



# Longboat Key News

January 13, 2023

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FREE

## InsideLook



Time to expand wine knowledge  
...page 13



Lido home sells for \$10 million  
...page 7



Roundabout coming & going  
...page 5



A crack in the case reveals  
...page 10

## FDOT offers concrete excuse for unprecedented traffic jam

*Longboat and Lido residents in the days following the epic traffic snarl were outraged that FDOT broke its commitment to broadcast in advance lane closures so residents could plan for delays. It could happen again.*

STEVE REID  
Editor & Publisher  
sreid@lbknews.com

The untimely delivery and pouring of concrete at the Gulfstream roundabout project last week

caused an unprecedented traffic jam from Downtown Sarasota to St. Armands all the way to Anna Maria Island.

To make matters worse, many drivers who could not exit Longboat

heading south, attempted to travel north and motorists became trapped in either direction for hours.

The frustration grew into an uproar of outrage toward both

See Traffic, page 3

## Longboat St. Regis seeks to build parking garage

*It took more than a decade to go from the demolition of the Colony Beach & Tennis Resort to the approval of the 166-room hotel and 69 residences that comprise the St. Regis Resort that is rising like a small city within the 17.2 acre waterfront site on Longboat Key. Now the developer, Unicorp, seeks to amend the plan to add a three level parking garage on the northeast corner of the property.*

STEVE REID  
Editor & Publisher  
sreid@lbknews.com

The application for the garage was received last week in the Town Planning and Zoning Department and the request includes:

- removing 62 mechanical lift parking spaces and a 38-space surface parking lot
- adding a new 157 space parking garage
- deleting beach shelters, tiki hut
- moving patio heaters and fire lane further eastward
- amending departures for open space, living space ratio and adding new departures for dimensions of spaces in parking structures as well as the building separation requirement between the hotel and the proposed parking structure.

When the commission approved the overall site plan in 2021, Unicorp convinced the commission that mechanical lifts would be adequate to solve its parking needs. The commission was concerned about the idea of lifts and the possibility of creating traffic issues, but the applicant said it was in its own interests and capable of managing event traffic and that the lifts would work efficiently.

Since Unicorp is looking to modify the plan as well as seek additional departures from town code, it means the entire site development plan approval will have to be amended and will require public

See Garage, page 3

## Art on our Horizon



Located south of Downtown Sarasota and Siesta Key, Phillippi Estate Park once again welcomes the Sarasota Fine Art Show on January 21 and 22. Featuring nearly 100 nationally recognized artists, the show also presents live music and great food. The waterfront setting includes an expansive lawn, shaded walking trails, a gazebo, a children's playground, restrooms and convenient parking for all. It's a full day of fun and culture. There is also a Youth Arts Competition!

See Arts, page 3



# 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.

## Air Quality on Longboat Key

To: Editor

As a long-time winter resident, I've been living on Longboat Key for 22 years and have seen a dramatic decline in the air quality, on many days, due to issues from Red Tide to car and truck exhaust pollution.

There has been a dramatic increase in car/truck traffic over time and the engine exhaust has multiplied along Gulf of Mexico Drive, where many recreational bikers and walkers like to go. Personally, I am sensitive to air pollution which causes a headache and nausea, and each time I walk I'm impacted by this dirty air.

We may not be able to do much about the additional traffic by the trucks who use Longboat Key as a thoroughfare to get from the north end of Sarasota to the south end. But one small attainable improvement would come from a city ordinance against allowing trucks to idle their engines.

An obvious problem-maker are the Amazon Delivery Trucks. As a resident of Islander Club where there are on average 20-30 deliveries per day, between the two large buildings, the Amazon Delivery Truck has been seen to idle for over 10 minutes, with the door open! Multiply the diesel exhaust continuously being spewed into the air for hours--unnecessarily, and one could literally see the reason why I'm having trouble breathing as I walk along Gulf of Mexico Drive.

I was told by a UPS delivery man that their company has a policy against their trucks idling. I was told by an Amazon delivery man that they do not have such a policy. It appears to me that the City of Longboat Key needs to address this problem and an ordinance against idling trucks is needed. We are already dealing with the impact of Red Tide on our air quality, which we can't control. Idling trucks are a public health hazard that we can control on our island.

Ruth Moss-Katsnelson  
Longboat Key

## Air Quality on Longboat Key

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

This letter above was printed in the Longboat Key News. In summation I suggest instating a law against engine idling. It's time to put people/life in front of profits.

Ruth Moss-Katsnelson  
Longboat Key

## Air quality on Longboat Key

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schnier

Thank you for allowing me to speak at this past township commission meeting on January 9th about my concerns for the detrimental impact of truck idling upon the Longboat Key air quality. Research is showing that this idling takes place due to the driver's desire to keep the air-conditioning going (or heat in northern states). Twenty-eight states have passed laws against idling engines. Interestingly on Longboat Key, I'm seeing that UPS and Fed-Ex trucks don't do this to the same extent as the Amazon trucks.

On another point, I would like to advocate for not expanding the Pickle Ball Courts by taking the last tennis court away. On Jan. 11 I observed people playing on the one tennis court, and at other times have seen players on that tennis court playing or practicing, at different times of the day.

