



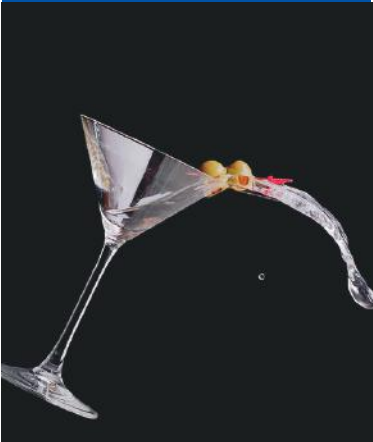
Longboat Key News

April 18, 2025

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FREE

InsideLook



Alcohol Industry
shaken & stirred
...page 13



Turn-lane convo
continues on Key
...page 6



Turtles ready to
start crawling
...page 12



Not a burglar,
just Airbnb
...page 10

Longboat Roundabout Plan Ready to Hit Broadway

The Town of Longboat Key and FDOT are undertaking a roundabout improvement project for the intersection of Gulf of Mexico Drive and Broadway Street.

The project intent is to improve pedestrian crossing safety at the Broadway Street intersection, along with incorporating a multi-use trail on the east side of the corridor, a 7-foot buffered bicycle lane within the project limits, increased resiliency, and incorporation of some of the Town's Complete Street elements.

This improvement will be the initial implementation of the Town's Complete Streets vision for the Gulf of Mexico Drive corridor, which will improve safety for all modes of mobility, resiliency, and an aesthetically pleasing roadway that maintains vehicle traffic and enhances the Town's unique sense of place.

The community meeting will be an open-house style meeting where members of the project team, the Town and FDOT will be available to answer any questions you may have regarding the project development, timeframe for construction, and implementation schedule.

The meeting will be held Thursday, May 1 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Town Commission Chambers, 501 Bay Isles Road.

Bay Isles Bunny Celebrates Easter



This Bay Isles Bunny found a few treats at CVS. Photo by Melissa Reid.

Sarasota City Manager Search Descends into Chaos

What started as a routine city manager search unraveled into a public spectacle recently at Sarasota's City Commission.

KeyOpinion

By Michael Barfield
Florida Trident

What started as a routine city manager search unraveled into a public spectacle recently at Sarasota's City Commission. The breakdown on April 11 played out over two separate meetings—a morning workshop and an afternoon special session—where commissioners admitted to confusion, mistrust, and having no clear path forward.

Commissioners contradicted each other, the search firm hired to oversee the process struggled to provide basic materials and information, and the public was left in the dark—literally and figuratively—about how the process would move forward.

At the center of the disarray: 47 applicants for the city manager position and no coherent process for narrowing the list.

"I feel like we're floundering here," said Mayor Liz Alpert. Elected officials seemed paralyzed by indecision and embarrassed by the process unraveling in real time. "It's a terrible look," she said.

Transparency Concerns

The saga began in October 2024

See City Manager, page 15

Sarasota ramps up flood study as hurricane season nears

Following recent pressure to fix the flooding in and around St. Armands Circle, the Sarasota County Public Works Stormwater team was on the Circle last Friday, April 18, working ahead of the upcoming hurricane season.

Team members used equipment to view inside the stormwater pipes to see any potential issues or debris. The equipment is similar to a giant shop-vac with a pressure washer. Stormwater team members are working to ensure the pipes are free of debris and there are no structural defects. No issues were found last Friday the County reports.

These check-ups and clear-outs will continue throughout Sarasota County.

Meanwhile, St. Armands Circle Association President Chris Goglia received news that the County, after his urging, added

See Flood Study, page 2



Ringling President Thompson plans retirement

Larry Thompson, the longtime president of Ringling College of Art and Design, announced last week that he will retire at the end of the 2025–26 academic year. Thompson, who joined Ringling in 1999, is the college’s sixth and longest-serving president.

Over the past 26 years, Thompson led the effort to more than double student enrollment, added new academic programs and oversaw a major campus buildout.

“It has been the greatest honor and privilege of my life to serve as president,” Thompson said in a statement posted by the college. “When I began, I said my mission was to shatter the myth of the starving artist. I believe that together, we’ve done just that.”

Ringling’s Board of Trustees will conduct a national search for Thompson’s successor.



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Flooding, from page 1

the following to its scope of stormwater pipe investigation: The entirety of Madison Drive from end-to-end, and also N. Adams Drive, N Washington Drive, and John Ringling Boulevard in the area all around the St. Armands Parking Garage, the St. Armands Key Lutheran Church, and nearby pump stations.

The County was supposed to finish the work by end of last March, but the County said it suffered equipment failure. With the added pipeline request, the County says the work should be complete by mid-May. The videos will be reviewed and follow-up work orders produced as needed. The county has completed 75% of the pipeline originally scheduled, and no defects or failures have been identified to date.

