driver's license nor was ever issued. There was negative results for wants/warrants. The driver stated that he and his family were going to the beach and not driving due to an emergency. Officer Pescuma issued a citation for no valid driver's license and a citation for unlawful speed. Officer Pescuma advised that the driver could not drive and he made arrangements for transportation. Case clear.

## Marine rescue

6:05 p.m.

Officer Troyer was dispatched to Sarasota Bay for a marine rescue. The complainant called police and reported his pontoon boat was stuck on a sand bar and he ran aground. The caller was unable to get in contact with a towing service as well. Officer Troyer launched the zodiac marine vessel and responded to the caller's location. Upon his arrival, Officer Troyer observed the area was severely shallow and the tide was very low. Officer Troyer was able to get in contact with the caller and explain his options whereas he could abandon the vessel overnight and wait for the tide to rise or wait with the vessel for the tide to rise. The caller did not wish to wait with the vessel due to nightfall and the tide not rising until approximately 6 a.m. the next day. The caller and his girlfriend agreed they would abandon ship and they needed a ride back to port. The caller was able to secure the vessel for the time being with two anchors. Officer Troyer was able to get close enough for the two to walk to his vessel and board. Officer Troyer provided the two with a courtesy transport to the marina where they launched from. The captain agreed he would call for a towing service to assist him with removing the vessel when the tide rose. Case clear.

**Aug. 2**  
**Vehicle**

12:11 a.m.

Officer Ericsson responded to North Shore road on a suspicious kayak that was tied up at the caller's dock. Upon arrival, Officer Ericsson contacted the caller who stated he noticed a kayak with a motor tied up tot he dock behind his grandmother's house. The man stated he hadn't been to the residence for over a month and his grandmother is no longer living in the house. He stated he had never seen the kayak before and wasn't sure if it belonged to a stranger or someone he might know. A check of the hull number through DAVID revealed the owner to be a friend of the family and the caller was familiar with the person. Case clear.

## Incident

3:15 p.m.

Officer Pescuma was dispatched to Fair Oaks Lane in reference to a suspicious incident. Upon arriving on scene, Officer Pescuma spoke with the caller who stated she saw a woman at the front entrance of the residence from the front door camera. The caller stated she was not expecting anyone at the residence and was concerned whereas she was out of state. Officer Pescuma canvassed the area and found no signs of forced entry or criminal activity. Upon review of the video and still photos, the woman was wearing a U.S. Post Office shirt and looked to be holding a package or letter. It was confirmed that it was the USPS, whereas a 'We Missed You' delivery note was left by the USPS. The caller was satisfied with the findings. Case clear.

**Aug. 3**  
**Vehicle**

---

The advertisement for LBK Liquors features a central graphic of a pink flamingo standing on its left leg, with its right leg tucked up. The text "LBK" is in a large, black, serif font, and "Liquors" is in a black, cursive script font, both positioned to the left of the flamingo. To the right of the flamingo is the phone number "941.953.1835" in a black, sans-serif font. Below this, the text "The Island's largest selection of Beer, Wine & Spirits" and "Come check out our competitive prices!" is centered. Further down, "Discounts on cases of wine | Special orders welcome" is centered. Below that, "Locally owned & operated" is centered. At the bottom, "Whitney Beach Plaza" and "6854 Gulf of Mexico Drive | Longboat Key, FL" are centered. On the left and right sides of the bottom section are illustrations of three colorful liquor bottles (yellow, teal, and pink) in each corner.

**Aug. 4**

## Marine rescue

3:14 p.m.

Officer Miklos, Officer Tillman and Officer Pescuma were dispatched to the 5600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a marine rescue. Sarasota Sheriff's Office dispatch advised the caller stated the swimmer was alone in the Gulf and did not know if the man was in distress. Officer Tillman and Officer Miklos arrived on scene and spoke to several people on the beach that did not see anything suspicious or anyone struggling while swimming. Officer Tillman and Officer Miklos observed several swimmers, however, no one was in distress or flagging officers down for assistance. Officer Pescuma and the U.S. Coast Guard conducted a shoreline search with negative sightings. Case clear.

**Aug. 6**  
**Person**

5:46 a.m.

Officer Smith was dispatched to Bay Isles Parkway for a report of a suspicious person. The caller described the person as a white man sitting outside the gym with his shirt off, and no other information was provided. Officer Smith arrived and observed a man sitting at the table in front of the gym. Officer Smith made contact and he said he had just been on a walk and was taking a break. With no other information provided and no crime being committed. Case clear.