I would like to thank you for recognizing the limited parking at Bay Front Park, and the fact that not all users of the park are pickle-ball players. By expanding pickle ball courts, bringing in more pickle ball players, non-pickle ball players will not have any place to park.

For example, on Jan. 10, I was unable to find a parking spot at 10:25 a.m., to attend a Yoga Class. I ended up parking at ACE Hardware- but this is not a sustainable solution.

If more people have to do this, it could impede the business traffic at ACE Hardware.

On that day there were 13 people in the Yoga class (bringing in \$130 plus the \$25 each for registration fees) and on Wednesday, there were 22 people in aerobic class- bringing in \$225. In high season with all the classes offered, this has the potential to add up to \$1,000 of revenue a week for the township. Please don't take away the final tennis court at Bay Front Park.

Ruth Moss-Katsnelson  
Longboat Key

## Air Quality on Longboat Key

To: Ruth Moss-Katsnelson

Thanks for your letter regarding the exhaust from idling trucks (and other, for that matter). I share your view that the practice is wrong in so many ways and am forwarding your note to our Town Manager Tom Harmer and his deputy responsible for environmental initiatives on the island, Caroyne Brown, for consideration. Whether the appropriate solution is legislative, contact with the regular offenders or some other measure, let's see what they say.

Ken Schneier  
Mayor  
Longboat Key

See Letters, page 5



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Traffic, from page 1

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the City of Sarasota who are working together on the project.

Longboat residents in the days following the epic traffic snarl were outraged that FDOT broke its commitment to the Town as well as Lido and area municipalities to broadcast in advance lane closures so residents could be told through social media and government alerts as well as signage of pending delays. None of that happened.

Former Longboat Key Mayor Terry Gans expressed his frustration in a letter: “I called the City Manager’s Office and the person who answered felt her mission was to argue when a simple expression of understanding and indication of agreeing to contact FDOT would have been fine.”

Gans’ experience underscores the frustration Longboat Key town leaders expressed.

Gans went on to complain that the Town of Longboat Key was offered media contacts by the City to find out what had caused the situation.

“In real time, it seemed the City of Sarasota was clueless and uncaring about a significant problem and little understanding of what they could do to at least give the illusion that they could help people,” said Gans.

The next day it became clear that the backup occurred because the FDOT contractor says that it can not receive concrete deliveries at night. FDOT construction manager James Nickols explains, “Unfortunately due to concrete shortages and supply chain issues, concrete suppliers refuse to deliver small quantities at night.”

What had happened was the concrete was delivered at 2 p.m. and the lane was closed at 3 p.m. so a traffic separator which took six hours to pour and cure could be installed.

Sarasota City Engineer Nik Patel asked FDOT if they could receive notice so they could get the word out.

Possible delays in upcoming week

The most recent FDOT work report anticipates more lane closures. In the week starting Jan. 15, the FDOT contractor will be installing sidewalks and FDOT says that temporary lane closures will occur while the concrete trucks are present.

Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider expressed dismay that such severe traffic impacts have occurred when the town was assured not only that the project would be done by now, but that it would receive warning if such instances were to occur.

Unfortunately, mainly due to Hurricane Ian, the project was delayed as were supply chains impacted. This allowed FDOT to complete the functionality of the circle by the end of 2022, but medians, sidewalks, pond work, landscaping and eventually a sculpture, are all to be installed in the coming weeks and months.



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Garage, from page 1

hearings with the Planning and Zoning Board and the Town Commission.

According to the contractor Moss Construction, work on the project is on schedule with hundreds of workers on the site on any given day. In addition to the hotel and residences, two restaurants, a grille, three bars, a ballroom, boardrooms, a lazy river and several pools will adorn the property.

Planning staff will spend the coming weeks reviewing the request and will make a recommendation to the Planning and Zoning Board prior to its first hearing.

Arts, from page 1

Free Show Admission. \$5 parking Supports the Institute for the Arts & Education. (Free returns all weekend)

Address: South of downtown Sarasota at Phillippi Estate Park off US-41, 5500 Tamiami

Hours. Saturday and Sunday from 10 am-5 pm.

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS**  
**JANUARY 17, 2023**

**OUTLINE DEVELOPMENT PLAN AMENDMENT (QUASI-JUDICIAL)**  
**AND**  
**SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN (QUASI-JUDICIAL)**

Please take notice that public hearings of the Town of Longboat Key’s Planning & Zoning Board will be held at the request of the Town of Longboat Key, Property Owner, for property located at 600 Bay Isles Road. Specifically, the applicant is requesting:

- 1. An Outline Development Plan amendment to define the allowable uses and development regulations for the property associated with the development of the Town Center Green.**
- 2. A Site Development Plan amendment for Town Plaza, Phase II, allowing for the construction of a pavilion, stage, and accessory structures on the property.**

The quasi-judicial public hearings before the Planning and Zoning Board on the Applicant’s Outline Development Plan amendment and Site Development Plan amendment requests will be held on **January 17, 2023, at 9:15 a.m.**, or as soon thereafter as may be heard, in the Town Commission Chambers at Town Hall, 501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, Florida. **This hearing will be held in accordance with established quasi-judicial procedures.**

All interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to the request for Outline Development Plan amendment and Site Development Plan amendment submitted by the Applicant. Copies of the Applicant’s proposals and related material associated with the requests may be viewed at the Planning, Zoning & Building Department, 501 Bay Isles Road, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays prior to the hearing. Questions may be directed to the Planning, Zoning & Building Department at 316-1966. The proposed amendment will affect property within the corporate boundaries of the Town of Longboat Key as shown on the map appearing at the bottom of this advertisement.