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Contact: Patrick DiPinto 941-323-0033



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\$9,975,000 - Under Construction
4 Beds 5 Baths 3,700 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Patrick DiPinto 941-323-0033



WEST OF TRAIL BAYFRONT | SARAOSTA
\$9,750,000 – Move-in 120 Days
5 Beds 7 Baths 5,328 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Patrick DiPinto 941-323-0033



1540 HILLVIEW DRIVE | SARASOTA
\$9,750,000 - Harbor Acres
4 Beds 6.5 Baths 7,074 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922



5444 GULF OF MEXICO DR | LONGBOAT KEY
\$5,750,000 - Bayfront 1.06 Acres
5 Beds, 5 Baths, 6,000 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Tracey Stetler 941-266-9001



STEPS TO SANDY BEACH | LIDO SHORES
\$6,595,000 – Immediate Occupancy
5 Beds 6 Baths 4,750 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Patrick DiPinto 941-323-0033



1682 HAWTHORNE STREET | SARASOTA
\$4,195,000 - Southside Village
4 Beds 4 Baths 4,471 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Janet Coughlin 941-323-3736



3131 BAYOU SOUND | LONGBOAT KEY
\$2,150,000
3 Beds 3 Baths 3,023 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922



3408 FAIR OAKS LANE | LONGBOAT KEY
\$2,999,999 - Bay Isles
5 Beds 5 Baths 4,510 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922



560 SCHOONER LANE | LONGBOAT KEY
\$4,500,000 - Substantially Remodeled
4 Beds 3.5 Baths 3,666 SF- Full Bay Access
Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922



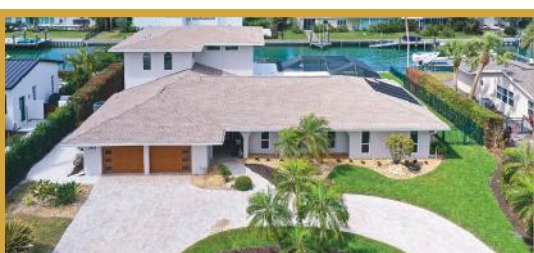
3060 GRAND BAY BLVD UNIT 154 | LONGBOAT KEY
\$1,999,999 - Exceptional Views
3 Beds 4 Baths 2,369 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922



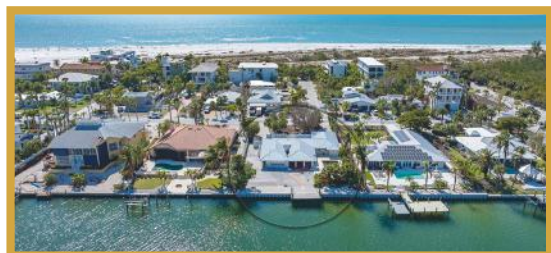
3318 BAYOU SOUND | LONGBOAT KEY
\$1,495,000 - Bay Isles
3 Beds 2 Baths 2,675 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922



129 TAFT DRIVE #W102 | SARASOTA
\$2,350,000 - Park Res of Lido Key
3 Beds 3 Baths 2,445 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922



585 CUTTER LANE | LONGBOAT KEY
\$3,399,999 - Country Club Shores
4 Beds 4 Baths 3,602 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922



148 NORTH POLK DRIVE | SARASOTA
\$2,995,000 - Walk to Lido Beach
Double Lot, New Seawall, Cap & Dock
Contact: Patrick DiPinto 941-323-0033

941-388-2021

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EditorLetters



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

Trees

To: Longboat Key Commission
In accordance with Commission policy regarding the distribution of requested records and received mail, please find below a link to the file relating to the Tree Code and the requirement for 2-1 replacement trees. This requirement dates back to 1989, although the protection of trees was addressed as early as 1974. Please let me know if you have any questions.
Trish Shinkle
Town Clerk
Town of Longboat Key

Bicentennial Park

To: Longboat Key Commission
In accordance with Commission policy regarding the distribution of requested records and received mail, please find below a link to the file detailing the history of Bicentennial Park.
Bicentennial Park was originally established through the efforts of the Town’s Bicentennial of the Constitution Committee, in partnership with the Arvida Corporation, and was dedicated on July 4, 1976. In 1978, Arvida deeded the property to the Town for open space credit. The Bicentennial Committee was a private organization, incorporated under Florida law. The file includes a copy of the Committee’s previous state registration. Additionally, thanks to the Committee’s efforts, the Town of Longboat Key was designated a “Bicentennial City.”
Trish Shinkle
Town Clerk
Town of Longboat Key

LBK Broadway Roundabout Project

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Charlie Mopps
The Town of Longboat Key, in partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), invites the community to an open-house style meeting to discuss the upcoming Broadway Roundabout Project at the intersection of Gulf of Mexico Drive and Broadway Street.
Project Highlights:
Enhanced pedestrian crossing safety
New multi-use trail (east side of corridor)
7-ft buffered bicycle lane
Resiliency improvements
Integration of the Town’s Complete Streets elements
Meeting Information:
Thursday, May 1, 2025
Town Commission Chambers – 501 Bay Isles Road
2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
This project marks the first step in implementing the Town’s Complete Streets vision—aimed at improving safety, mobility options, and roadway aesthetics while preserving traffic flow and enhancing the Town’s distinctive character.
Project team members from the Town and FDOT will be available to answer questions and provide information on project development, construction timelines, and next steps. Please feel free to share this invitation with others—your input matters, and we look forward to welcoming our community at the meeting.
Tina Adams
Fire Administration

Town of Longboat Key

Status of Amendments to GMD Plans

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
We just received our initial round of FDOT comments to the revised plans, and from the Town’s perspective, there is nothing major that would preclude revised FDOT permit. In fact, most comments are very minor in nature. One comment that will take a little more effort are revised drainage calculations from our engineer for converting proposed pervious landscape areas within the medians into impervious pavement. Our engineer will work to revise drainage calculations to account for the additional impervious area and revised runoff flow rates. The town will keep you posted on progress to getting our revised FDOT permit.
Thank you!
Isaac Brownman
Assistant Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Status of Amendments to GMD Plans

