



Longboat Key News

November 15, 2024

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FREE

InsideLook



Eagle shuts down tree trim ...page 4



Longboat sale tops \$4 million ...page 11



Genetics and location of wine ...page 12



Man attempts to sneak into home ...page 10

Longboat golf group raises funds for families

Despite the distress and disruption to their personal lives, the groundskeeping crew cleared the courses and brought golfing back in record time to the appreciation of all of the storm-beleaguered club members – all in the wake of two hurricanes.



STEVE REID
Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

The Friars Golf Club on Longboat Key quickly raised \$15,000 that it donated last Friday to groundskeepers at the Longboat Key Club who suffered loss and damage to their homes and in the recent hurricanes.

Despite the distress and disruption to their personal lives, the groundskeeping crew cleared the courses and brought golfing back in record time to the appreciation of all of the storm-beleaguered club members – all in the wake of two hurricanes.

After learning of this, Friar members Jeff Lenobel and Chuck Eldridge wanted to support the groundskeepers who suffered damage in the storms and in nine days raised the \$15,000 from all members of the golf group, which was donated on Friday. Key Club head of Agronomy John Reilly will disperse the money to the employees and their families as needed.

The spontaneous desire to help those who had suffered in their immediate vicinity has played out repeatedly on Longboat Key. While the money will not put the storms back to the sea, it serves as a bright display of humanity following the devastation witnessed over the past months.

One would be hard pressed to find a club full of more camaraderie, humor and dedicated golfers than the Friars on Longboat Key.

The group of more than 150 is essentially a composite of individuals with fascinating backgrounds who enjoy each other's company and use golf as an excuse to get together three times a week.

The group honored Frank Sulzman who is leaving the Friars and moving south.

A retired NASA rocket scientist and physicist, Frank is legendary in the Friars for mastering the Golf Genius system that the Longboat Key Club provides to organize groups and scoring and members.

The group sang Frank's praises in its own way - almost a roast. One member mentioned how he was required to weekly Venmo Frank in order to stay in the club.

Another member spoke of how he was told by Frank that there was an extensive probation period, which included taking him out to eat, picking his wife up at the airport and buying drinks repeatedly "to see if the Friars was a good fit."

Reportedly everyone was put through this test by Frank.

And in spite of this playful abuse you could sense the obvious affection and esteem the members have for Frank Sulzman.

Frank's legend will live on as the Friars are waiting for someone to step up and take on the Golf Genius software now that the trained NASA scientist is leaving – possibly the only one with a skill set. Frank has reportedly volunteered to be available round the clock as a remote help desk for the next volunteer who takes on the Golf Genius software as a succession plan.



Pictured Below: Jeff Lenobel, right, honors Frank Sulzman. On top is the check presentation.

Sarasota County administrator tells FDEP that county plans to keep Midnight Pass open



County Administrator Jonathan Lewis has sent a letter to the secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), pointing to the recent hurricanes' reopening of Midnight Pass on south Siesta Key and the county's intent to keep the waterway open.

"It is our determination that this new feature meets the definition of an 'inlet' per [Section 62B-41.002(10) of the Florida Administrative Code]," Lewis wrote in his Nov. 6 letter to FDEP Secretary Shawn Hamilton. (As it turned out, Hamilton resigned from the position just a day later, on Nov. 7. Gov. Ron DeSantis appointed Alexis Lambert, chief of staff of the state's division of bond finance since 2018, to succeed Hamilton, the Tampa Bay Times reported.)

Lewis added in the letter, "[T]he County will keep the inlet open. Management of this inlet per the requirements of [the Administrative Code] will be considered contingent on site conditions and recommendations based on ongoing monitoring and modeling efforts," he wrote.

County staff already had implemented a monitoring program "to collect critical data," he continued, and staff is "developing a hydrodynamic model of the Sarasota Bay system," including Little Sarasota Bay, Roberts Bay, Big Sarasota Bay and Blackburn Bay, "down to Venice Inlet and offshore areas in the vicinity of inlets. The model is being set up to evaluate the water levels, currents/flows, flushing/exchange within [Little Sarasota Bay] and the adjacent inland waters," he explained.

"We will keep the Department informed of our actions," Lewis added, "and we look forward to consulting further with the FDEP."