No verbatim record by a certified court reporter is made of these proceedings. Accordingly, any person who may seek to appeal any decision involving the matters noticed herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony and evidence at these proceedings upon which any appeal is to be based (see Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes). In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Town Clerk’s office at 941-316-1999 forty-eight (48) hours in advance of this proceeding. If you are hearing impaired, please call 941-316-8719.

David Green, Chair,  
Planning & Zoning Board  
Published: 1/13/2023





# EditorLetters



Letters, from page 2

Roundabout traffic

To: Sarasota City Deputy City Manager Pat Robinson  
Pat - the note below came from a former elected official who was involved with Longboat Key when the Town expressed serious concern about the circle. He was well educated on who pushed for it.  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

Roundabout traffic

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
The response you received lays out an idealized fairy tale of how the City responded to the situation and the calls they received from drivers who had the time to call while they sat for over an hour (1:40 in my case). I called the City Manager's office and the person who answered felt her mission was to argue when a simple expression of understanding and indication of agreeing to contact FDOT would have been fine.  
She first told me it had nothing to do with the circle—technically correct since traffic couldn't reach the circle until they were past the backup—which was ridiculous because none of the work would be going on without the overall project. The next argument that it was an FDOT project and the City has no authority. Since my side of the call showed understanding of that relationship from the start it was a simple passing of the buck about a debacle occurring on City property. My request was that the City as an interested party could contact FDOT to express some level of concern about the problem. Although she stated she was going to hang up and did, within five minutes SPD put a Facebook message up letting the public know there was a problem. When users asked how long the lane closure would last, SPD came back with "It's an FDOT project," ignoring that as a kindred agency they might actually been able to contact FDOT and get that information.  
So, it's very nice that you received a fable of media contacts, etc. In real-time it seemed the City of Sarasota was clueless and uncaring about a significant problem and little understanding of what they could do to at least give the illusion that they could help people. I wonder if any Sarasota Police Department or City or even FDOT staff ever went to the actual scene.  
Terry Gans  
Longboat Key

Roundabout traffic

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
Thanks Commissioner. As stated, we have discussed with FDOT and have been advised they will notify us in advance moving forward. It was a challenging day for all for certain.

Patrick Robinson  
Deputy City Manager  
City of Sarasota

Roundabout traffic

To: Florida Department of Transportation District Secretary LK Nandam  
I continue to receive calls and texts about the wretched situation created by FDOT taking eastbound traffic to one lane Tuesday. Many expressed concern with the cavalier stance taken by FDOT stating a small cement pour justified citizens missing Chemo appointments, missing planes and being paralyzed in traffic for hours.  
I took an oath to insure the health, welfare and safety of our citizens. I am sure your superiors did the same. That mission failed miserably this week. It cannot happen again. Please let me know what FDOT is doing to insure this does not happen again.  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

Roadwatch Report US 41 Gulfstream Roundabout, Week of Sunday, January 15

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission  
US 41 at Gulfstream Avenue Roundabout Project, Sarasota: Construction project: Crews will work within the right-of-way, medians, driveways and throughout the project limits. Please use caution and watch for construction vehicles, dump trucks, semi-trucks and heavy equipment entering or exiting the work zone.  
Activities Include:  
Removal and disposal of temporary asphalt used in prior phases.  
Excavation for pond work off Gulfstream Avenue by the Marina Jacks parking lot.  
Grading for sidewalk on the east side of US 41 between Gulfstream Avenue and Fruitville Road.  
Installation of sidewalk on the east side of US 41 between Gulfstream Avenue and Fruitville Road. Temporary lane closures will occur while concrete trucks are present.  
Installation of lighting cable and conduit on US 41 between Main Street and Gulfstream Avenue.  
Installation of two mast-arm foundations on Gulfstream Avenue between Sunset Drive and US 41. Pedestrian detours will be implemented for the south sidewalk on Gulfstream Avenue along the seawall. Please follow signs and devices for detour.  
Detours/Crossings:  
Phase 2B configuration is in place. Motorists on approach yield to motorists within the roundabout. Vehicles within the roundabout have priority and right of way.

See Letters, page 6

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\$1,150,000

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# Editor Letters

Letters, from page 5

Palm Avenue, 1st Street, and 2nd Street are closed at the US 41 connection in both directions. Entering and exiting the downtown area via Cocoanut Avenue to Fruitville Road is recommended.

Sidewalk at the northwest corner of US 41 at Gulfstream Avenue is closed. Pedestrian paths are available via US 41 Multi-Use Recreational Trail (MURT) along Ritz Carlton Drive.

Sidewalk on the east side of US 41 between Gulfstream Avenue and Fruitville Road is closed for reconstruction work. Pedestrians should use Cocoanut Avenue for access to downtown and to the Main Street.

The east pedestrian crosswalk at Sunset Drive and Gulfstream Avenue is closed. The west pedestrian crosswalk is available to cross Gulfstream Avenue. Signage and pedestrian barricades are in place for guidance.