To: Longboat Key Engineer Jennifer Fehrs
Thank you for your responses. We will assume that our proposed amendments to FDOT’s GMD plans are still on track. If this is not the case, please let us know as soon as possible, so we can reengage our resources in Tallahassee.
Steve Baril
Longboat Key

Status of Amendments to GMD Plans

To: Steve Baril
The comments are due from FDOT reviewers on 4/17/25 and the Engineer of Record, EOR, responses are due on 4/24/25. It is my understanding that the EOR is addressing the FDOT comments as they come in.
Jennifer Fehrs
Public Works Engineer
Town of Longboat Key

Renewed Request for on-Site Meeting with Contractor

To: Steve Baril
Yes, thank you Steve, we are still waiting to hear back from FDOT on the Town’s revised engineering plan submittal. Jenn Fehrs who is copied can provide any new updates, if there is any information beyond that at this time.
Isaac Brownman
Assistant Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Renewed Request for on-Site Meeting with Contractor

To: Longboat Key Assistant Town Manager Isaac Brownman
A couple weeks have gone by and I’m following up on the status of FDOT’s approval of our requested amendment to the plans for the turn lanes and curbing on GMD fronting Country
See Letters, page 8

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Letters, from page 4

Club Shores. Thank you for your attention to this matter.
Steve Baril
Longboat Key

Renewed Request for on-Site Meeting with Contractor

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

originally planned.
Steve Baril
Longboat Key

Renewed Request for on-Site Meeting with Contractor

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

Renewed Request for on-Site Meeting with Contractor

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

Renewed Request for on-Site Meeting with Contractor

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

Renewed Request for on-Site Meeting with Contractor

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

Renewed Request for on-Site Meeting with Contractor

To: Jack Brill

See Letters, page 8

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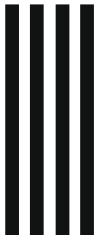


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North Siesta Key



UNDER CONTRACT

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\$10,000,000
3500BayouLouise.com

Aria



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\$7,685,000
Aria204.com

Inn on the Beach



240 Sands Point Rd #4201
\$1,198,000
InnOnTheBeach4201.com

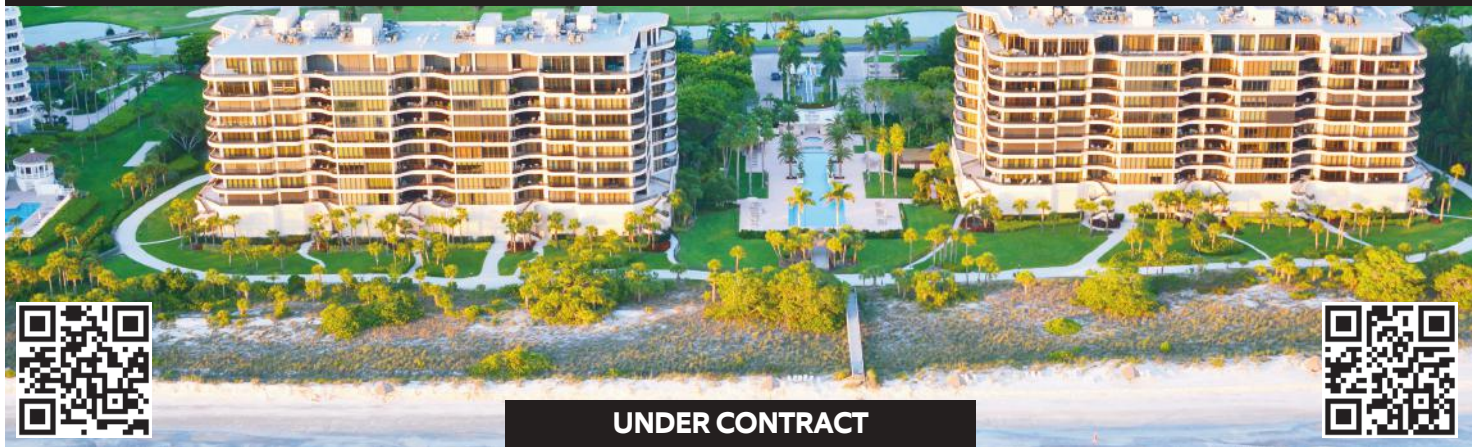
230 Sands Point Rd #3501
\$1,150,000
InnOnTheBeach3501.com

Sanctuary



575 Sanctuary Drive #A303
\$1,670,000
SanctuaryA303.com

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\$1,950,000
Promenade211.com

1211 Gulf of Mexico Drive #704
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Promenade704.com

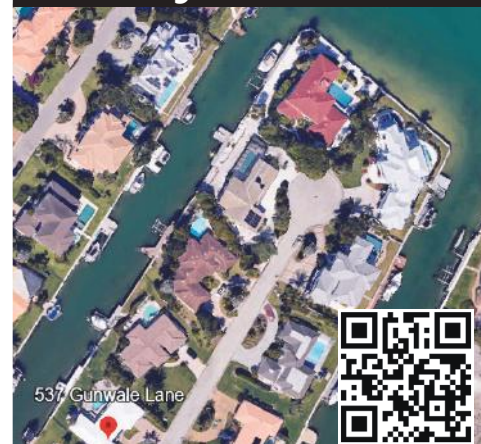
Gulf Front Estate

Lot Size 100 x 465 sq. ft.



