



# Longboat Key News

September 19, 2025

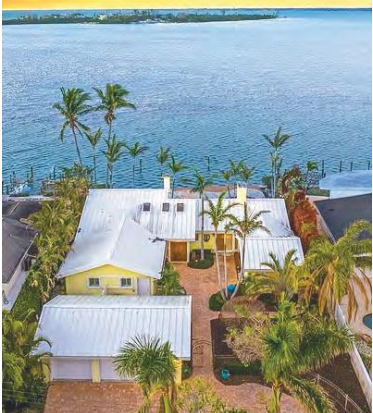
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## InsideLook



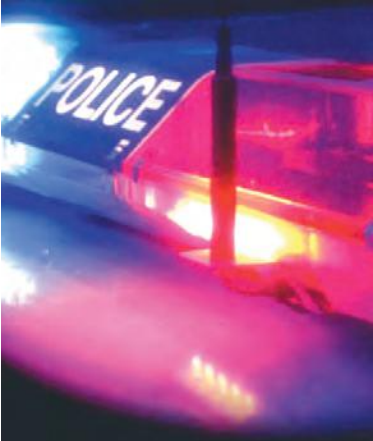
Trump and Dining in DC ...page 15



\$4 million waterfront gem ...page 9



Your tern for a Longboat beach ...page 12



Making residents uncomfortable ...page 10

## Mote Aquarium sets stage to inform generations about ocean environment, issues

Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium will open the new Mote Science Education Aquarium (SEA) to the public on Wednesday, October 8.

The 12-acre Mote SEA campus is located at Nathan Benderson Park, a nexus site for Sarasota, Manatee Counties and the entire region; Mote SEA will transform Mote's ability to provide informal science education and enhanced levels of



ocean literacy to much larger and more diverse populations from around the world.

The 146,000-square-foot facility will enable individuals of all ages and backgrounds to engage with the ocean and experience a window into Mote's globally-significant marine science research and conser-

vation initiatives.

As its name suggests, science is the attraction at Mote SEA. The innovative facility features three state-of-the-art STEM Teaching Labs focused on Biomedical, Microbiology & Immunology; Marine & Coastal Ecology; and

See Mote, page 2

## New College to raise statue of Charlie Kirk on Sarasota campus

*"Charlie Kirk knew that universities are ground zero for free speech and the marketplace of ideas. These ideas are not luxuries, but the foundation of a free republic."*

- New College President Richard Corcoran

A statue of slain conservative activist Charlie Kirk will soon stand on New College of Florida's Sarasota campus.

"Charlie Kirk knew that universities are ground zero for free speech and the marketplace of ideas. These ideas are not luxuries, but the foundation of a free republic," said New College President Richard Corcoran.

"His life and tragic death remind us all that a nation cannot survive if it abandons these rights. At New College, we will not step back from this responsibility — we will champion it and seek to be known as the number one college in the nation when it comes to supporting civil debate and freedom of speech."

Kirk owned a vacation home in Longboat Key in Sarasota County, which is also home to the college campus. He was shot and killed at age 31 in Utah last week, speaking at Utah Valley University, where he was in the middle of a signature public debate of ideas with students.

Since becoming president of New College, Corcoran, a former Florida House Speaker, has promised that the liberal arts school will serve as a platform for a range of policy and cultural debates, particularly in connection with the Socratic Stage series. While Kirk never visited the

campus, Corcoran met the activist several times.

Next week, the college will host a

discussion of media bias with speakers including conservative physician

See Kirk, page 2

## KeyOpinion

### Navigating Division: A Turning Point in America's Low-Grade Civil War

*In the shadow of recent tragedy, as the nation grapples with the shocking assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk, a profound question hangs in the air: What is to be done about the current situation we all find ourselves in?*

D. RUTLEDGE  
Guest Columnist  
news@lbknews.com

The airwaves and social feeds are thick with outrage. The immediate market reaction spoke volumes. Shares of gun manufacturers spiked dramatically in the wake of the shooting, a grim barometer of the fear and uncertainty rippling through the country. It's a stark reminder that while we yearn for higher ground, the tools at hand often feel more like those of war: lawfare, confrontation, and the looming specter of negative outcomes that could fracture society further.

#### The Elusive Path to Peace

Ideally, we'd turn to the evolved, high-road approach—spiritual, peace-making efforts that bridge divides and heal wounds. Sadly, that feels like a stretch in this polarized moment. Media coverage zeroed in on Robinson's ideology, his relationships (including his transgender partner and roommate cooperating with investigators), and the shifts in his views on gay and trans rights prior to the event. The absence of unifying voices from within the community leaves a void, amplifying the divide rather than mending it. The discourse migrated to a broader national tension between protecting open debate and addressing the limits of expression in a politically charged

See Opinion, page 2

## Sarasota schools narrowly change use of language

The Sarasota County School Board voted to cut certain terminology protecting race, religion, sexual orientation, and more from the district's code of conduct.

The current code of conduct states that all students have the right to attend school without regard to race, color, sexual orientation, or other protected classes.

The revised version is broader, referring instead to "all students" having the right to a safe and secure learning environment, with no mention of those classifications.

Tom Edwards, Sarasota's only openly gay school board member, voted against the change.

"I personally have been in a situation many times on the dais where all and every meant exactly that to me. But I can't trust my colleagues that all and every means that to them," Edwards said.

But School Board member Bridget Ziegler calls the words a false sense of protection.

"We have created a far too divisive culture, and it actually has hurt individuals because they feel by virtue of whatever they look like, or whatever they identify as, are in fact victims, not victors," Ziegler said.

The change to the code of conduct language passed 3-2.



Opinion, from page 1

climate. Now, a heated debate over free speech has emerged across the United States. The killing sparked polarized reactions, with some individuals facing job losses or investigations for social media posts deemed insensitive or celebratory of Kirk's death.

Amid this turmoil, there's a flicker of cautious optimism. The bad actors—those shadowy influences like the Soros-backed networks and Neville Roy Singham, a Chinese Communist Party affiliated billionaire accused of channeling millions into radical groups like The People's Forum and the Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL) are beginning to be spotlighted. These organizations have been directly implicated in putting on protests and riots, including the recent anti-ICE riots in Los Angeles that saw chaos, fires, assaults and attacks on ICE agents. PSL, a self-avowed Marxist group, has no formal nonprofit status yet coordinates nationwide chaos, from campus occupations to street violence, often under the guise of "social justice." There is also evidence suggesting that Chinese state-linked actors have engaged in influence operations on social media platforms, including efforts that could impact left-leaning audiences in the United States, though the focus is often broader than targeting a single political ideology. Research from Graphika, published in September 2024, identified a Chinese state-linked operation known as "Spamouflage," active since 2017, which has intensified efforts to push divisive narratives. This operation uses fake accounts across platforms like X and TikTok to impersonate U.S. citizens, denigrate politicians from both major parties, and amplify polarizing issues like racial inequality and gun control, without consistently favoring one political side.

Their role in funding discord, pulling levers behind the scenes, and even fomenting unrest through platforms like Discord cannot be ignored. For years, whispers of a "low-grade civil war" have circulated among observers of American politics. Charlie Kirk's death has escalated those whispers to a roar, marking a true turning point where the stakes feel existential.