## Animal

2:43 p.m.

Officer Pescuma was dispatched to the 400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to 4-6 raccoons possibly trapped in a dumpster. Upon arriving on scene, Officer Pescuma observed said raccoons inside the dumpster with the lid propped open by a piece of wood. It is unknown if they are trapped or taking shelter. At 3:12 p.m. Animal Services arrived. All raccoons were retrieved from the dumpster and released without incident. Case clear.

## Trespassing

6:46 p.m.

Officer Troyer was dispatched to the 6600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to trespassing. The caller said she saw three men fishing on the dock and they were not supposed to be. She said they were construction workers who were there after hours. Upon arrival, Officer Troyer observed the men underneath the fishing dock and appeared to be concealing themselves. Officer Troyer spoke with the men but they did not speak English well. The men did not have identification on them, but verbally identified themselves. Officer Troyer contacted the complainant by phone but she was uncooperative and told the officer she was a board member of the HOA and wanted the persons removed from the property. She did not want to provide Officer Troyer with much information because she felt she may be retaliated against. While on the phone with the complainant, another man arrived and identified himself as an HOA board member and he said that the complainant was not a board member. He said the issue with the workers has been an ongoing issue but the bosses were informed to notify their employees to not have the workers fishing after hours. The men worked for a restoration company and they were contracted to renovate the homes. The board member just wanted the men to leave and have no further contact. In the end, the men left without incident. Case clear.

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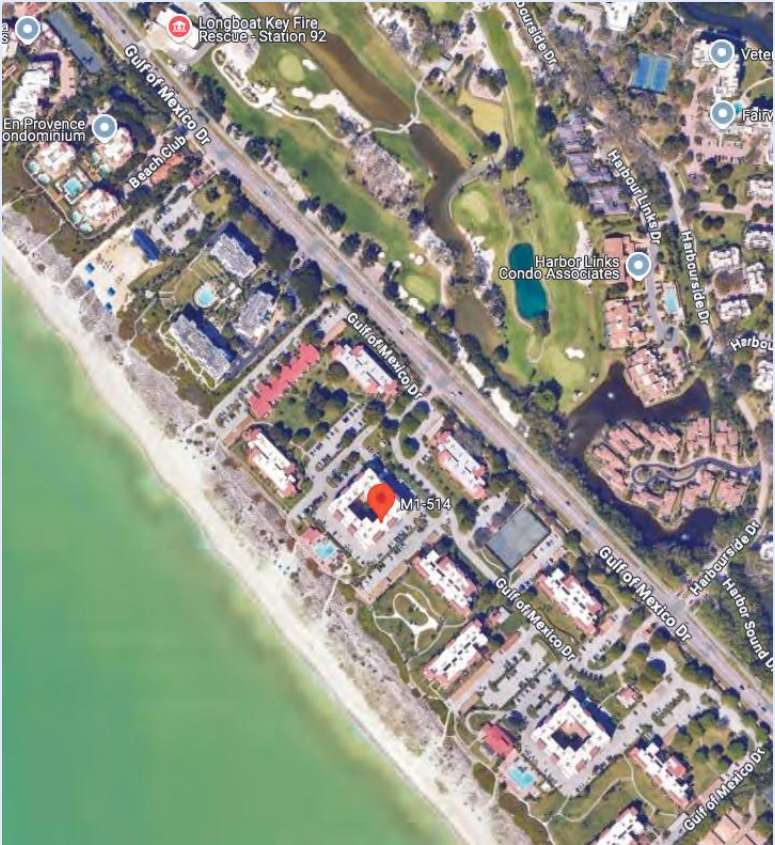
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2045 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#M1-514	928	\$499,000	2 2 0	39	\$490,000



2045 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#M1-514



### Letters, from page 8

#### Utility Wires Down

To: Sarasota City Mayor Liz Alpert

I have utility wires on the ground by the pole and blocking part of my driveway. I have contacted FPL, Xfinity and Frontier and all deny that the wires are their wires and no one will remove them. I have contacted numerous city departments and nobody will do anything. The wires are on the street on city property. Can you please direct me to someone who can resolve this issue?

Elinor Baxter  
Sarasota

#### Utility Wires Down

To: Dorothy Donovan

Thanks for writing regarding your concerns and wanting to make sure you are doing the right thing. I am copying the interim city manager and deputy city manager so that the appropriate staff can respond to you.