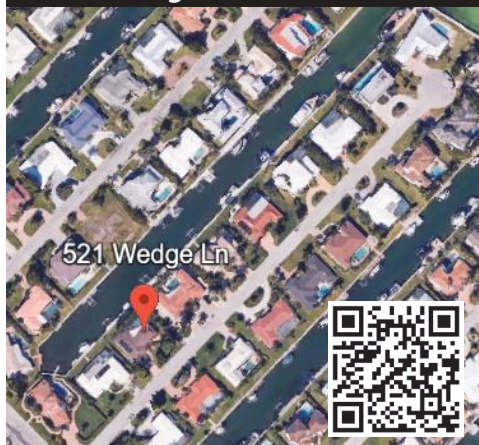
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Country Club Shores



537 Gunwale Lane
\$1,900,000
537GunwaleLn.com

Country Club Shores



521 Wedge Lane
\$1,948,000
521WedgeLn.com

Regency House



435 S. Gulfstream Ave #1004
\$1,128,000
RegencyHouse1004.com

Emerald Harbor



6011 Emerald Harbour Drive
\$2,470,000
6011EmeraldHarborDr.com

Tangerine Bay Club



350 Gulf of Mexico Drive #211
\$998,000
Tangerine211.com

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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.

April 11 Renting

2:20 p.m.
Officer Pescuma was dispatched to Longboat Club Road in reference to a possible burglary in progress. The caller stated he received a notification via the garage door app that the door has been opened. Upon arriving on scene, Officer Pescuma canvassed the area and observed a man inside the foyer. Officer Pescuma made contact with the subject who said that he’s renting the property from Airbnb. Officer Pescuma contacted the caller and he confirmed that the property is being rented to the family, however, the homeowner has it rented from April 12 – May 12. Both the homeowner and the renter spoke and worked it out over the phone. Case clear.



April 12 Citizen assist

11:50 a.m.
Officer Barrett responded to Sister Keys where a number of volunteers were transported to the island for trash pickup. When the clean up concluded, one of the volunteers didn’t return to the transportation vessel. A search for the man was conducted which revealed that he found an abandoned kit board and sailed south in Sarasota Bay. He fell off the kite board and was picked up by a Good Samaritan. Officer Barrett met with the Good Samaritan and transferred the man to his police boat and transported him to the restaurant to be reunited with the remainder of the clean up crew without incident. Case clear.

Boat

12:44 p.m.
Officer Troyer while on marine patrol at Greer Island, noticed boats parked in the clearly marked vessel exclusionary zone. Officer Barrett and Officer Troyer observed multiple boats parked inside of the vessel exclusionary zone which was marked by signs posted on the beach stating “Motorboats prohibited” as well as buoys placed in the water with the same markings. Officer Barrett and Officer Troyer spoke with the violators of the vessels said they were unaware of the vessel exclusionary zone, despite all of the posted markings on land and water. Based on the investigation, Officer Barrett and Officer Troyer found probable cause to issue a civil citation for parking in restricted area. Case clear.

Boat

4:33 p.m.
Officer Pescuma was dispatched to Gulfside Drive in reference to a disabled vehicle stuck in the sand. Upon arrival, Officer Pescuma observed the vehicle parked in the area for “Authorized vehicles only” and clearly marked near beach access. Officer Pescuma made contact with the owner of the vehicle and she said that her front tires got buried in the sand. Two Good Samaritans assisted in digging the car out and was able to remove the vehicle without incident. A parking citation for parking in prohibited place. Case clear.

Suspicious

7:09 p.m.
Officer Ericsson and Officer Mathis were dispatched to 1100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on a suspicious incident involving a group of people in the parking lot. Upon arrival, Officer Ericsson contacted the security guard who was in the parking lot on a golf cart. The security guard said he observed a small group of people walking into the building, but other than that, hadn’t seen or heard anything suspicious. Officer Ericsson drove around the lot and spoke to some residents who stated they had not seen or heard anything suspicious. Officer Ericsson drove around the lot and spoke to some residents who stated they had not seen or heard anything suspicious. It should be noted, there were some people playing pickleball next to the lot, who were being vocal while playing. The call was unfounded and the caller did not wish to be contacted. Case clear.

April 14 Vehicle

4:49 p.m.
Officer Maple while on patrol witnessed a dark red Hyundai Elantra using the left turn lane to overtake traffic within 100 feet of an intersection. One male occupant was observed operating the vehicle. Officer Maple conducted a traffic stop in the 2500 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive and made contact with the driver who produced a Florida ID card and stated he did not have his Driver’s License. When asked the status of his Driver’s License and he replied he didn’t know the status and all he had was the identification card. The driver was confirmed as revoked on Nov. 3, 2018. The man was processed and released in the field with a uniformed traffic citation. The driver is scheduled to appear in the

Sarasota County Court on May 12 at 9 a.m. While completing processing, the driver advised that his friend was going to remove the vehicle from the scene. The driver was again advised not to drive until he possessed a valid driver’s license and any further traffic violations could set him up as a habitual traffic offender due to numerous traffic issues. The driver was also issued a written warning for passing within 100 feet of an intersection approach violation for which he was originally stopped. Case clear.