Marina Jacks north parking lot entrance/exit on Gulfstream Avenue is closed to vehicular traffic. Motorists may access the parking lot via Bayfront Drive at Main Street/Marina Plaza. No through traffic allowed through this area. Motorist may

not exit the Marina Jacks parking lot via Bayfront Drive at Main Street/Marina Plaza. The south exit at Ringling Boulevard must be used to exit Marina Jacks.

Detours and lane closures will be in place during various phases of the project. During construction, the speed limit will be reduced to 25 mph on US 41 and Gulfstream Avenue.

We encourage motorists to allow extra time to travel, follow the roadway signage and messaging and avoid making unauthorized U-turns or changing lanes across solid lines between the lanes when traveling through the construction work zone.

Construction activities will take place weekdays and weekends, daytime and occasionally during nighttime hours. Expect noise from grinding asphalt, hammer drills, noise and vibration from construction equipment, backup alarms, vacuum trucks, pumps, and lighting.

Improvements being made as part of this project consist of replacing the existing signalized intersection on US 41 at Gulfstream Avenue with a roundabout, installation of HAWK pedestrian crossing signal system, raised pedestrian refuge islands, replacement of underground drainage structures, utilities, fiber optic, new LED streetlights, reconfiguration of

stormwater retention ponds, sidewalks, and pedestrian walkways. Expected completion is spring 2023.

Alice Ramos  
Florida Department of Transportation

Roadwatch Report US 41 Gulfstream Roundabout, Week of Sunday, Jan. 15

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Tom Harmer

This looks like a serious warning for construction at G/41 next week as Season kicks into high gear. Can we get more time specific information from FDOT, especially regarding daytime lane closures, and can we disseminate that information to the public in a timely manner (this might be a time for the emergency system)?

This is all unfortunate given that we were assured pre-construction that only one Season (last year) would be impacted by this project and that sufficient “carrots and sticks” were arranged with the contractors to assure that major work would be done by now.

Ken Schneier  
Mayor  
Longboat Key

Traffic on Gulfstream roundabout

To: Longboat Key Nort members

LBK North - if any of you were impacted by the horrible traffic situation on the Key yesterday, the message below will explain (but not excuse) much of it.

I was caught in the traffic going north, which at 4:45 p.m. was bumper to bumper from south of Positano all the way to Cortez Road. Assuming some of that was due to those going south off the Key rerouting to go north.

Traffic going south at that same time yesterday when I left Town Hall was backed up all the way to Bayport.

Can't imagine how many appointments, meetings, reservations and flights were missed.

We obviously need better communication from the City of Sarasota and FDOT - and we need to investigate better options for the Town to notify our residents and workers, when we do have this information.

Maureen Merrigan  
Vice Mayor  
Longboat Key

Traffic on Gulfstream roundabout

To: Florida Department of Transportation District Secretary LK Nandam

I know you are aware of the 1-2 hour back-up getting off of Lido, Longboat and Anna Marie Islands yesterday. I understand it was because of lane closures due to a concrete pour.

We all know the challenges the winter season brings to traffic and were happy to hear 2 years ago that the Gulfstream Roundabout would be complete before this years winter residents arrive. I understand that did not happen due to Covid, supply chain issues and weather disruptions.

What I don't understand is why the FDOT project managers would shut down any lanes during rush hour. They had to know that they would create traffic backlogs that would take several hours clear. I live in the middle of LBK on Gulf of Mexico Drive and there were 5-6 mile traffic jams going both north and south.

Please let us know what the FDOT is doing to keep this from happening again.

Mike Haycock  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

See Letters, page 8

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# KeyRealEstate

## Bird Key, Lido Key, Longboat Key latest sales

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1770 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#201	1,413	\$1,050,000	3	2	0	8	\$1,050,000
2105 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#3503	1,463	\$1,799,900	2	2	0	30	\$1,799,900
1135 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#304	1,503	\$1,625,000	2	2	0	28	\$1,625,000
4500 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#202	1,312	\$795,000	2	2	0	113	\$795,000



15 N POLK DR



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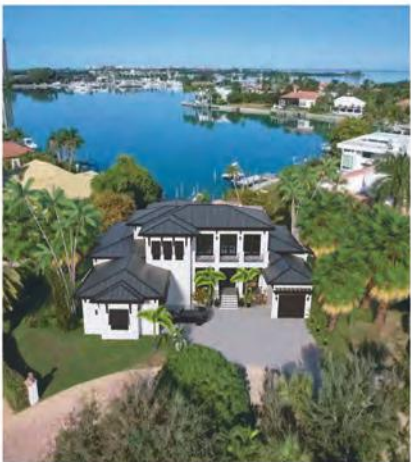
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### -- FEATURED LISTINGS --



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314 BIRD KEY DRIVE | PENDING \$8,145,000

**BIRD KEY**  
526 BIRD KEY DRIVE | ACTIVE LISTING \$2,895,000



# EditorLetters

Letters, from page 6

LBK Bicycle Assoc. Live View of Gulf Stream Roundabout

To: Howard Tessler  
Does anyone know the cause of the northbound traffic debacle yesterday afternoon? Traffic was backed up from Cortez all the way back to the Zota Hotel about 5 p.m. I have never seen that since moving here in 2015.  
Ray Ralph  
Longboat Key