**A Strategic Path Forward: Trump's DOJ Approach**

In this landscape, the course charted by the Department of Justice may offer a pragmatic next step. By rigorously investigating the money sources—tracing who supplies the funding, who orchestrates the chaos—there's a chance to dismantle the machinery of division at its roots.

As we stand at this precipice, the call is clear: More voices from all sides must rise—not in recrimination, but in rejection of violence and a commitment to reconciliation. The spiritual path may seem distant, but it's not unattainable. Until then, let's support the tactical efforts to uncover the truth and protect the fragile fabric of our democracy. The alternative is too dire to contemplate.

God bless Charlie Kirk's family during this most difficult time.

**Kirk, from page 1**

Scott Atlas, former One America News broadcaster Chanel Rion, conservative radio host Ben Domenech and The Federalist editor Mollie Hemingway.

In announcing the statue's commission, Corcoran said the public art represented New College's larger mission of ensuring students, faculty and the community experience free speech and civil discourse at its highest level.

The public university announced on Tuesday that it plans to commission the statue, but that it will be funded entirely through public donations. A location has not yet been announced.

Debra Jenks, Chair of the New College Board of Trustees, said that it has been core to the college's mission for its entire life span.

"Since its founding in 1960, New College has stood as a place where the free exchange of ideas is not only protected but celebrated," Jenks said. "This statue will serve as a reminder of that history and our responsibility to carry it forward. Public discourse is not optional in a free society — it is essential."

Mote, from page 1

Ocean Engineering, AI Technology, Robotics & Sensor Development. These labs will provide hands-on experiential learning to more than 70,000 K–12 students annually from Sarasota and Manatee county schools (as well as those schools in nearby counties), including over 26,000 Title 1 students, completely free of charge. In addition, Mote SEA will include five STEM Workforce Training Labs offering professional experience, alongside Mote scientists, as part of an array of high school, undergraduate and graduate research experiences in: Aquaculture & Fisheries, Conservation, Coral Genetics & Restoration, Artificial Intelligence, and Veterinary Clinic & Diagnostic Research & Practice. The STEM Teaching and Workforce Training Labs include wall-to-wall glass windows, so guests can observe and enjoy scientists and students.

"Mote SEA is much more than just an aquarium; it stands at the intersection of paradigm-changing research, science education, and community engagement," said Dr. Michael P. Crosby, President & CEO of Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium. "

To be among the first to experience Mote SEA at an exclusive grand opening event, or to reserve tickets for general admission after opening, visit [mote.org/tickets](https://mote.org/tickets).



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# EditorLetters



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

## Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Town Commission

I am writing to register my objection to changing the name of the main road of Longboat Key. Gulf of Mexico Drive is the name to which we are all accustomed, and have been for so many years. It is a viable name regardless of other changes that might go on around it. The name of the gulf itself may change and change back again. But let's let LBK and GMD remain an oasis of calm and stability.

Rebecca McPheters  
Longboat Key

## LBK Town Commission Members and Manager Tipton

To: Longboat Key Commission

I'm writing to weigh in on the proposed name change from Gulf of Mexico Drive to Gulf of America Drive that you plan to take up at your October 20 meeting.

Without getting into the political motivations as to why our current President felt compelled to change the name of a body of water that predates our country's founding by some 250 years, there are clear logistical reasons not to rename it based upon his whim. First, it's very likely to be renamed/reverted yet again by the next Democrat president. Second, the logistical issues that many residents/businesses/etc. who own property on GMD would face will be significant and, per 1), ultimately maddeningly unnecessary.

If you feel compelled to change GMD's name, please don't play politics with it. Do something responsible and sensible and give it a name that can remain consistent after the body of water gets renamed 12 times in the next 50 years: name it Gulf Drive, and be finished with these silly games.

John Connolly  
Longboat Key

## Proposed GMD Name Change

To: John Connolly

Thanks, John. Staff are tallying community input and the Commission will hold an open meeting for further discussion Oct 20.

Sarah Karon  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

## FLC 2025-2026 FAST Committee Appointment

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk

Congratulations on your appointment to the 2025-2026 FLC Federal Action Strike Team or FAST, approved by FLC President Holly D. Smith. Your formal appointment will be sent in the coming weeks. Thank you for volunteering your expertise and time to advocate for federal issues affecting Florida's cities. Attached is an overview of the FAST committee for your review.

Our first committee meeting will be during the FLC Legislative Conference; the meeting will take place on Friday, December 5, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. ET. If you cannot serve on this committee for some reason, please let me know. I look forward to working with you this year! Please let me know if you have any questions.

Allison Payne  
Manager, Advocacy Programs & Federal Affairs  
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

## Change of Name: Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Jeff Hecklau

Thank you for your email expressing your support for not renaming GMD. As you can imagine we are getting lots of input from both sides, and the October 20 meeting is sure to be an interesting one. Enjoy your travels!

Debra Williams  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

## Change of Name: Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra Williams

As always, I enjoy the monthly Commission meetings! You all deliver an impressive effort for Longboat Key!

At yesterday's "Let's Talk Longboat" it was mentioned that our district Commissioner would be one possible avenue to direct the following for collation by the town.

As a full time residents of Longboat Harbour, my wife and I are firmly against any effort to rename Gulf of Mexico Drive. While we understand the symbolism of the actual Gulf of Mexico, we believe the expense, administrative tasks and overall confusion of the local road name change is unnecessary. Furthermore, future national or state level efforts to revert back could result in repetition of these items.

While I can't speak on behalf of my 299 neighbors at Longboat Harbour, the overwhelming opinion I have heard is against this change and absent of a single opinion in favor of the change.

We will be traveling during the October 20th meeting. Wish we could attend! See you in November!

Jeff Hecklau  
Longboat Key

## ABC 7 News at Noon Interview

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

You two did an excellent job explaining the property tax issue. I hope the program helped citizens around the region grasp the critical services that local governments provide. Thank you for representing Longboat Key so well.

Penny Gold  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 5

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# KeyHealth

## Can thinking make you fat?

*Having lots of friends and acquaintances helps prevent strokes and other vascular ‘accidents.’*

**MATTHEW EDLUND M.D.**  
Contributing Columnist  
health@lbknews.com

Your brain may use between 25 and 30 percent of your body’s calories, but its energy consumption does not vary much between sleep and feverish study. Yet how you use your brain can change your waistline.

With its great culinary past, Quebec is a good place to study interactions between food and brain. Researchers at Quebec City’s Laval University decided to see what intellectual exercise did to food intake. Fourteen female students were asked to do three separate tasks before going to a “free” all-you-can-eat buffet.

The first task was simple — sit in a chair and rest. Task two involved reading a paper and penning a summary, while task three required them to finish sit down computer tests.

After the mental tasks, the women ate 25 percent more calories than when they sat resting.

Does this mean that physical rest leads to greater portion control? Maybe.

The students had blood drawn from beginning to end of the experiment. Marked increases in cortisol occurred while doing mental tasks, and glucose and insulin fluctuated far more. In this as in many studies, stress makes people hungry. They eat more.