April 15 Civil

11:58 a.m.
Officer Nazareno was dispatched to Harbor Oaks Drive for a civil disturbance call. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno made contact with the complainant who stated that the resident from Harbor Oaks Drive was screaming at her for parking her vehicle in front of her mailbox. No physical altercation took place and no crime was reported. Officer Nazareno spoke with the resident who said that she was yelling at the owner of the car because she did not move her vehicle right away when asked and kept on unloading the vehicle.

April 16 Vehicle

9:30 a.m.
Officer Pescuma received an alert from the license plate reader camera, for a driver with a suspended driver’s license. Officer Pescuma checked the database and confirmed that the registered owner’s driver’s license was suspended as of Jan. 11, 2024 and had an expired tag as of Oct. 2024. There was also no insurance on file. The vehicle was located and a traffic stop was conducted on a black Kia Soul. Officer Pescuma made contact with the driver and told him the reason for the stop. Officer Pescuma advised the driver that his driver’s license was suspended and the and he said “I knew that it was suspended and I am working on it.” Officer Pescuma inquired why the driver was driving and he said that he was driving to work at Publix on Holmes Beach. Additionally, Officer Pescuma advised that the tag expired of Oct. 1, 2024 and that there was no insurance on file. Officer Pescuma issued criminal citation, knowingly driving a vehicle while license is suspended. Additional citations were issued for an expired tag more than six months. Officer Pescuma advised that the driver could not drive the car.

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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 8

LBK Broadway Roundabout Project

To: David Novak

Not sure I understand your questions. No horses. No dead ends! This roundabout has been discussed for years as a safety issue. We had a relatively simple, inexpensive plan that FDOT approved and which we had mostly funded by FDOT and Manatee County. Then, last year, FDOT said we needed to flatten the embankment on the turn which complicated the project considerably. While FDOT said they would pay for it all, that became less true over time so that now we will face \$1.5mm +/- in costs to complete the project.

We seriously considered shelving the project when the flattening edict arrived, and again when we learned we would be facing material costs. In the end, we have decided to proceed forward cautiously because: 1. The safety issue still exists and there is no other available solution; 2. We will not need to expend further funds until 2026, during which we may be able to cut costs or attract other funding; and 3. The roundabout work and the work to the north and south of the intersection contemplated by the project will improve that area of GMD in a manner we hope will set the standard for and accelerate the design and completion of our vision for the entire length of GMD, the “complete streets”. We do not believe FDOT is reliant on questionable federal funding for anything we are discussing with them now.

Ken Schneider
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

LBK Broadway Roundabout Project

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider

Ken, just as an educated hunch, I searched “Complete Streets” today and found that the federal funds for such projects are in serious jeopardy. That was not a surprise. When their federal website was deleted, not a good sign.

I also found it odd that the Town would include our state highway in its goals for “Complete Streets” when the program was designed for urban areas. Now I see that the funding for the Broadway roundabout has a Complete Streets component.

As they say “what could go wrong”? Is LBK leading its horse to a dead end? Would we do the same thing if most of the funding fell upon our neighbors?

Here’s a bit of history:
Complete streets: What went wrong? | CNU
David Novak
Longboat Key

LBK Broadway Roundabout Project

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Charlie Mopps

The Town of Longboat Key, in partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), invites the community to an open-house style meeting to discuss the upcoming Broadway Roundabout Project at the intersection of Gulf of Mexico Drive and Broadway Street.

Project Highlights:
Enhanced pedestrian crossing safety
New multi-use trail (east side of corridor)
7-ft buffered bicycle lane
Resiliency improvements
Integration of the Town’s Complete Streets elements

Meeting Information:
Thursday, May 1, 2025
Town Commission Chambers – 501 Bay Isles Road
2PM- 4PM

This project marks the first step in implementing the Town’s Complete Streets vision—aimed at improving safety, mobility options, and roadway aesthetics while preserving traffic flow and enhancing the Town’s distinctive character.

Project team members from the Town and FDOT will be available to answer questions and provide information on project development, construction timelines, and next steps. Please feel free to share this invitation with others—your input matters, and we look forward to welcoming our community at the meeting.

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

Appreciation for Your Time and Consideration

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider

On behalf of the Bay Isles Association, I would like to extend my sincere thanks for taking the time to review the materials I previously provided, as well as for engaging in thoughtful discussion regarding the proposed plans for Bay Isles Parkway and the SR 789 pedestrian tunnel.

We genuinely appreciate the attention and consideration you have given to our concerns, particularly with respect to the potential liabilities associated with these assets. Your willingness to listen and understand our position does not go unnoticed.

Should you have any further questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would be more than happy to provide any clarification or support necessary.