LBK Bicycle Assoc. Live View of Gulf Stream Roundabout

To: Ray Ralph  
After the traffic debacle yesterday we were made aware of a live cam easily accessible by anyone to check the traffic patterns at the Gulfstream/US41 intersection. The link will open in your browser.  
<https://video.nest.com/live/pY8lAo91sg>  
In addition to google maps it could be helpful when planning a trip to the mainland. Don't hesitate to circulate.  
Howard Tessler  
Longboat Key

Traffic

To: Sarasota Herald-Tribune reporter Anne Snabes  
Ann- I am going to forward a couple of emails about the roundabout. It totally failed today. Traffic backed up for over an hour to get off LBK and St. Armands. People missed planes and dr. appointments.  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

Traffic

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Tom Harmer  
Just left the FDOT call. There does not appear to be any understanding of the level of dysfunction they caused yesterday and to suggest telling people to be patient and "they will try to notify of lane closures" is inadequate.  
We have no way to notify tourists adequately and ABC7 did not know of problem until I contacted Summer and she got story on at 7 and 11. They (FDOT) must do better and they don't seem to get that or perhaps they don't care. We have season traffic here now.

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

Traffic

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
Thank you for letting me know about this!  
Anne Snabes  
Reporter  
Sarasota Herald-Tribune

US 41/Gulfstream roundabout

To: Longboat Key Commission  
Earlier today the FDOT shut down one of the lanes entering the US41/Gulfstream roundabout to pour a concrete lane divider. It caused significant back-up on to Lido, St. Armands, and Longboat Key. We did not receive any notice about this work and have been in communication with FDOT and the City all afternoon about the impacts this has had to our residents. In the past hour they have opened back up the lane of traffic, but the back-up will take some time to work itself out. There are also delays on the north end today. We expressed our frustration and questioned the timing of the work. We did ask if they had any other similar work planned- they said not this week, but there will be some shutdowns that will likely occur next week. They said the timing was related to the limited access to concrete for this portion of their work.  
It is important to check traffic conditions before leaving the island during the season and especially during the continued construction activity necessary to complete the FDOT/City of Sarasota Roundabout project.  
We will continue to follow-up with FDOT and the City.  
Thomas A. Harmer  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key


US 41/Gulfstream roundabout

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Tom Harmer  
Traffic on Longboat Key Saint Armands, Lido Key and Bird Key was totally paralyzed this afternoon, due to the city of Sarasota and the Florida Department of transportation taking the new roundabout down to one lane in the middle of the afternoon people missed airplanes, medical appointments and were trapped in traffic for up to two hours to exit Longboat Key

See Letters, page 9


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# EditorLetters



Letters, from page 8

They have told our staff they did this so they could pour cement. It is the middle of the day when the traffic is highest and it is season they cannot continue to cause these kind of issues.  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

Work on US 41 and Gulfstream roundabout

To: Florida Department of Transportation District Secretary L.K. Nandam  
Long time without sharing greetings to you. Sincerely hope you are doing well.  
My doing well was shortened by the hour-forty driving from St. Armand’s to Sarasota as work between Golden Gate and 41 reduced the eastbound to one lane. There was a new concrete island the size of a bridge table being formed by one worker and two lookers.  
While I have some small feel about the trade- offs of needed construction work (pain for gain), the Facebook comments might cause one to question the pain/reward for this specific work at this specific time. If it truly unavoidably had to be done at that moment, then people should be alerted in advance (SPD issued alert around 1:50 when people were already in the backup). I hope you will consider these concerns.  
Terry Gans  
Longboat Key

Work on US 41 and Gulfstream roundabout

To: Florida Department of Transportation Construction Manager Jim Nichols  
Why are we allowing lane closures during daytime in the peak season? I thought we decided to not do that on facilities that are leading to barrier islands.  
L. K. Nandam  
District Secretary  
Florida Department of Transportation

Work on US 41 and Gulfstream roundabout

To: Florida Department of Transportation District Secretary L.K. Nandam  
Unfortunately, due to concrete shortages and supply chain issues concrete suppliers refuse to deliver small quantities at night.  
The lane was pulled around 3 p.m. today. Russell poured the western traffic separator which took approx. 6 hours to pour, finish and cure in order to put traffic next to it.  
James Nichols  
Construction Manager

Florida Department of Transportation

Work on US 41 and Gulfstream roundabout

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Tom Harmer  
FYI, it’s a result of challenges with concrete delivery... Just out of control even with the restrictions imposed.  
L. K. Nandam  
District Secretary  
Florida Department of Transportation

Work on US 41 and Gulfstream roundabout

To: Florida Department of Transportation Jon Sands  
I appreciate your taking my call today and discussing our concerns.  
The City of Sarasota and the Town of Longboat Key have been fielding phone calls today from irate drivers due to the back-ups associated with the daytime lane closures. Based on our conversation, this was due to challenges with concrete delivery and supply chain issues.  
To ensure we communicate and provide adequate notice, it would be beneficial if we could get advance notice from FDOT, preferably the day before or even an hour before the daytime closure, to give our residents and the drivers advance notification so that we could share this information through our social media and other communications channels. Per our discussion, please send advance notification of daytime closure to the folks copied in so we can give advance notification to our residents and the drivers.  
I appreciate all the efforts thus far by FDOT; I hope there can be better communication and advance notification on daytime closure. If you have any questions, please let me know.  
Nik Patel  
City Engineer  
City of Sarasota

Work on US 41 and Gulfstream roundabout

To: Sarasota City Commission  
We are working on ensuring we are notified of daytime lane closures moving forward so we can duplicate FDOT’s messaging to the public on our social media platforms. If you have any questions please let me I know.  
Patrick Robinson  
Deputy City Manager & Public Safety Administrator  
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.