Stressed out people also watch a lot of television. Half of adult leisure time in the

United States is spent in front of a television set. Studies across countries show that when people feel truly stressed and exhausted, they watch more TV. Increased television watching also correlates with greater weight gain.

In the United States, where we are presently undergoing a fiscal crisis, energy crisis, government budget crisis, two major wars, a housing disaster, stock market free fall, a credit crunch, immense job losses, hurricanes and a bizarre presidential race, people are feeling stressed. Chances are they are going to eat a lot.

Stress does not mean everyone immediately reaches for comfort food. The brain’s effect on food is powerful, and much of it can be used to counteract stress.

About two years ago a group at Harvard researched hotel maids. The maids were divided into two groups. Each were weighed, their waists measured, then observed for how much effort they spent on their jobs.

For the next step, the group was split in two. One group of maids kept on exactly as before. The other group was told that their work was effective exercise. Just by doing their jobs they were fulfilling all the U.S. government’s recommendations for physical



activity. Their regular work could make them healthy.

At the end of the study period, the control group weighed about as much as before. The group told they were “exercising” lost considerable weight and lowered their cholesterol and lipid levels.

### Don’t beat on the brain

Quite a few years ago, while still in medical school, I scrubbed in on a neurosurgical procedure. Using calibration devices that looked like items stolen from a Victorian science museum, a young Swiss neurosurgery fellow proceeded to cut off the top of the skull and remove a brain tumor from a frail, elderly man.

He was carefully watched by the neurosurgery attending, a fair haired, darting eyed taskmaster whose increasingly biting commentary flowed in perfect Brooklynesque.

The procedure did not go well. After about an hour, the attending had had enough. “Look at this brain,” he said to the neurosurgery fellow. “Look at this brain. This brain is green.”

We all looked at the brain. Its surface possessed a slight, watery green sheen.

“This brain is green. If I told you once, I told you twice — don’t beat on the brain.”

That remains good advice. The brain needs a lot of fuel, particularly glucose, the only stuff it can use unless starved. Once you’re even moderately physically active, your brain

gets more blood flow, helpful in clearing out clogged arteries, combating dementia and increasing mental acuity. Your brain also needs rest, enough sleep to learn and remember the previous days’ events while preparing to encode the new day’s experiences.

Your brain doesn’t like to be stressed. Having lots of friends, colleagues and acquaintances to socially support you helps prevent strokes and other vascular “accidents.”

You can also help your brain using very simple means. One is to go FAR — remembering those three letters so you can eat Food, be Active and Rest in sequence. Then, like the maids in Boston, you’ll quickly figure out what to do. You’ll walk rather than drive to the neighborhood drugstore. You’ll take your kids for a stroll in a park, turning it into a “green gym.” You’ll give yourself a little time to calm down before you go to sleep, ritually brushing and flossing your teeth, putting out tomorrow’s clothes, reading a few pages from a book you enjoy.

Thinking can be helpful. Like Woody Allen says, it just has to be the right kind.

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# Editor Letters



Letters, from page 4

ABC 7 News at Noon Interview

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
Oh good. Let us know if you get any good intel. Just so you know, Matt Singer sent her bill language last week to fix SB 180. Would be curious if she has any thoughts about it.  
It would also be good to ask her if she planned to be the bill sponsor again for the Sovereign Immunity bill. She has been really great to work with and we appreciate all she does. Thanks for the heads up.  
Allison Payne  
Florida League of Cities  
ABC 7 News at Noon Interview  
To: Florida League of Cities Allison Payne  
I am meeting with Fiona McFarland today - will get a sense of how she feels on issue.  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

ABC 7 News at Noon Interview

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
Thank you for sharing the links. I watched the Facebook segment. You and Tip did a fantastic job explaining the issue. We greatly appreciate all that you do!  
Allison Payne  
Manager, Advocacy Programs & Federal Affairs  
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

ABC 7 News at Noon Interview

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
Thank you for appearing on our noon show today.  
We are showing a clip from the interview in our 5pm newscast.  
We appreciate your time. Below are links to both interviews.  
ABC 7 News at Noon interview:  
<https://www.mysuncoast.com/video/2025/09/16/longboat-key-leaders-talk-about-possibility-eliminating-property-taxes/>  
Nowcast interview - FB Live:  
<https://www.facebook.com/mysuncoast/videos/812712671270223>  
Summer Smith  
Evening Anchor  
WWSB ABC7

Fiona McFarland meeting

To: Florida League of Cities Allison Payne  
All - had a good meeting with Fiona. She understands we cannot lose property taxes and funding for localities cannot be controlled by Tallahassee. She reflected that a % increase in homesteaded amount could go up - perhaps from 3% to 5% or some other amount. She believes the Delegates will hold firm but encouraged me to spend time with the Senate. I have meetings scheduled with Jim Boyd and Will Robinson.  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

Property Tax issue

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
You two did an excellent job explaining the property tax issue. I hope the program helped citizens around the region grasp the critical services that local governments provide. Thank you for representing Longboat Key so well.  
Penny Gold  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key  
Cybersecurity Grant Program  
To: Florida House of Representatives Fiona McFarland  
Thanks so much for your time and valuable input this afternoon. Always great to see you!  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

Cybersecurity Grant Program

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
Thanks again for coming to visit me. Here's the info on the local cybersecurity grant program:  
<https://cybergrants.fl.gov>  
The application window does look like it closed, but perhaps for LBK's radar for next year.  
Fiona McFarland  
Florida House of Representatives

Regarding possible local name change of GMD

To: Longboat Key Commission  
Thank you for providing an avenue for feedback on this issue as we will not be present for the October meeting on this subject. It saddens us greatly that the Gulf of Mexico Drive signs have been taken down on Longboat Key. The idea that the town might also decide to change our local residential street address, and that of all the residents and businesses on LBK, is abhorrent to us. Gulf of Mexico Drive is one of the most beautiful street names we have ever come across, and we have taken great delight and pride in living on Gulf of Mexico Drive for the past 18 years. It is a melodious part of LBK's unique and collective identity. We are proud Americans as well, and America's greatness does not depend on the obliteration of the names of other countries contained in the designations of long-recognized and referenced geographic locations. In fact, in our opinion it makes America less great, and locally it will create unnecessary disruption, confusion and expense to the residents and business owners of LBK. We are glad that at least

the Town of Longboat Key has the autonomy to decide not to participate in changing our local street addresses, which we feel would be extremely detrimental.  
Susan and Tony Forcella  
Longboat Key

Town of Longboat Key - The Key Connection Newsletter

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
Thank you Commissioner, that means a lot! Our team is working hard to try to streamline and make the content we put out presented in a way we have more readers.  
Tina Adams  
Communications Manager Fire Department  
Town of Longboat Key

Town of Longboat Key - The Key Connection Newsletter

To: Longboat Key Fire Department Communications Manager Tina Adams  
Fabulous Job Tina!  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