See Letters, page 12



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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 11

Philip S. Deming
Sarasota

Appreciation for Your Time and Consideration

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
I look forward to further discussions on this matter.
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Community Hall Outreach Letter and Pledge Form

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
We wanted to make sure you all have a copy of the Community Hall outreach letter and pledge form, in case you'd like to share them with your networks.
Savannah Cobb
Assistant to Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) Meeting request
To: Longboat Key Vice Mayor Debra Williams
My name is Bruno Kapacinskas, and I am the Government

Affairs Manager for the Southern Region of the District. I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to request a brief meeting, perhaps 15 to 30 minutes, to introduce myself and the District to you.
I frequently find myself driving through Longboat Key and am available most days, so I am quite flexible with timing. Could you kindly let me know a few dates and times that might work for you? I am eager to connect with you soon. I will be out of office for the week of April 21st. Thank you very much for your time and consideration in advance.
Bruno Kapacinskas
Government Affairs Regional Manager
Southwest Florida Water Management District

Strategic Planning Agenda Packet

To: Longboat Key Deputy Town Clerk Stephanie Garcia
Are we planning to meet at Seaplace, as we have done for the past several years? Just want to be sure.
Penny Gold
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Strategic Planning Agenda Packet

To: Longboat Key Town Commission
Good morning, all! The agenda packet for the April 21, 2025, Town Commission Strategic Planning Retreat is now

available on your iPads. If needed, you may also access the packet using a different device by using the following link:
04-21-2025 Strategic Planning Agenda Packet Please let me know if you have any questions.
Thank you!
Stephanie Garcia
Deputy Town Clerk
Town of Longboat Key

Added Info for Longboat Key Turtle Watch

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
As always, thanks for all you and the town commission do, it really means a lot. I did happen to see something this morning after turtle patrol, yes we started April 15th, that I wanted to pass along.
In the G&O submission our organization made there was a reference to the access to trash may be a basis for rodents being present.
Attached is a picture of a group of trash cans at the public access at 6399 Gulf of Mexico Drive. Note in the picture there is what appears to be a partial food wrapper at the opening of one can, and another wrapper on the ground. Only one of the cans has what I call the closure flapper, this seems to allow animals easy access to what has been placed in the cans.
Just suggesting as the G&O discussions are held, keeping in mind that ease of access to garbage may encourage animals at those locations, and it may also lead to less than desirable visual appeal for area beaches.
Tim Thurman
President
Longboat Key Turtle Patrol

Cutter Lane - Street Water Drainage

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin
Town staff visited the site. Contractor was informed of construction maintenance requirements and the need to clear out the drain. Follow up next week to check status.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Cutter Lane - Street Water Drainage

To: Longboat Key Town manager Howard Tipton
Tip, can you have Public Works look at the Gornto's concern? PS the guy was here today checking our meter for compliance...we'll volunteer for one of the new electronic meters if you need to-test one.
Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Cutter Lane - Street Water Drainage

To: John Gornto
Certainly Nancy, I will pass this information along. Lynn is back in her studio and we had a fabulous art opening at Town Hall last weekend. Hopefully you made it. We have quite a lot of art talent on this island.
Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Cutter Lane - Street Water Drainage

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin
Realizing it isn't raining these contractors at the end of Cutter Ln care not about what they are dumping into the small drain at end of street much less the bay.
Can you kindly get town maintenance to get here to clean out; before rains start so we can rely upon drainage? (Much less another 2024!)
Again, sorry to bother, yet you seem to get things done. Much appreciated (I trust your wife is back to her art in studio!).
John and Nancy Gornto
Longboat Key

Learn How the American Coastal Coalition Can Benefit Your Community

To: Longboat Key Commission
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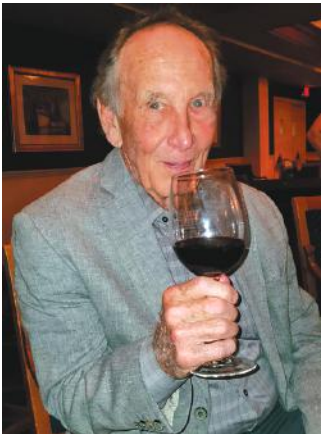
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Turmoil in the Alcoholic Beverage Industry

The turmoil in the alcoholic beverage industry began as the Pandemic ended.

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

The turmoil in the alcoholic beverage industry began as the Pandemic ended and sales of domestic beer began to level off, sales of mass market wines decreased, and sales of premium brand spirits and hard seltzer/canned mixed drinks increased. Upscaling to premium brands of alcoholic beverages in many market segments offsets some of the decreases in quantities sold. Sales of alcoholic beverages are going up or down, or both.



Quantities of craft beer sold in the USA, for instance, declined but higher prices per unit increased both dollar sales of craft beer and the craft beer share of the beer market. In the huge market for beer in the USA, Modelo Especial replaced Bud Light as the top seller in the USA during 2024. The US company licensed to sell Modelo in the US, Constellation Brands, sold many of its popular super-market wine brands to E&J Gallo and to the Wine Group. Constellation has explained its decisions to offload wine brands as part of its efforts to lean more heavily into faster growing segments of the beverage market.

Global production of wine has declined in 2024 to a level not seen during the last forty years. This decline has nothing to do with tariffs on wine. In France, domestic sales of red wine have decreased dramatically, to the point that the government is helping to divert red wine outside the consumer market for wine and is subsidizing shifts of farms in some regions from wine grapes to other crops. Wine regions are adopting higher quality standards to limit production of wines labelled with the name of the region. Increasing sales of sparkling, white, and rose wines have offset some of the losses of red wine sales.