Longboat Key Annual tree lighting on deck

The sixth annual Light Up Longboat event will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 23 at the Karon Pavilion at the Town Center Green.

Co-hosted by the town of Longboat Key and the Longboat Key Chamber of Commerce, the free event will start by lighting up the new custom-designed tree during the traditional lighting ceremony on the Karon Pavilion stage.

After the ceremony, area band The Big Z and Longboat musician Tim Michael McCaig will hold a holiday concert. Food trucks, along with gift cards and merchandise from local businesses will be on-hand. The Rotary Club of Longboat Key will be collecting unwrapped children's gifts for Hope Family services in Bradenton at the event. They asked for guests to bring donations to receive a raffle ticket for the chance to win a \$100 gift certificate to the Lazy Lobster.

Police: Sarasota man drove stolen car to Mar-a-Lago to talk to Trump in Palm Beach

A Florida man was arrested late Thursday night after Palm Beach Police said he pulled up to Mar-a-Lago and asked to speak with President-elect Donald Trump — while driving a stolen car.

It marks at least the third person to be arrested at Mar-a-Lago since the summer, and comes as Trump's club is filled with dignitaries and celebrities helping to guide the president-elect during his transition into a second term in the White House.

The 52-year-old Sarasota man faces charges of vehicle theft and operating a motor vehicle without a valid license, jail records show. He was being held at the Palm Beach County Jail on Friday morning on a \$20,250 bond, according to jail records.

A judge also ordered the man to have no contact with Trump, Mar-a-Lago, the protected area around Mar-a-Lago or any of Trump's other properties, records show. The man also cannot have any weapons.

According to a Palm Beach Police arrest report, the man drove a Hyundai Kona, a small SUV, into a parking lot near Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club at about 9:15 p.m. Thursday and asked to speak with the president-elect. A Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office detective and U.S. Secret Service agent pulled the man aside while waiting for police, the report said.

When the Palm Beach Police officer who arrived on the scene checked the man's driver's license, he found that it had been suspended indefinitely, the report said. Upon checking the

license plate number on the SUV the man drove, the officer found that it did not belong to him.

Instead, the gray Hyundai belonged to a rental company, which said a woman had rented the SUV, the report indicated. When police contacted that woman, she told them that she was an acquaintance of the Sarasota man and that they had met earlier in the day to buy a vehicle. While the woman went into a bank to get money, the man stayed in the car, she told police.

When she returned, the SUV was no longer there, according to the police report.

The woman returned to the man's residence, thinking he would return, but he did not. Instead, he apparently drove to Mar-a-Lago. The woman told police that she had not given the man permission to take her SUV, the report said.

A deputy from the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office contacted the Palm Beach Police officer and said the SUV had been reported stolen.

Red tide closes beaches in Sarasota

The Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County issued a health alert Wednesday informing visitors of potential red tide impacts near several local beaches and waterfronts in response to recent water sample results.

Red tide has lingered miles offshore for weeks, but sample results published this week by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission confirmed that it is now having an impact on local beaches. Satellite imagery of red tide off the Florida Gulf Coast published by the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science shows similar results, although the most recent image captured on Nov. 13 is not fully clear.

In response, the Sarasota Health Department office issued its health alert for potential red tide impacts in areas around the Ringling Causeway and Bird Key Park Beach, North Lido Beach, Lido Casino Beach, Siesta Key Beach, Turtle Beach, Nokomis Beach, North Jetty Beach, Venice Beach, Service Club Beach, Venice Fishing Pier, Brohard Park Beach, and Manasota Key Beach.

In Manatee, the department of health issued a health alert for the presence of red tide near Rod and Reel Pier on Anna Maria Island.

Citing information published by the University of South Florida College of Marine Science, Tomasko said that winds have shifted in a way that is now pushing the red tide toward shore.