Town of Longboat Key - The Key Connection Newsletter

To: Longboat Key Commission  
We are excited to share with you the very first edition of the Town of Longboat Key's community newsletter, The Key Connection. Inside, you'll find important reminders and new information, including:  
Recovery Efforts  
Florida Preparedness Month  
Let's Talk Longboat  
Hands-Only CPR/AED Training  
Veterans Day & 70th Anniversary Celebration  
Waste Management Collection Updates  
A Special Announcement for our North End Residents  
Our Communications Team developed this newsletter as a companion to the Town Manager's Monthly Brief. Unlike the monthly brief, The Key Connection will only be released as needed, whenever we have additional updates and timely information to share with the community.  
Please help us spread the word by sharing this newsletter with your neighbors and local businesses. As always, don't hesitate to contact Town offices if we can be of any assistance.  
Tina Adams  
Fire Administration & Communications Manager/PIO  
Town of Longboat Key

Town of Longboat Key - The Key Connection Newsletter

To: Longboat Key Fire Department Communications Manager Tina Adams  
Great idea Tina, the shorter the emails the better chance of being read.  
Gary Coffin  
Commissioner, Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 6

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# Editor Letters



Letters, from page 4

Name of road “Gulf of Mexico Drive”

To: Longboat Key Commission

My family and I have been owners at 3115 Gulf of Mexico Drive since July 1975. We were the first owners in the building and the building to the south of us was an old fishing camp. It is now a stately mansion.

We wish to express our wish that the Town maintain the existing and historic name of “Gulf of Mexico Drive.” The name was given in 1953 and has been in continuous use since. If the Federal Government decides to change the name of the body of water facing Longboat Key, let it do so but it has not mandated a change in street names. That power in this case rests alone with the municipality through the Commission and I believe the existing name should be retained.

Robert G. Thomson  
Longboat Key  
Gulf of Mexico Drive

Gulf of America All the Way

To: Longboat Key Commission

I whole heartedly support adopting Gulf of America Dr as the local name if SR 789. The gulf encompasses North, South and Central America. Gulf of America is a more accurate and inclusive moniker.

Greg Peterson  
Longboat Key

Bidding farewell to Dr. Dave Tomasko

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

If you are receiving this email, it is because you are a friend, acquaintance, current colleague, or former colleague of Dr. Dave Tomakso. Dave’s last day with the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program will be Friday, November 14. As we prepare to say goodbye, we invite you to share any memories, reflections, or well-wishes from his five impactful years with the program. Your contributions will be compiled into a farewell card and presented to Dave at his send-off celebration on Thursday, November 13 | 5:00–7:00 PM, Big Top Brewing, Fruitville Commons. Let’s give Dave a heartfelt send-off as he begins his next chapter! (He is not retiring, just moving onwards and upwards!)

We welcome you to join us for the farewell party and/or share your kind words using this form: <https://forms.gle/HRCWRZC32z46u4f88>. If you’d also like to share a photo, please

email it directly to me.

Megan & The SBEP team  
Public Outreach Manager  
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

September 22, 2025 - Meeting Packet Materials

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

I understand the entire Planning & Zoning Board are no longer accepting their agenda and materials on their iPads, but are requiring staff to produce paper documents for each of them. We, as a Town, made the decision to go to electronic packages. This is not good use of staff time or of the number of trees they are killing. Further, I understand some are requiring their packets be delivered to their homes. Can we expect our Boards and Commissions to use the same procedures as the Commission uses?

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

Videos

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

Tip mentioned they were going to provide you with a copy of both? I’ve already reshared the Facebook Live on our Town Facebook page, but I have not yet received the other video. Once I receive their copies, I can upload them both to our Town YouTube page for easy sharing and viewing if needed.

Savannah Cobb  
Assistant to Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

Videos

To: Longboat Key Assistant to Town Manager Savannah Cobb

Can you post both the network video and the Facebook interview from the property tax opportunities today? I could not upload either one. I need to be able to send them to FLC.

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 7

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# Editor Letters



## Letters, from page 6 Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission

My family has been a resident of Longboat Key for 37 years and live at 1935 Gulf of Mexico Drive in the Seaplace Community. I was greatly disappointed in the removal of our Gulf of Mexico Drive street signs. The costs and inconvenience to the city of Longboat Key and over 7,500 residents and businesses have been outlined already by many before me. Address changes impact driver’s licenses, titles, deeds, numerous legal documents, stationary, business cards and the list goes on. This issue will now take up valuable time for our city’s members and residents which could be used to discuss far more critical issues. Did we not learn the difference between what is really critical during COVID and 2024 hurricane cleanup? I am strongly opposed to changing the name of Gulf of Mexico Drive. I will be in attendance at the meeting on October 20th to voice my concerns.

The Shanke and Smith Families  
Longboat Key

## Rep. Steube / Streamlining FEMA Procurement Act

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

Hope all is well, and thank you again for the support. For your awareness, we’re hoping to introduce the bill later this week. Please let me know if there’s anything further we can help clarify. Thanks!

Sami Araboghli  
National Security Advisor  
Office of Congressman Greg Steube

## Rep. Steube / Streamlining FEMA Procurement Act

To: National Security Advisor Sami Araboghli

I have had conversation with Allison and Casey at FLC. Their initial response was positive, but they wanted to review carefully. I will follow up with them Monday. As President of the Manasota League of Cities I will hopefully get the towns in Manatee and Sarasota on board as well. Again, thanks to you, Greg and staff for this legislation.

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

## Rep. Steube / Streamlining FEMA Procurement Act

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

Thank you for the support! We’re glad to promote these needed reforms. Do you know if your colleagues at FLC would be supportive also? We’d love to have them as an endorsing group. The National Association of Counties have just given their endorsement as well. Please let me know if there’s anything you may need from us. Thanks!

Sami Araboghli  
National Security Advisor  
Office of Congressman Greg Steube (FL-17)

## Rep. Steube / Streamlining FEMA Procurement Act

To: National Security Advisor Sami Araboghli

We are thrilled and so appreciative of this proposed legislation. Please thank Greg and staff for this bill. It will be a great benefit to us when dealing with storm damages and issues. Let me know how I can help move this thru Congress.

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

## Rep. Steube / Streamlining FEMA Procurement Act

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

We can discuss on our call today, but this bill would be favorable for LBK. Often, we must complete a Benefit Cost Analysis to support projects where FEMA questioned the selection of premium service or qualification over lowest cost contracts. Increasing the simplified procurement rate will also lessen the chances for being selected for an audit which is good for all involved.

Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

## Rep. Steube / Streamlining FEMA Procurement Act

To: Florida League of Cities Casey Cook

Casey - Greg Steube’s office just sent me this legislation he is contemplating moving forward. Can you take a look and give me any thoughts you may have?

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

## Rep. Steube / Streamlining FEMA Procurement Act

To: National Security Advisor Sami Araboghli

Thank you for sending this. We will review and get back to you. Thank Rep. Steube for me.

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

## Rep. Steube / Streamlining FEMA Procurement Act

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

Hope you’re doing well! Wondering if you and your team at Florida League of Cities could take a look at legislation that Congressman Steube is considering introducing.

Congressman Steube has been working on legislation to reform FEMA procurement meth-

ods, and specifically the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) process. The intent of this bill is to streamline such procurement methods as it relates to using qualifications (QBS) as a primary factor, or pricing. As I’m sure you’re aware, some states (including Florida) have qualifications as the primary factor, while FEMA relies on pricing. This can lead to many municipalities encountering difficulty using federal funds (as disbursed through their state’s respective emergency management department) where state’s procurement policies are at odds with federal regulations.