Liz Alpert  
Mayor  
City of Sarasota

#### Issue with sewer back up

To: Sarasota City Mayor Liz Alpert

I am writing to you today to request your guidance on a matter concerning a recurring sewer blockage at my property located at Waikiki Drive, Sarasota, within District Two. My name is Dorothy Donovan, and you can reach me at any time.

Since early 2020, I have experienced repeated sewer line obstructions. A recent inspection by Armstrong Plumbing determined that the cause is the intrusion of tree roots from my laurel oak. While I understand that responsibility for root removal from my property rests with me, the proximity of the sewer line to the city sidewalk (less than two feet) raises concerns regarding the potential for accidental damage to city infrastructure during remediation.

To assist in clarifying the situation, I have attached photographs clearly indicating the location of the blockage. I have also utilized a garden hose to further delineate the affected area. Before undertaking any root removal, I would greatly appreciate your expert advice on the safe limits of excavation to prevent any unintentional damage to city property. Your guidance on this matter will be invaluable in ensuring a safe and effective resolution. Thank you for your time, consideration, and assistance. I look forward to your response.

Dorothy Donovan  
Sarasota



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Seagrass, from page 1

However, those losses between 2016 and 2022 did not continue, but instead reversed.

In the rest of the bay, the pattern of change varies spatially. Palma Sola Bay continues to show signs of being a healthy bay – in terms of nutrients – as the amount of seagrass is higher than it was two decades ago. Over the past two years, we’ve added 40 acres of seagrass in Palma Sola Bay. We’ve also added 40 acres in the lower bay segments of Roberts, Little Sarasota and Blackburn Bays, but we are not back to where we want to be, especially in Little Sarasota Bay.

The losses of seagrass in the lower bay started earlier, in about 2014, likely reflecting increased wastewater overflows from the Bee Ridge WWTP, and the macroalgae blooms that started in the lower bay around 2013. But those losses leveled out by 2020, concurrent with gaining better control over the wastewater overflows. And we’ve even seen slight gains in coverage (40 acres) between 2022 and 2024. However, we are still down by about 200 acres in the lower bay, compared to where we were in 2014. There’s more still to do down there, but we’re moving in the right direction.

That is a challenge, going forward, but the changes in circulation that occurred in Little Sarasota Bay after Milton opened up Midnight Pass might make increased coverage more likely in that system over the next few years. The overall water quality in Little Sarasota Bay has improved, and that should allow,

over time, a nice increase in coverage in that system.

Keep in mind, every part of Sarasota Bay showed increased coverage the past two years, even though the increases were more modest in the lower bay. In contrast, the trends in the Indian River Lagoon are not nearly as positive. Yes, there has been a recovery of sorts in seagrass coverage there, which is good news.

But if you dive into the details, almost all of that recent increase is in the Mosquito Lagoon, which is the least urbanized portion of the IRL, as indicated below.

Outside of Mosquito Lagoon, there’s not much good news in that system, and seagrass coverage has almost collapsed in the Northern and Central sections of the IRL, and in the Banana River.

So why should we care about this? Well, the State of Florida has concluded that the typical acre of seagrass contains about 40,000 fish. Gaining nearly 2,000 acres of seagrass in Sarasota Bay means gaining habitat capable of supporting more than 70 million fish.

Also, think about the namesake for our northern county – the Florida manatee. Over the past few years, we’ve lost over 3,000 manatees in our state. Out of how many, you ask? Well, our latest estimates are that the statewide population is likely less than 10,000. If you think that sounds like our recent losses are a big number, and a not insignificant percentage of the total population, you’re right. The basis for the big

uptick in manatee deaths the past five or so years is from starvation, as manatees find it harder to find their preferred food source, seagrass meadows, particularly in the IRL.

Those impacts to manatees in the IRL are worse than just the number that have died over the past few years; it’s also the hit to our future populations. For example, Brevard County alone averaged about 20% of statewide manatee deaths between 2000 and 2021. But that single county (which straddles the areas with the largest seagrass losses in the IRL) also averaged 30% of the “perinatal” manatee deaths recorded across the state during those same years. The term perinatal refers to deaths of newborn calves and or stillbirths and is thought to be related to some degree to stresses to mother manatees, like not being healthy enough to feed their young, or to carry baby manatees to term.

In Sarasota Bay, we have a much better trajectory for manatee deaths recently. In our two counties, we’ve averaged fewer than 6 perinatal deaths per year, during the years 2010 to 2021, while Brevard County alone averaged over 30 perinatal deaths over the same period, according to FFWCC.