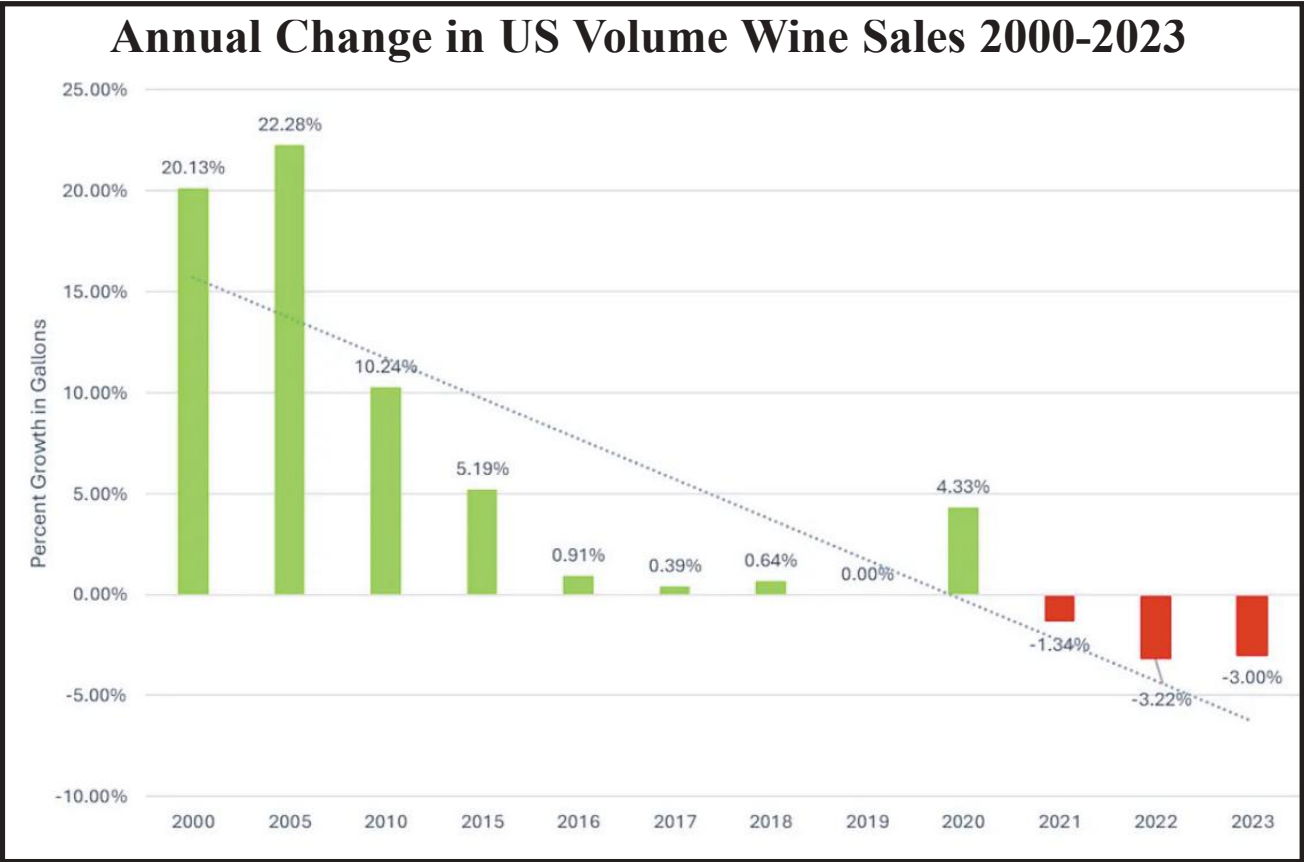
Sales of premium spirits have boosted that sector of the alcoholic beverage market. Kentucky Bourbon and craft whiskey have gained popularity in Europe and Asia. Bartenders hear frequent calls for cocktails such as Manhattans and Mint Juleps. Premium agave spirits, mostly Tequila but also Mezcal, have found an enthusiastic market among the younger patrons of bars in the USA and abroad. The Margarita and Tequila shots have enhanced sales of Tequila. We found one beverage shop that had taken Tequila bottles off the shelf and put all of them behind the counter. In other shops, we see some of the more expensive brands (say, Casamigos) locked behind glass panels. That shows a demand that shop owners could do without!

The on and off again threats of tariffs have added uncertainty and increased the turmoil in the beverage industry. Will adding a 20% tax to the price of a prestige \$300 bottle of French Bordeaux deprive a wine collector of the preferred wine? What will happen if France imposes a 30% tax on Kentucky Bourbon as well as Teslas? Mint Juleps in Nice made with Japanese whiskey?

Will the Belgium and Brazilian corporation, Anheuser Busch InBev, that owns the Budweiser Bud Light brand and the Modelo brand, but has licensed sales of Modelo in the USA to the US Constellation Brands corporation, restore Bud Light as the top selling US beer if and when the Trump administration imposes tariffs on imports Modelo brand made in Mexico? In our era of intertwined international corporations, “Made in America” doesn’t have the meaning that we thought it has, does it?

Perhaps we should be asking when Elon Musk will buy the naming rights to the Gulf of America and change the name to Gulf of X. Will Musk then sue the Dutch Heineken International corporation for a trademark violation for using the “XX” on labels of bottles of Dos Equis beer?

S. W. Hermansen has used his expertise in econometrics, data science and epidemiology to help develop research data-bases for the Pentagon, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Agriculture, and Health Resources and Services. He has visited premier vineyards and taste wines from



major appellations in California, Oregon, New York State, and internationally from Tuscany and the Piedmont in Italy, the Ribera del Duero in Spain, the Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale in Australia, and the Otago Valley in New Zealand. Currently he splits time between residences in Chevy Chase, Maryland and St. Armand’s Circle in Florida.