Ultimately, this bill would fix this issue by allowing local governments to use CMARs utilizing QBS procurement methods. This bill would also increase the simplified procedure rate from \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000, aimed at reducing potential backlogs in FEMA audit reviews.

We’d very much welcome your team’s support and input on this bill before we introduce. Please let me know if you may have any questions or concerns. Thanks!

Sami Araboghli  
National Security Advisor  
Office of Congressman Greg Steube (FL-17)

## SBEP Monthly Updates for TLBK

To: Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Public Outreach Coordinator Megan Barry

Absolutely, no news is welcomed at times. Thanks so much for the follow up on this important subject. I think you’re spot on with the idea of just highlights, if possible, directed for Longboat..... however, some important plans and accomplishments in our surrounding counties also directly affect us. You can send to them directly to me as I’ll be the one reporting. We meet generally on the first and third Monday of the month, the bulletin timing is not critical. As long as the “Bay Bulletin” gets out monthly, I’ll get it out to the public. Thanks for your help, and a great job Friday with the executive director interviews.

Gary Coffin  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

## SBEP Monthly Updates for TLBK

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin

Following up with the chat we had on Friday, regarding your request to receive and read monthly SBEP updates at Town meetings. I’ve been toying around with the concept of a “Bay Bulletin” that would be exactly that – brief highlights/updates from the month. As you know, we have a quarterly newsletter that is quite comprehensive, but something like this would be a good supplemental form of communication. We can plan to share general news and tailor it to TLBK when possible. There may not be a robust list of updates every month, but no news is sometimes good news, right?

What type of communications schedule would work best for you? Would you like to receive the emails directly, or should we send them to your staff? Thank you for the suggestion. We are looking forward to implementing it with you.

Megan Barry  
Public Outreach Manager  
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

## Gulf of Mexico Dr.

To the Commissioners of Longboat Key

We urge you to vote against a name change for Gulf of Mexico Drive. To change will cause people and businesses unusual hassle, nuisance, cost, and disruption, and it will alter the soft quiet ambience of the Key.

Dean and Sue Kross  
Longboat Key

## Request for meetings with City Commissioners

To: Sarasota City Attorney Joe Polzak

Ok. Well, in that case, as long as it is clear that it will be a listen-only meeting, then that should be ok.

Jen Ahearn-Koch  
City Commissioner  
City of Sarasota

## Request for meetings with City Commissioners

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch

I just checked with Development Services as this project is in very early stages and they haven’t submitted much yet besides applying for a traffic study. But our understanding is it would involve a quasi-judicial hearing.

Joe Polzak  
Attorney  
City of Sarasota

## Request for meetings with City Commissioners

To: Sarasota City Executive Assistant Christina Wollenberg

Happy to meet with them, but just let me know if the item is quasi-Judicial please.

Jen Ahearn-Koch  
City Commissioner  
City of Sarasota

## Request for meetings with City Commissioners

To: Sarasota City Commission

Please see request below and let me know if you would like to proceed with scheduling.

Christina Wollenberg  
Executive Assistant  
City of Sarasota





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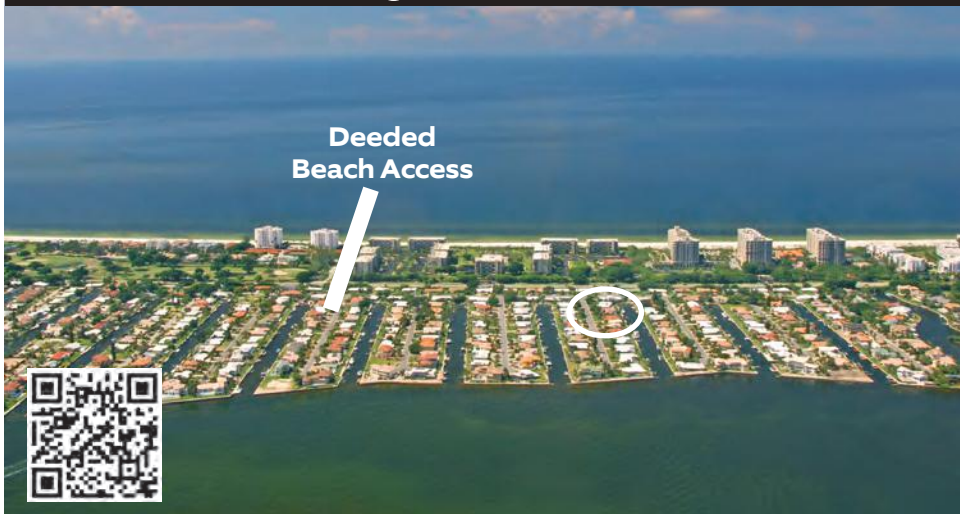
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# KeyRealEstate

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

Address	Sq. Ft.	List Price	Bed/Bath/Half Bath			Days On Market	Sale Price
3531 BAYOU POINTE	4,200	\$3,550,000	5	4	1	5	\$3,050,000
2065 HARBOUR LINKS DR Unit#5	2,865	\$1,849,000	3	3	1	159	\$1,750,000
3630 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#202	1,284	\$545,000	2	2	0	78	\$445,000
655 SPANISH WAY	1,241	\$395,000	2	2	0	72	\$350,000
204 N WASHINGTON DR	3,239	\$4,500,000	3	1	1	149	\$4,000,000
322 S WASHINGTON DR	1,715	\$1,975,000	2	0	0	156	\$1,350,000
409 N WASHINGTON DR	1,682	\$1,400,000	2	0	0	10	\$1,400,000



204 N WASHINGTON DR



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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.*

## Sept. 12 Alarm

4:51 p.m.

Officer Ericsson was dispatched to Jungle Queen Way on a residential alarm. Upon arrival, Officer Ericsson was contacted by a neighbor who stated he was checking on the listed address for the homeowners and when he entered the residence, the alarm was set off. The alarm panel was not working properly and the neighbor was unable to reset the alarm. The neighbor lives next door and was able to show the officer that he has the keys for the involved residence. The neighbor attempted to contact the homeowner but was not able to. Case clear.



and photo. Officer Ericsson checked the man through ELVIS which came back with no record. Officer Troyer responded to the scene and used the RAPID ID to check for a confirmation on identity or possible criminal record. The man had no wants or warrants. The driver was issued a citation for Move Over For Emergency Vehicle, and No Driver's License. Case clear.

**Sept. 15**  
**Vehicle**

12:11 a.m.

Sgt. Montfort while on patrol at Bay Isles Road, observed a white pickup truck parked in the far rear unlit parking lot of Bay Isles Road. Sgt. Montfort approached the vehicle and observed fishing equipment

and a wallet and cellphone inside of the vehicle. Immediately thereafter, Sgt. Montfort was approached by a man who stated he was about to go and fish the golf course on Harbourside Drive when he saw the overhead lights. The man left the area without further incident.

## Marine rescue

8:01 p.m.

Officer Nazareno was dispatched to North Shore Road for a marine rescue call. The caller advised that a continuous light is flashing approximately one mile southwest of Coquina Beach. The Fire Department confirmed that the flashing light was from a bouy at the Gulf and cancelled all units. Case clear.