## Jan. 6 Suspicious person

10:39 a.m.  
Officer Tillman responded to Longboat Club Road for a suspicious person. The complainant stated that a woman was in the center of the roadway. Officer Tillman arrived on scene and the woman was gone. Case clear.

## Alarm

1:55 p.m.  
Officer Tillman responded to the 4600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a fire alarm. Officer Tillman responded along with the Longboat Key Fire Department and assisted until police presence was no longer needed. The alarm was related to cooking smoke in one of the units. Case clear.

## Fire assist

9:48 p.m.  
Officer Montfort was dispatched to Sands Point Road along with Longboat Key Fire Department to assist with a gas leak. While in route, it was reported a vehicle had backed into the gas line. The vehicle that backed into the gas line was gone on arrival and the gas line may have been leaking for some time. Officer Montfort remained on the scene until cleared by the fire department. Case clear.

## Jan. 7 Suspicious vehicle

10:15 a.m.  
Officer Connors responded to the 5700 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of a suspicious vehicle circling the parking lot. Upon arrival, Officer Connors located the vehicle and was known to the officer as the local paper delivery vehicle. No further police services needed. Case clear.

## Noise

5:12 p.m.  
Officer Butler responded to St. Judes drive for a noise complaint. Upon arrival, Officer Butler heard a faint radio playing from a garage area of the home. Officer Butler met with the homeowner and advised him to turn down the radio which he complained voluntarily. Case clear.

## Found property

6:52 p.m.  
Officer Montfort received a message from dispatch that someone from Fire Rescue had found a wallet. Officer Montfort met with the firefighter at the Police Department where the wallet was turned in. While in the parking lot, Officer Montfort was also greeted by a man who stated he had lost his wallet after leaving it on the roof of his vehicle. Officer Montfort confirmed that the wallet belonged to the man by the driver's license. The wallet was returned without incident. Case clear.

## Jan. 8 Boat

11:22 a.m.  
Officer Connors while on marine patrol in Sarasota Bay, was dispatched to the area of the 10th Street Boat Ramp for a report of an overturned vessel, with two people in the water. Upon arrival, the occupants had been pulled aboard to safety via a good Samaritan who was boating in the area. The occupants, along with the vessel, were towed back to the boat ramp with no injuries reported. Case clear.



## Citizen assist

10:49 a.m.  
Officer Tillman responded to the 4200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive and spoke with a complainant who stated that his 26-year-old daughter did not return to the condo last night and needed to report her as missing. The complainant stated that his daughter met some people in the condo's hot tub at 12:30 a.m. and had not returned. As officers were obtaining information for the investigation, his daughter returned back to the condominium. Case clear.

## Jan. 9 Citizen assist

11:09 a.m.  
Officer Miklos was dispatched to the Longboat Key Police Department in reference to a property damage report that occurred on Jan. 4. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos came into contact with the complainant who advised that on Jan. 4, she was in the Publix parking lot when an unknown man reversed his truck into her vehicle. The unknown man provided his name and a phone number. The complainant stated the collision caused a crack and a dent in the passenger side rear fender. Upon inspection of the vehicle, the crack was just dirt from driving, however, there was a dent near the wheel well/rear fender. Sgt. Puccio attempted to make contact with the company, with negative results. The complainant was provided a business card with a case number attached. Nothing further, case clear.

## Citizen assist

1:22 p.m.  
Officer Miklos responded to the 2500 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a black truck driving on the course by a caller that did not want to meet with police. Sarasota Sheriff's Office dispatch advised that the truck was driving erratically and was letting a dog out of the truck multiple times. Upon arrival, Sgt. Puccio and Officer Miklos checked the area and could not find a black truck on the golf course. Longboat Key Police has responded to similar calls and discovered that the greenskeeper to the Longboat Key Club is allowed to drive his truck on the course while on official business with the golf course.

## Lost property

2:56 p.m.  
Officer Zunz received a call from a Longboat Key resident advising she had lost her purse. The purse, a leather applique-type with gold strap and brushed gold accents was last seen when the owner stopped for a burger at the Five Guys in Bradenton. Officer Zunz tried impressing upon her that she should file a report with the Manatee County Sheriff, though Officer Zunz advised they will contact her if any such purse is turned in. Case clear.

## Suspicious person

5:30 p.m.  
Officer Miklos responded to Bogey Lane and Yardarm Lane in reference to two suspicious men soliciting services by a caller who did not wish to meet with police. Sarasota Sheriff's Office dispatch advised that the two men were Hispanic, in their mid 20s, wearing jeans and t-shirts, and walking northbound on Bogey Lane. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos came into contact with the two men who advised they were soliciting business for a roofing company. Officer Miklos advised the men that it is against town ordinance to solicit within town limits. The two men provided the driver's licenses and business cards. The men were checked through Sarasota Sheriff's Office, and came back with no wants or warrants. The men left without further incident. Case clear.