So, where would you rather be a manatee? Where would you rather be a manatee mom trying to nurse your offspring? I’m thinking it’s our system. But if we don’t keep our eye on the ball, if we backslide again – like we did about ten years ago, the possibility exists that we follow the trajectory that the folks in the IRL are trying to pull out of.

Seagrass nurseries and seagrass transplanting efforts, and increased funding for seagrass science, have their place. But if you want to restore manatee habitat on a truly ecosystem scale, you’ve got to get your pollutant loads under control. Thankfully, and although we have more to do, at least we’ve started down the pathway to a healthier and more resilient Sarasota Bay.

We will continue to have dead manatees in our local waters. They will die from natural causes, and they will be hit by boats, and they will continue to die after being tangled in fishing line. But hopefully, we won’t be seeing starving ones in our bay anytime soon.

David Tomasko  
Executive Director  
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

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# BreakPoints

## Your complete guide to Tiebreak success

*Tiebreakers can be confusing for even the most experienced players, because there are a lot of moving parts.*

**JACKIE BOHANNON**  
Guest Columnist  
tennis@lbknews.com

Recently, I was playing a doubles tournament, and all four of us were confused about the format. We couldn't agree on when to play the tiebreaker, how to play the tiebreaker, who served in which order, who served first in the tiebreaker, or who served next after the tiebreaker, or if it was seven or ten points. HELP!

Tiebreakers can be confusing for even the most experienced players, because there are a lot of moving parts. I will try to answer all of your questions, as simply as possible, while sometimes reiterating the points with different verbiage that actually means the exact same thing.



BOHANNON

The first step in any tournament is to look at the entry form or ask the tournament director what the exact format is. Tournaments have many varying formats, but the most common are 2 out of 3 sets and 2 out of 3 sets with a 10 point tiebreaker in lieu of a 3rd set. Therefore, the only time you play a 10 point tiebreaker is when you and your opponents have each won a set. The first team to get to 10 and win by two is the winner. For example, the score could be reported 6-3, 4-6, 10-8. 10 point tie breakers are sometimes also referred to as super tiebreaks.

The next step is to know when to play tiebreakers during sets. The terminology can be confusing because a 12-point tiebreaker and a 7-point tie breaker are the same thing. In a match if the game score reaches 6-6 then you play a tiebreaker. This tiebreaker is the first person to reach 7 points but wins by 2. The winner of the tiebreaker then gets the winning game for that set. For example, the score could be reported as 7-6 (7-5). The tiebreaker is played until someone gets to 7 or wins by two. Therefore, the tiebreaker could still report a score of 10-8 or 12-10 if no one was 2 points ahead when someone reached 7. (Different tournaments may have different formats. In pro sets tiebreakers are played at 8-8 and in fast four they are played at 3-3.)

So now that we know when to play tiebreakers, and how to keep score, how do we actually play them? Traditional tennis had players switching ends of the court every 6 points, but in the early 2000s the Coman tiebreaker gained popularity as the go to tiebreak. Nowadays almost all tournaments incorporate the Coman. The Coman is perceived as being fairer, because it has players serve from the same end of the court as they had the whole match. It also gets rid of any perceived advantages like wind or sun. To play a Coman tie breaker you switch ends after the first point, and then after every 4 points. So typically you change ends when the score adds up to 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, and then 21 and so forth if needed. That is how you change ends. Now let's dive in to changing sides.

In tennis if the score is even you should be serving to the deuce side. If the score is odd you serve to the add side. When a tiebreak begins the score is 0-0 therefore the first point is served to the deuce side. After that all new servers start on the ad side. In a tiebreaker, the first person to serve serves 1 point, and then everyone else serves 2 points until the desired score is reached.

But who serves next? The serving order continues the same throughout the tiebreak as it did throughout the set. If Joe served first, then Bob ( Joe's opponent), then Steve (Joe's partner), then Jeff (Bob's partner) that same order stays during the tiebreak. So if the score reaches 6-6, the person who is supposed to serve next in the game is actually the person who serves the first point in the tiebreak. Since the game score is 6-6 all players have served 3 times, and now Joe would start the tiebreak. Joe serves at 0-0 from the deuce side. Because the score was 6-6 there is no changing of ends or a water break. Joe serves the first point. Now both teams change ends of the court. Now Bob serves two points starting at the ad side. Now Steve serves two points. Five points have now been played so players change ends again. This process continues until a player reaches 7 points and wins by two. Basically, the first person to serve serves once, and then from that point on everyone serves twice. If the score is even you serve from the deuce side, if the score is odd you serve from the ad side,

and when the score adds up to 1, 5, 9 , 13, or 17 you change ends of the courts. Deuce side is the right side of the court, and ad is left. Try to refrain from saying the forehand and backhand side, because some players are right while others are left handed.