**Sept. 16**

## Citizen assist

7:48 p.m.

Officer Smith responded to North Shore Road to a report of a vehicle lockout involving a passenger car. Upon arrival, contact was made with the motorist who advised they had locked the keys inside the vehicle. The window was down approximately two inches, the door lock was not able to be deactivated. The motorist was advised to contact their roadside assistance provider and was given information on safe areas nearby where they could wait for service. A later check of the area revealed the vehicle was gone, indicating the matter had been resolved without further incident. Case clear.

**Sept. 17**

## Citizen assist

8:03 a.m.

Officer Van Dyke responded to Kingfisher Lane in reference to a theft. Upon further investigation, the case was updated to a citizen assist call. Upon arrival, Officer Van Dyke called the homeowner as he is currently out of state. He advised that he observed a landscaping employee enter the left side of his property from his video surveillance camera. The subject was seen carrying out approximately a dozen lemons from his fruit tree inside of a bag. It should be noted that the neighbor uses the landscaping company. The neighbor advised that he merely wants to document the incident and advised the business to ensure employees don't continue the activity..

## Citizen assist

8:32 p.m.

Officer Ericsson and Officer Troyer were dispatched to the 6700 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in regard to trespassing. Upon arrival, officers contacted a resident who stated there were several individuals in the maintenance shed playing loud music and cursing. She stated she didn't believe the individuals belonged there after work hours and she felt uncomfortable. Officer Troyer and Officer Ericsson responded to the maintenance shed and knocked on the door. It should be noted, while walking up to the shed, they could hear music playing. A man wearing a "North Star" polo shirt answered the door. The officers recognized the North Star shirt as the general contractor for the Whitney Beach community. There were three men in total in the shed sitting at the table. All three men were wearing North Star polo shirts and all stated they worked for North Star. The man who answered the door said he was the project manager and said he had permission to be in the shed and showed a key for the lock. He further stated that he and his friends were all employees of the contractor and were just hanging out and waiting on an Uber. Officer Troyer and Officer Ericsson advised the men why they were there and advised them that although they were not trespassing, their presence there was making residents uncomfortable. They volunteered to leave and go to the Project Managers unit, which he said he had in the community. Officers responded back to the unit where they reestablished contact with the neighbor. They explained their interaction with the subjects and advised her they had permission to be on property, but they were leaving. The neighbor was upset and wanted them to be formally trespassing. Officers explained the circumstances and the law with regard to trespassing. They also advised the neighbor to make a formal complaint with the HOA and with the North Star management if she felt the need to pursue the matter.

## Sept. 18

## Found wallet

8:00 p.m.

Officer Troyer responded to the Longboat Key Police Department in reference to a lost/found property. The complainant was at the Longboat Key Police Department reporting she found a wallet belonging to the owner. The complainant said she found the wallet in front of the Lido Beach Resort but the wallet had a driver's license with Longboat Key address. The owner of the wallet was called and did not answer. Officer Troyer took the wallet and went to the address and found the owner. She was grateful for the wallet being recovered and could not be more thankful for the assistance. Case clear.

**Sept. 13**

# Warrant

1:38 p.m.

Officer Pescuma received an alert for a license plate image captured from the Bay Isles license plate reader camera. The vehicle was traveling northbound and the alert was for a suspended/revoked/canceled Driver's License. Officer Pescuma checked the FCIC/NCIC database and confirmed that the registered owner's drivers license was suspended on Aug. 6 and there was no insurance on file. The vehicle was located and Officer Pescuma conducted a traffic stop on the White Subaru. Officer Pescuma spoke with the driver and provided the reason for the traffic stop. Officer Pescuma advised that the registered owner did not have a valid driver's license in which the driver said he was not aware. Officer Pescuma asked the driver for his license and proof of insurance. Dispatch advised Officer Pescuma of a possible warrant for the driver out of Texas. The driver was wanted for smuggling of persons firearm and was to be extradited. The passenger in the vehicle was from Mexico and a check yielded negative for wants/warrants. Officer Pescuma placed the driver into custody and transported him to Sarasota County Jail for processing. The passenger did not have a driver's license so was picked up by Uber. Case clear.

## Incident

9:20 p.m.

Officer Ericsson was dispatched to North Shore Road on a suspicious incident involving the sound of possible gunshots. Upon arrival, Officer Ericsson contacted the caller who said she heard what sounded like single gunshots about 10 minutes apart in the area behind her residence. The caller said the sound came from the area of the Longboat Pass Bridge or possibly Coquina Beach. Officer Troyer located some kids setting off fireworks while on Coquina Beach while he was on a traffic stop in the area. Officer Troyer advised the kids to stop which they did. Case clear.

**Sept. 14**

## Suspicious person

2:39 p.m.

Officer Pescuma responded to Bowsprit Lane in reference to two men possibly soliciting. The caller stated that she saw two men in her front door camera. Upon arrival on scene, Officer Pescuma saw two men walking westbound on Bowsprit Lane. Officer Pescuma made contact with one of the men and he stated he works for a window cleaning service and has residences in the area that he is currently working on. Officer Pescuma advised to him that he was called on alleged soliciting and that it was against town ordinance to solicit. The men stated they were leaving and departed the area. Case clear.

## Vehicle

8:05 p.m.

Officer Ericsson while on patrol parked in the 6700 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive saw a white Ford F-150 traveling south and failed to move into the open center lane and fail to slow down while it passed the Officer's vehicle. Officer Ericsson performed a traffic stop on the vehicle, and asked to see the man's Driver's License. The driver said he didn't have a license and has not had a license in any state. He handed the Officer a Mexico ID card with his name

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# EditorLetters



Letters, from page 8

Request for meetings with City Commissioners

To: Sarasota City Executive Assistant Christina Wollenberg  
I have been asked to set up appoints with the City Commissioners for Philip DiMaria and Bill Waddill of Kimley-Horn to discuss the subject of 1660 Ringling Development prior to October 16. Would you be able to help us out?  
Lori Denny  
Administrative Support  
Sarasota

Tree Removal Language

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch  
Thank you for looping me in on this. Please see my comments below:  
In the Representative's community, trees planted in swales are damaging sidewalks, utility lines, and in some cases even home foundations. When mentioning a "swale" what does that actually refer to? The dictionary definition is: a low-lying or depressed and often wet stretch of land also: a shallow depression on a golf course. This sounds like something else. Perhaps the area between a sidewalk and the road?  
Under the local tree preservation program, removal can trigger a 3-to-1 replacement requirement, and in some instances, replanting of the same species. The Representative shared that this is often not feasible due to limited space or species-specific disease. I agree that replanting may not be feasible with the same species, especially if space is limited. Why perpetuate the same problem some years down the road? What species-specific disease are they referring to? That truly makes little sense as it relates to replanting in areas with limited space. Space and poor species selection is the issue, not a disease more than likely. Is it truly a 3:1 replacement or is that actually reversed - 1:3? Very few codes actually require a 3 to 1 replacement and most I've read only require such for trees that are considered "Heritage" or "Historic". I have seen a couple of codes that appear to be a 3:1 but in fact are not, it's a scribner error and not used in practice. If you could share the municipality, I could read the code to better understand the existing requirements.