## Jan. 11 Fire assist

5:48 p.m.  
Officer Tillman responded to the 2100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for an elevator rescue. Fire Rescue responded and rescued the individual. Case clear.

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Longboat Key News Sarasota City News





# EditorLetters



Letters, from page 9

**Work on US 41 and Gulfstream roundabout**

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch  
Jen, I noted the comment in one of the emails that the concrete contractor does not want to deliver “small loads” at night. Quick suggestion, pay a bit extra to incentivize night deliveries so as to avoid very costly delays during the busy daytime.  
Steve Helpern  
Sarasota

**Work on US 41 and Gulfstream roundabout**

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown  
This project is an FDOT project so hopefully there will be better communication with the City so the City can alert the community.  
Jen Ahearn-Koch  
City Commissioner  
City of Sarasota

**Work on US 41 and Gulfstream roundabout**

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch  
Jen, thanks for your reply. Communications from FDOT are sorely lacking at best!!  
Steve Helpern  
Sarasota

**Traffic Circle congestion**

To: Longboat Key Commission  
We had a resident call today unhappy about the traffic and is requesting each Commissioner contact her tomorrow. She was adamant the Commissioners contact her and not staff. I informed her I would pass the message along to you all.  
Savannah Cobb  
Deputy Town Clerk  
Town of Longboat Key

**Traffic Circle congestion**

To: Longboat Key Deputy Town Clerk Savannah Cobb  
Called her and she is going to call Marlon Brown.

See Letters, page 14

**TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING  
& HEARING  
ORDINANCE 2023-02  
JANUARY 17, 2023 – 9:15 AM**

Please take notice that a public meeting and hearing of the Town of Longboat Key’s Planning and Zoning Board will be held to consider proposed modifications to Title 15, Land Development Code, Chapter 158, Zoning Code, of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Longboat Key, as more particularly set forth in Ordinance 2023-02:

**ORDINANCE 2023-02**  
**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY, FLORIDA, MODIFYING AND AMENDING TITLE 15 LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, CHAPTER 158: ZONING CODE; MODIFYING AND AMENDING ARTICLE IV, ZONING DISTRICTS; AMENDING SECTION 158.075, MUC-1 (MIXED USE COMMUNITY – BAY ISLES DISTRICT); PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

The public hearing before the Planning and Zoning Board on proposed Ordinance 2023-02 will be held on **January 17, 2023 at 9:15 a.m.**, or as soon thereafter as may be heard, in the Town Commission Chambers at Town Hall, 501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, Florida.

All interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to proposed Ordinance 2023-02. Copies of Ordinance 2023-02 and related material associated with the amendment may be viewed at the Planning, Zoning & Building Department, 501 Bay Isles Road, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays prior to the hearing. Questions may be directed to the Planning, Zoning & Building Department at 316-1966. The proposed amendment will affect property within the corporate boundaries of the Town of Longboat Key as shown on the map appearing at the bottom of this advertisement.

No verbatim record by a certified court reporter is made of these proceedings. Accordingly, any person who may seek to appeal any decision involving the matters noticed herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony and evidence at these proceedings upon which any appeal is to be based (see Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes). In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Town Clerk’s office at 941-316-1999 seventy-two (72) hours in advance of this proceeding. If you are hearing impaired, please call 941-316-8719.

David Green, Chair  
Planning and Zoning Board  
Published: 1/13/2023

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# WineTimes

## Even if you never asked, you should know these wine basics

*If you are unsure whether a bottle of wine is still good to drink, you can trust your own taste and smell, if it tastes and smells fine, it should be safe to consume.*

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

*A teacher of wine classes, Vicki Denig, has posted on the web a list of questions frequently asked by students in her classes. We list some of these questions below, with answers.*

### Why do people slurp wine?

Slurping wine is a technique that is often used in wine tasting to aerate the wine, which can help to release its aroma and flavors. The act of slurping the wine quickly into the mouth creates a burst of oxygen that can help to open up the wine and make its aroma more intense. This can be especially useful when tasting a wine that is young or closed, as it can help to bring out more of its potential. Additionally, by slurping the wine, the taster can also get a more complete sense of the wine's body and texture, as well as its acidity and tannins.

### How long can I keep a bottle of wine?

The shelf life of a bottle of wine depends on a variety of factors, including the type of wine, how it has been stored, and whether the bottle has been opened. In general, unopened bottles of wine can be stored for several years, depending on the type of wine. Red wines, especially those that are high in tannins, can be stored for several years, sometimes even decades. These wines improve with age and will often develop more complex flavors and aromas as they age... In general, if you are unsure whether a bottle of wine is still good to drink, you can trust your own taste and smell, if it tastes and smells fine, it should be safe to consume.

### Why do you call some wines by region and other wines by grape varietal?

Wines can be named by region or by grape varietal depending on the wine laws of the country where they are produced. In some countries, like France, the laws dictate that wines must be named by the region where the grapes are grown, known as the Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée (AOC) system. In other countries, like the United States, wines can be named by the grape varietal, meaning the type of grape used to produce the wine. This naming convention is often used for wines made from a single grape varietal like chardonnay or cabernet sauvignon, which are grown and made in several regions. The naming convention also can reflect the tradition and wine culture of the region, with some old world and traditional wine regions focusing more on the region, and new world wine regions putting more focus on the varietals used.