Ok, so say you are Joe and you just won the first set 7-6. Who serves next? Joe's opponent. Why? Because if Joe serves first in a set that goes to a tiebreak, he will always return first in the next set. Another reason is because Joe served first in the tiebreak. It doesn't matter what the score is when the tiebreak ends. This does not affect serving or receiving order. When the tiebreak is over the score is now considered 7-6, so you now have a break (typically 2 minutes), and change sides with your opponent. You didn't ask this but at the beginning of a new set, either partner can serve, so using our fictitious characters Bob or Jeff can serve. Joe's team served first in the first set, so now Bob's team will serve first in the second. Also note that when a set ends you can switch sides with your part-

*Serve Jackie your best shot!*



*Long-time tennis pro and recently-named America's Top Coach Jackie Bohannon will answer any question on tennis. Please email question on strategy, technique, mental game, fitness, equipment, etc., to: news@lbknews.com*

ner if you prefer to return from the other side. No changes can be made mid set, only after the set is complete. I hope this helps! Tiebreakers can be very confusing, but with a little practice you will get the hang of it.

## KeyCrossword

Answers at [www.lbknews.com](http://www.lbknews.com) under the "Key Recreation" category or search keyword "crossword."

### Musically Speaking

Edited by Linda and Charles Preston

#### ACROSS

- 1 Rip-roaring party  
5 Wild plums  
10 Snow under  
15 Hazard  
19 Spicy stew  
20 Thicket  
21 Cordage fiber plant  
22 On a cruise  
23 Animate  
24 In reserve  
25 Seed covering  
26 Search for  
27 Exchange ideas  
30 Dermal disorder  
32 Acknowledge  
33 One of the Ages  
34 African antelope  
35 Heavenly food  
38 Balderdash!  
39 British homestead  
41 Hanker  
45 Harem room  
46 Maugham story  
48 Brit. service organization  
49 Triad, old style  
51 Clubs  
53 Get satisfaction  
55 Swiss painter Paul  
56 Home on high  
59 Bake, as eggs  
60 Related to some of Pindar's poems  
61 Gush  
63 Sailor's saint  
65 Always: poet.  
66 Pussyfoot  
67 Wear two hats  
71 Identity disguise  
75 Droop  
76 Incline  
77 Son of Aphrodite  
82 Object to  
83 Former Japanese prime minister and skater Yuka  
85 Took pleasure in  
87 Concerning  
88 Unite  
91 Mailer's must  
93 "\_\_\_ to Live"  
94 Spread for drying  
95 Disjoin  
96 Surpass  
97 Welcome  
98 Yield  
99 Capone and Smith  
100 Ideal places  
102 "The Jungle" author Sinclair  
104 Malayan tribe member  
106 Scratch the surface?  
107 Fish stories  
111 Accept the consequences  
116 Rant's partner

#### DOWN

- 1 Pear variety  
2 Countertenor  
3 Svelte  
4 Discuss endlessly  
5 Disdain  
6 Single  
7 View  
8 Conduct  
9 Take care of  
10 Grounded jets  
11 Teen golfer Michelle  
12 Declare  
13 Mother: prefix

- 14 Improvise at the piano  
15 Reckless  
16 Understanding words  
17 Appear  
18 New Zealand parrot  
28 Cognizant  
29 \_\_\_ nous: secretly  
31 Layers  
34 Right \_\_\_ at once  
35 Ridicules  
36 Grownup  
37 Consumer advocate Ralph  
38 Ascend  
40 Feel one's \_\_\_; be playful  
42 Canal Zone town  
43 \_\_\_ Oro, Western Sahara  
44 Oriental waterwheel  
47 Remember the \_\_\_!  
49 \_\_\_ cotta  
50 Isthmus

- 52 Turn right  
53 Decorated with repetitive designs: her.  
54 Gothic vaulting rib  
57 Sale ploy  
58 Improperly acquired  
62 Classifieds  
64 Word with vegetable or mineral  
66 NB to AK dir.  
68 Accepted procedure  
69 Close  
70 Flavor  
71 Old-time pulpit  
72 Chinese weight unit  
73 Tube type  
74 Confuse  
78 Lounge  
79 Maternally related  
80 Gas used in radio tubes  
81 Trickles  
83 Play down