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

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Sarasota City News

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CityManager, from page 1

when Marlon Brown retired after more than three decades in government service throughout Florida, including 15 years with the City of Sarasota, the last four as city manager.

At the outset, the city hired national search firm Colin Baenziger & Associates to lead the city manager recruitment. But by last Friday’s meeting, it was clear several commissioners were unsure who had controlled the process all along.

Commissioners pointed to one-on-one meetings with staff and the search firm where commissioners had privately shared ideas about what they wanted in a city manager. But that behind-the-scenes approach ultimately spilled into public view, exposing the fractures in a process that lacked structure from the start.

There was no clear agreement on evaluation criteria, no collective discussion of priorities, and no plan for incorporating public input or community participation. Commissioners openly admitted they had never clearly defined what they were looking for in a candidate—a vacuum that helped fuel the disarray.

More troubling was that commissioners submitted their preferred candidates from the pool of 47 via a spreadsheet—outside of a public meeting. A 2023 opinion from the Florida Attorney General made clear the Sunshine Law prohibits ranking candidates in an executive search outside of a publicly noticed meeting.

Christine Robinson, speaking on behalf of the Argus Foundation, put it plainly: “The public doesn’t have access to the materials you’re talking about today.”

Robinson wasn’t alone in raising concerns. Commissioner Kyle Battie echoed the concern: “We almost seem as though we don’t have a clue as to what we’re doing. That doesn’t bode well for the public and their confidence in us.”

Battie likened the events to “trying to change a tire on a bike while we’re riding it.”

Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch declared bluntly, “We did not direct any of this. This is coming at us.”

Vice Mayor Debbie Trice tried to salvage the process by proposing a hybrid approach: preserve the current applicant pool but publish all materials to give the public a window into future deliberations. But even that compromise couldn’t paper over the commission’s lack of a coherent plan.

A suggestion that candidates submit five-minute introductory videos—aimed at humanizing resumes—was dismissed by some as potentially discriminatory, despite the fact that public interviews would eventually reveal the same information.

By the afternoon meeting, the dysfunction reached a climax. Ahearn-Koch introduced a motion to scrap the entire process and start anew— publicly, transparently, and on the Commission’s own terms.

The motion failed 4–1, but not before exposing deep fractures. Commissioners admitted they didn’t know which materials were public, why some candidates were recommended over others, or how five additional names landed on their list without a formal vote or directive. Basic documents such as resumes and background packets were not included in the meeting agenda and only presented after complaints from the public.

Several commissioners worried starting over would waste months and cost Sarasota its most promising candidates. Others argued the entire process was tainted by disorganization, and pushing forward would only deepen public mistrust.

“If I were a potential candidate, I would think twice about applying,” said Vice Mayor Trice. She questioned why a candidate would “move to this crazy city where the commission can’t make a decision.”

“It was chaos,” said Martin Hyde, a frequent critic of city government. “There’s no consistency in the processes. The only thing that is predictable is that they take hours at every meeting to demonstrate their incompetence.”

What Comes Next?

City Attorney Joe Polzak recommended the city “reboot” the search process. But in the end, the commission did not agree on a clear timeline or leadership direction. Commissioners agreed to hold a follow-up meeting where they’ll begin—again—by publicly naming their top candidates and requesting additional background materials from the search firm.

But with some commissioners already second-guessing their picks and others visibly frustrated with the entire process, it’s unclear whether the future meeting will resolve anything or

simply repeat last Friday’s display in a slightly more polished form.

“Likely, I would come up with the same list I have,” said Alpert.


The number of potential candidates is likely to be less after last Friday’s week’s debacle. One candidate withdrew from consideration after watching the spectacle. “I can’t imagine anyone who would want to work in that environment,” the former candidate told the Florida Trident.

As of Thursday, April 17, city hall could not provide consistent information on the number of candidates who had dropped out. One official told the Trident in an email that none had withdrawn. Another official confirmed that four had dropped out.


UPDATE: After initial publication, Jan Thornburgh, the City’s Communication Manager, stated that two additional candidates had withdrawn: Kathy Blonski and Mike Graese. Blonski was one of two candidates preferred by all 5 commissioners.

Read at: <https://floridatrident.org/sarasota-city-manager-search-descends-into-chaos/>

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2050 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR. #A601
SARASOTA, FL
3BR/3.5BA • 3,242 • Beach/Bay views



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



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



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



NEW PRICE

EMERALD POINTE NORTH - \$1,849,000
2065 HARBOUR LINKS DRIVE
LONGBOAT KEY, FL
3BR/3.5BA • 2,865 SF • Updated



NEW PRICE

GRAND BAY • \$1,695,000
3010 GRAND BAY BLVD. #482
LONGBOAT KEY, FL
3BR/3.5BA • 2,250 SF • Furnished



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



NOW PENDING

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



NOW PENDING

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



NOW PENDING

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



NOW PENDING

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



NOW PENDING

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



NOW SOLD

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

This material is based upon information that we consider to be reliable, but because it has been supplied by third parties, we cannot represent that it is accurate or complete, and it should not be relied upon as such. The offering is subject to errors, omissions, changes, including price, or withdrawal without notice.

595 BAY ISLES ROAD, SUITE 250 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL 34228