### Is it weird that I like my red wines slightly chilled?

It is a matter of personal preference whether or not someone likes their red wines chilled. Some people prefer to serve red wine slightly chilled, while others prefer to serve it at room temperature. Traditionally, red wine is served at room temperature, around 60-65 degrees Fahrenheit (15-18 degrees Celsius) because serving it at this temperature allows the flavors and aromas of the wine to be fully expressed. However, some red wines, particularly those made from lighter-bodied grape varieties like Pinot Noir, can benefit from being served slightly chilled as it can help to bring out the wine's fruity and floral notes and make it more refreshing.

### What makes a wine buttery?

A wine can taste "buttery" when it contains a high level of a compound called diacetyl. Diacetyl is a naturally occurring compound that is produced by yeast during fermentation. It can also be introduced to wine during certain winemaking techniques, such as using malolactic fermentation or oak barrel aging. The presence of diacetyl in a wine can give it a creamy, buttery taste and texture. It also can add buttery aroma to the wine, especially Chardonnay wine is known for this.

### Why does red wine make my mouth feel dry and white wine doesn't?

Red wine contains tannins, which are compounds that can cause a drying sensation in the mouth. Tannins are found in the skins, seeds, and stems of grapes, and they are more prevalent in red wine than in white wine because red wine is made with the grape skins, while white wine is made without them. Tannins can also give red wine a bitter or astringent taste. Some

people may find that tannins in red wine cause a dry or puckering feeling in the mouth, while others may not notice it at all.

### So... what is tannin?

Tannin is a naturally occurring polyphenolic compound that is found in many plants, including grape skins, seeds, and stems, as well as in oak barrels used for aging wine. Tannins are responsible for the astringency and bitterness in red wine and can also have a preserving effect on the wine. They can also be found in tea, coffee, and some fruits, and are used in leather production, medicine and dyeing.

### What are legs?

Legs are appendages used for movement and support in many animals, including humans. They typically consist of a thigh, calf, and foot. In humans and other mammals, the legs are also used for locomotion. Some animals, such as insects, have multiple legs.

### What's the difference between Sauvignon Blanc and Sancerre?

Sauvignon Blanc and Sancerre are both white wine varieties, but they come from different regions and have distinct characteristics.... Sauvignon Blanc is a grape variety while Sancerre is a region that produces wine primarily from the Sauvignon Blanc grape, where it shows distinct characteristics because of the specific terroir and the winemaking method.

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

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



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Letters, from page 12

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

Town Center Green

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider  
I read and applaud your very appropriate interview comments in this week's Observer, and also your outstanding leadership as Mayor. —Looking ahead, I'm a bit disappointed with what I perceive to otherwise be a lack of progress, (recognizing the great ongoing improvements at the Town Center Green which certainly should help set the stage ), with respect to a future Town Center facility. While a Sarasota county library presence on Longboat is certainly appropriate , I sense that it may be becoming a focus, rather than a supporting feature of a future ACE ( Artistic, Cultural and Educational) facility. I continue to believe that the Town should formally rekindle a relationship with a private entity like Ringling that has significant experience in conducting ACE - related activities. I suggest that such a public/ private partnership will best achieve the development of a Town facility that will fulfill the only missing link in our wonderful Longboat lifestyle.  
Jack Daly  
Longboat Key

Drainage plan

To: Longboat Key Commissiner Mike Haycock  
Commissioner Haycock, FYI. I did follow-up with both Public Works and PZB this morning on the status of the

construction project next door and asked Isaac to reach out directly to Mr. Cichon.  
They did talk this morning and discussed the approved drainage plan that is being installed on the neighboring property as part of the new home construction and Public Works is going out to look at an old buried drainage pipe that Mr. Cichon found on his property.  
I let Mr. Cichon know that he can reach out to me if he needs any additional assistance.  
Thomas A. Harmer  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

Survey Results of HOAs/COAs Re: Canal Navigability & Regulations

To: Longboat Key Commission  
See summary of the results of the survey that the Town asked the staff to perform regarding navigation in the local canals and regulating size of boats along with width of docks.  
The staff is planning to schedule an agenda item for the February Workshop to discuss the results and seek any follow-up direction.  
Thomas A. Harmer  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

Survey Results of HOAs/COAs Re:

Canal Navigability & Regulations

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Tom Harmer  
On November 17th and again on December 20th a survey was sent to members of the Town's Stakeholder email list, which was supplemented by contacts used in the Town's emergency services outreach and from bay-fronting members of the CondoFed contact list (89 total recipients).  
The survey indicated that the Town was seeking feedback from its Homeowner's and Condominium Associations that have canals (a copy of the survey is attached). A total of 11 completed surveys were received, primarily from Association representatives.  
While the response number is small, below are the overall results:  
None of the respondents indicated that their canals were privately maintained for navigability. Only one association regulated the size the boats.  
Most respondents indicated that they had not experienced issues with vessels impeding navigation. None indicated that potential future code provisions would conflict any current private restrictions (one respondent had a concern about Town code provisions allowing for larger vessels than their association currently permitted). And only two of the respondents indicated that the Town should not regulate the extent to which vessels could extend into a canal.  
Allen Parsons  
Director Planning, Zoning & Building Department  
Town of Longboat Key

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### Who's What?

Edited by Linda and Charles Prestor

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131 Cubs stat  
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