- 84 Lean-to  
86 Arrow poison  
89 Traffic jam  
90 Plant disease  
92 Let off \_\_\_  
95 Conspirator  
98 Expensive  
99 Interstice  
101 Bring about  
103 Clan  
105 Series of eight  
106 Softens  
107 Court command  
108 Abhor  
109 Roasting area  
110 Saucy  
111 Duffer's cry  
112 Red deer  
113 Flank  
114 Privy to  
115 \_\_\_ la vie: that's life  
118 Asian lunar new year

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# WineTimes

## Fantasy Wine Flights

Selecting a fantasy wine flight from a wine list and ordering small pours of each gives us a chance to explore various wine varieties and blends. Ordering tapas or another small plate to accompany each wine should improve the tastes of the food and the wine.

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

Barcelona Wine Bars have a deep bench of Iberian (Spanish and Portuguese), Central, and South American wines. They feature wine flights of small tastes of related wines such as Argentinian Whites and Chilean Reds. None of the standard selections of wines for tasting flights appealed to us. Bartender Eric told us to select our own flight of three wines from an extensive list of wines by the glass.

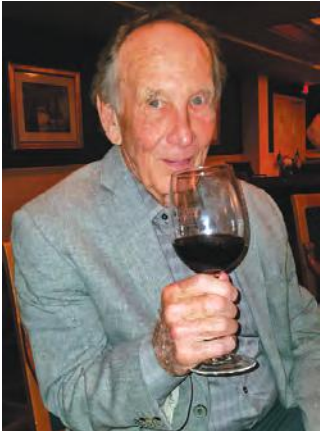
The first name that caught our eyes came from the Rueda (pronounced Rude-aye) region of Spain: the Verdejo (“j” has the English “H” sound), Despite these linguistic peculiarities. Verdejo wines have crisp, acidic, and fruity taste, akin to white Bordeaux, though with more fruit tastes. The grapes originated in north Africa and reached the Iberian Peninsula during the Moor invasions. The 2024 Menade Noso Verdejo Natural adds a citrus flavor to the bocarones tapas dish of white anchovies in olive oil. The Verdejo brought not only the tart acidity of citrus but also a full-bodied mouth feel to this tapas classic.

The next selection in this flight turned out to be the highlight. The 2023 Bodega Cerro Chapeu 1752 Gran Tradición Petit Manseng-Viognier (90% Petite Manseng, 10% Viognier, \$20) from Uruguay has lovely citrus and honey taste that foreshadow a lingering aftertaste of apples and cloves. Uruguay Petite Manseng grapes originate in the Jurançon region of southwestern France. It thrives in Uruguay, judging from the Gran Tradición white wine, and has also taken footholds in vineyards in Virginia and North Carolina.

To round out our selection of white wines, we chose a Rosé of Pinot Noir from the extreme southern Patagonia region of Argentina. The Familia Schroeder Pinot Noir Saurus Rosé Patagonia has a floral nose and stone fruit tastes that pair well with Tapas of Manchego and other sheep-milk cheeses and Jamón Ibérico.

Selecting a fantasy wine flight from a wine list and ordering small pours of each gives us a chance to explore various wine varieties and blends. Ordering tapas or another small plate to accompany each wine should improve the tastes of the food and the wine. One has to figure out what wine tastes good with what food.

It does not take long for a fantasy wine flight to become a reality.



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 Orego Valley in New Zealand. Currently he splits time between residences in Chevy Chase, Maryland and St. Armand’s Circle in Florida.

Rich Hermansen selected has 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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Larry Moskowitz has practiced law in Florida for more than 35+ years, beginning his career as an Assistant State Attorney/Prosecutor in Broward County, FL. He is an accomplished trial attorney with over 150 jury trials to verdict.

Mr. Moskowitz has handled thousands of Property Damage Claims against all the major insurance companies. He has helped hundreds of business owners recover millions of dollars for business interruption claims resulting from the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010, and claims arising from the catastrophic Hurricanes Wilma (2005), Super Storm Sandy (2012), Matthew (2016), Irma (2017), Michael (2018), Laura (2020), Sally (2020), Tropical Storm Eta (2020), Hurricane Ian (2022), and Hurricane Beryl (2024).

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