Much of her city consists of pre-planned communities with homeowners' associations. In many of these communities, trees in swales are located on parcels treated as HOA common areas, which prevents them from qualifying as "residential property" under current law. As a result, they are considering filing legislation to open up the statute [F.S. 163.045(1)(b)] to include HOAs and their common areas in the definition of "residential property", specifically to allow for the removal of trees in HOA-owned common areas.

The problem with attempting to address this issue under 163.045 is that they do not fully comprehend tree risk or how it applies in FS 163.045. Each of the situations mentioned "trees planted in swales are damaging sidewalks, utility lines, and in some cases even home foundations" have nothing to do with risk and therefore 163.045 would not apply. With very few exceptions, any arborist writing a Tree Risk Assessment report regarding a tree damaging a sidewalk and it's therefore a "risk" is either uninformed about Tree Risk Assessment or is in breach of the ethics clause required to be signed by all certified arborists. Utility lines (above-ground) could be an exception as a tree could grow into the power lines creating risk, however the solution is to prune and maintain the tree. Regarding home foundations, Arborists are not structural engineers and I would certainly like to see the structural engineering report that clearly shows tree roots impacted a home foundation. This is an exceedingly rare occurrence and would need to be documented by a qualified engineer. Tree roots do not grow through concrete. They can and in many cases do lift concrete sidewalks but multi-thousand pound monolithic slabs of concrete for a home foundation is nearly impossible. It's for this reason one solution to the sidewalk problem is to pour a monolithic slab of concrete rather than a 2-4" slab.

We are trying to narrowly tailor this draft language to only impact the specific practical challenges the Representative is trying to solve rather than opening pandora's box as they

initially proposed. Would you be willing to review the attached draft and share it with your colleagues from the Urban Forestry Council? We would greatly appreciate your feedback and any practical insights on whether we've captured the issue accurately before providing it back to the Representative.

I would suggest revisiting the actual code to clarify the 3:1 replacement. An update to the code would likely seem in order that could correct the replacement requirement and also add in appropriate language to support better future tree spacings (giving trees enough space to grow to reach a reasonable level of maturity). I would also suggest they update their tree species selection list and modify that to include spacing requirements and other important criteria to support a healthy tree canopy.

In summary, based on what's presented here, I don't see how expanding FS 163.045 to include HOA common areas actually would serve to meet the representatives' needs as the trees still do not pose a moderate risk as described. Fixes within the actual code and its application are more feasible and very likely more attuned to this specific community rather than the whole of the state. Cheers!

John Snow  
Senior Urban and Community Forester  
TreeCheckUp, LLC.  
Board Certified Master Arborist

Tree Removal Language

To: Sarasota City Commission  
Please see the attached from FLC and let me know your thoughts!  
Jen Ahearn-Koch  
City Commissioner  
City of Sarasota

Tree Removal Language

To: Florida League of Cities Legislative Advocate Matt Singer  
Absolutely! I'll be in touch soon.  
Jen Ahearn-Koch  
City Commissioner  
City of Sarasota

Tree Removal Language

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch  
I'm reaching out to request your assistance getting feedback on a legislative proposal we've been working on internally. This stems from a concern raised by a State Representative from southeast Florida.

See Letters, page 13

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# Sightings on a Florida beach

*The strikingly beautiful avocet, uncommon here, appeared out of nowhere, causing me to look twice to make sure that I wasn’t hallucinating.*

**MICHAEL GIVANT**  
Contributing Writer  
givant@lbknews.com

The morning air is crisp, the sun’s shadows are hard. My wife and I are congratulating ourselves for getting out to Whitney Beach at 8:15 AM. Then we see a tall man in a familiar looking floppy hat who has been scanning the ocean with a high powered birding scope.

### On The Lookout

My friend and birder extraordinaire, John has been out for an hour looking for black scoters, diving sea ducks, which were sighted here twelve days ago. Their appearance has become a major birding event, bringing birders who wouldn’t ordinarily be here to the beach because these birds almost never come this far south. John’s seen them this morning. He asks if the American avocet that I saw yesterday was flying with a flock of red knots. The strikingly beautiful avocet, uncommon here, appeared out of nowhere, causing me to look twice to make sure that I wasn’t hallucinating. No, it wasn’t flying with the turnstones. I wonder why he wants to know but forget to ask him.

A large flock of thirty or more “peeps,” which is an all purpose term for small brown shore-birds, is flying close to shore. This group consists primarily of red knots, a dull moderate sized sandpiper, and some ruddy turnstones. These birds sometimes feed together at the water’s edge, probing the sands for small shells.

Overhead a royal tern calls loudly with a fish in its bill and quickly flies away. Later a royal, perhaps the same one, is flying low over the water with another in pursuit. They land and the one with the fish looks like it is about to eat it. Then the first royal walks to the second one who takes it. The first one then flies off without the fish and the second one with the fish follows. I’m confused. Was this a mating gesture or an attempt to feed a juvenile that doesn’t yet hunt?

### Foggy And Surreal

The next morning is foggy, windy and the temperature not quite sixty. It’s hooded sweat-shirt, nylon vest, watch cap and shorts weather. I love walking not quite warm enough. It’s invigorating and sharpens my senses. No one’s here; just me and the birds. Seventeen black scoters are quietly paddling out into pea soup. A male snowy plover, all 6.25-inches of it zips along the beach, stopping at a mound where it “hiccups,” raising its head and neck up and down hard. It seems to have indigestion, remaining there a short time, then runs back to the water.

Hovering high above shallow water, a Forster’s tern, seemingly waits forever, then plunges down at a 90-degree angle. At the last second the bird just touches the water’s surface creating a small splash, aborts the dive and flies off. I often see Forster’s diving here. Their plunges usually end in an aborted dive or the bird coming up without having gotten a fish. I’m often concerned that the water is too shallow and the tern will injure itself. However they know what they’re doing.

By the dunes there is a puzzling pile of red strand-shaped food that resembles beef jerky. Laughing gulls, the most notoriously aggressive birds on the beach, fly in a few at a time scooping it up as the pile diminishes like red blood drying in the sand. Others reject the snack throwing it down. One laughter chomps down hard and finally swallows but needs to take a few sips of water. It stands there like the food is hard on its stomach and might be wondering “should I have eaten that?” Bizarre. Later when I return, the only thing which remains is a pink stain in the sand.

### Egrets And Gulls

At the beach’s other end by a seawall is a limping snowy egret. The limp seems more pronounced now than in the past few days. These birds walk stealthily along the shoreline in shallow water, looking for small fish, then suddenly plunge their dagger-like bills into the water. This requires dexterity that the injured bird may not have. The impaired left leg is raised higher in an arch putting more pressure on its right leg. The effect is to make a slow “wheel” like motion. The lean white bird with the black legs and yellow feet, turns in a hunched position staring straight ahead. Suddenly it lifts off flying down the foggy beach.

A great blue heron suddenly splashes its head and body into the water as if it’s going for a swim. It comes up with nothing. This bird appears to be a clumsy or immature hunter. Later it walks to a sand mound on the beach where it pulls hard on a weed and then flies. What did it expect to find in the weed?

A lesser black-backed gull has a whole fish with a stiff tail and is vigorously eating. It lifts the fish, pulling at the flesh, walking away to rinse its can opener-like bill. A nearby laughing gull stares at the prize. Then comes a second laughter that is chased by the first one. The message is clear: I’m next. A few more laughs come. The black-backed continues eating, goes to the water and makes a run at one of the would be diners. Soon the laughs are gone and a leisurely meal awaits the black-backed.

The sun has come out and I remove a layer. The water is now light green with continuous waves gliding to shore. A cold, foggy morning has become a full one of birding and become

a lazy, sunny afternoon. The black-backed is gone and a ring-billed gull is now feeding on the fish. Tomorrow it will be only white bone with a tail. A turkey vulture lands, walks around a bit, finds nothing and flies off. Man, you should have been here earlier. Like it cares.



Foster tern in winter plumage.



An American avocet. Check out that upturned bill.



Female black scoters.



A male black scoter and several females leaving the beach.

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Letters, from page 11

In the Representative’s community, trees planted in swales are damaging sidewalks, utility lines, and in some cases even home foundations. Under the local tree preservation program, removal can trigger a 3-to-1 replacement requirement, and in some instances, replanting of the same species. The Representative shared that this is often not feasible due to limited space or species-specific disease. Much of her city consists of pre-planned communities with homeowners’ associations. In many of these communities, trees in swales are located on parcels treated as HOA common areas, which prevents them from qualifying as “residential property” under current law. As a result, they are considering filing legislation to open up the statute [F.S. 163.045(1)(b)] to include HOAs and their common areas in the definition of “residential property”, specifically to allow for the removal of trees in HOA-owned common areas.

We are trying to narrowly tailor this draft language to only impact the specific practical challenges the Representative is trying to solve rather than opening pandora’s box as they initially proposed. Would you be willing to review the attached draft and share it with your colleagues from the Urban Forestry Council? We would greatly appreciate your feedback and any practical insights on whether we’ve captured the issue accurately before providing it back to the Representative.

Matt Singer  
Legislative Advocate  
Florida League of Cities

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KeyCrossword

Who’s What?

Edited by Linda and Charles Preston

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- 117 Lease a second time

119 Ocular sections

123 Political policies

125 Secluded

129 \_\_\_\_ vera

130 Corporant

133 Carbonated drink

134 Form of address

135 Raneer raiment

136 \_\_\_\_ else!: Mom's mandate

137 And others, shortly

138 Sound of exertion

139 Expletives

140 Former rulers

141 Exhausted
- 7 Letterman number?

8 Mother of Castor

9 Wear away

10 Slipped away, as time

11 Radio fan

12 Recede

13 Cut short

14 Assessments

15 Ironclad ship

16 Actor Baldwin

17 Pisa dough, once

18 Screwball

25 Highway

28 Computer component

31 Varnish ingredient

33 Sassafras drinks

35 Purple shade

37 Rosary \_\_\_\_

38 Apportion

39 Gold strike site

41 Redcaps

43 Starling relative: pl. var.

45 Church assessment
- 46 Irving or Oliver

47 Feudal field hands

49 Laundry additives

51 It's a good thing

53 SAC part

57 Kind of soldier

58 Tiny bit

60 Yucca look-alike

63 Related on mother's side

65 Beak

67 NASA weather forecasting system

69 Priestly garb

71 Gifted with visual memory

75 Clumsy one

77 Discuss at length

79 Ancient Celtic tribe

80 Nostril

81 Voice for Verdi

83 Obtained

85 Braz. neighbor

86 Fiery afterglow

87 Iranian cash

89 Rise up against

91 Edge
- 95 Covered with calyxes

97 Military student

100 Most otherworldly

102 Systems of government

105 Witnessed

107 Food container in England

109 Late-night name

111 Brat

114 Out-of-date

116 Changed the clock

118 Sly looks

119 Grating sound

120 Lamb

121 Rent

122 Party extra

124 Loans for college-goers: abbr.

126 Former photo section

127 Dash

128 Mrs. Rogers

131 Cubs stat

132 Call \_\_\_\_ day: retire

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# WineTimes

## Door-to-Door Dash Dining in DC

Trump declared immediately after this publicity stunt that his takeover of DC police powers had cleared the way for people in DC to feel safe to dine out.

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

Dateline: Occupied Washington DC Summer 2025  
We have returned to the DC area to fact check results of the invasion by Confederate state militias. During earlier visits in the fall, late spring, and summer of 2025, we dined out often in DC restaurants. We saw large numbers of patrons walking from the Metro and parking lots to popular restaurants in different areas of the city. Along the U-Street Corridor and around Eastern Market, the younger crowd bar-hopped well past midnight.

We recall hearing residents of many years in the DC area commenting about how the crowds have come back to downtown DC after the pandemic waned. They could not understand why citizens from outside DC continued to think of the streets of DC as crime ridden and dangerous. They remember the 1968 riots and election of Richard Nixon as president, and the early 1990's drug gang war spike in the murder rate presided over by Mayor Marion Barry who appeared on camera smoking crack cocaine. DC took its turn as the murder capital of the USA in that era. Yet since the mid-1990's, the violent crime rate in DC has decreased substantially over time and relative to violent crime rates in, for example, Birmingham Alabama.

The problem that Trump and his entourage has with dining out in DC seems rooted more in the fact that the mayor and other elected officials in DC resemble and represent the population of DC and the Trump entourage resembles a troupe of mad men from Houston, Indianapolis, and Orlando. According to reporter Tierney's sources, Trump ordered a well-done steak with ketchup. We have no intel on members of the cabinet ordering stone crabs.

In local news as reported by Tierney Plumb, writing for the Eater DC blog, the Trump dinner party, including VP JD Vance, Secretary of America First Marco Rubeo, and Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, braved a 0.1 mile jaunt in a convoy of black Secret Service SUV's from the White House to the door of Joe's (of Miami) Seafood, Prime Steak, & Stone Crab restaurant.

Thanks to the presence of the National Guards of the Confederate States, The Trump party suffered no more scorn than that heaped on them by DC food critiques and a contingent of Code Pink protestors.

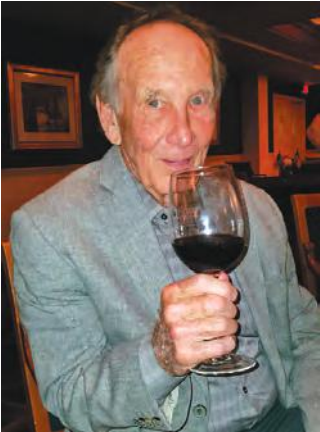
Trump declared immediately after this publicity stunt that his takeover of DC police powers had cleared the way for people in DC to feel safe to dine out.

Meanwhile Tierney Plumb heard from US Representative Anna Paulina Luna of Florida

about the security breach that let Code Pink protestors heckle Trump and his dinner guests. She has obviously not tried to keep a secret In a DC restaurant.

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 Otego 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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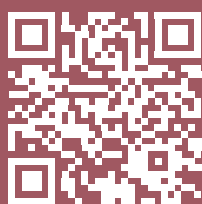
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