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EditorLetters



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

Eagles on Longboat Key

To: Longboat Key Commission
 Mayor Schneier and Commissioner Bishop, my apologies for not responding to this sooner. To introduce myself, I am the Eagle Biologist for the Southeast Region with the USFWS Migratory Bird Program. I work alongside our Permit Chief, Resee Collins, also copied. I am the biologist that reviews Specific permit applications for eagle disturbance and nest take in the southeast.
 Regarding nest SA033- the permit that was issued for nest take was issued out of the Headquarters Office under a General Permit for Bald Eagle Nest Take. The southeast region does not review or issue general permits. I wanted to make sure that was clear. I did not review this application or take part in issuing this permit. If you want to discuss the General Permit that was issued, please contact Headquarters at: migratorybirdpermits@fws.gov
 This is the official response from our Communications team regarding the permit and regulations. For further questions, please see Carli's contact information below.
 Thank you for reaching out. Please note, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service authorizes the take of an eagle nest.
 The permittee is responsible for ensuring that the activity involving the take of eagle nests authorized by this permit complies with all other applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and local laws. This permit is not valid if implementing any of its provisions may affect a listed, proposed, or candidate species or designated or proposed critical habitat under the federal Endangered Species Act, nor has the potential to cause effects to cultural resources or historic

properties protected by the National Historic Preservation Act.
 Eagles are quite territorial and will generally remain within their territory (1.5-2 mile radius) whenever a nest is lost. Biologically, it would be best to take the nest either before nesting season begins, or as quickly as possible. That way the pair has time to rebuild before their typical egg laying period, which begins around December or January.
 Permits are issued to the entity or individual conducting the action, such as the owner or manager of the entity conducting the activity. The permittee is responsible for compliance with the permit and must have the authority to implement the required permit conditions. Contractors or consultants may assist in completing an application as well as conducting the work as a subpermittee but may not be a permit holder. Let us know if you have any questions.
 Ulgonda Kirkpatrick
 USFWS Southeast Region
 Migratory Bird & Eagle Permit Office

Eagles on Longboat Key

To: USFWS Southeast Region Ulgonda Kirkpatrick
 So who is responsible for issuing this permit? A name, address, email and phone would be helpful.
 BJ Bishop
 Commissioner
 Town of Longboat Key

Eagles on Longboat Key

To: Ulgonda Kirkpatrick
 I have been the Mayor of Longboat Key for 5 years and participated in a discussion at our Town Commission meeting yesterday that involved the proposed elimination of the one tree on our island that hosts an active eagles' nest, and has so for money years.
 While I understand that it is not within our province at the Town to determine the removal of the tree and these eagles or not, please understand that we take great pride in our environmental awareness and, in particular, the care of our wildlife on Longboat Key. There is a special affinity for our eagle couple and the children the produce almost every year.
 I have visited the site of the tree since this issue surfaced and taken photographs. Though I am not an arborist, it would be clear to anyone with vision that the tree in question has one dangling branch, but that its main trunk and elements, including the location of the nest, are
 See Letters, page 6

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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 4

demonstrably intact and upright.
As a resident of Longboat who has enjoyed the eagles as a part of our environmental trust, along with the sea turtles and the seabirds that nest on our beaches, I request your help in avoiding the loss of these fine creatures and their home.
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Eagles on Longboat Key

To: Ulgonda Kirkpatrick
You have issued a tree removal permit for a property on Triton Bend Road for removal of a tree that is occupied by two eagles that have been in that tree for over 25 years. The tree, which I have personally seen for 20 years has not been damaged by the recent hurricanes but the people in the home on Triton Bend have wanted the tree gone for some time. There is a limb which may need removal away from the nest, but the tree appears stable.
The Triton Bend home was delayed in construction because it is too close to the eagles nest and the eagles had laid eggs.
I am disappointed that you have issued a permit based on a report by someone who can make money by taking the tree down. By the way, the base of the tree is not on the property on Triton Bend but is on the property at 604 Buttonwood Drive.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Hurricanes

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
My name is Nigel Graham and I spoke at yesterday’s Regular Workshop Meeting.
Having heard the ‘Sand Guru’, as he was described, giving his report it left me even more concerned than I was previously. To hear LBK described as a barrier island so (more or less) what do you expect...is not what residents expect to hear.
Fact: the sand dune ‘barriers’ (rather like the levees in New Orleans) have proved completely inadequate. To rebuild these as our only defense, having been through the experience of the last 6 weeks, will prove ultimately futile. As is ‘re-nourishing’ the beaches...only for 60% to be returned to the Gulf, and the other 40% being spread over GMD and all the land between.
Sanctuary owners alone have had 60 cars written off, muck and sand everywhere, the pool filled with sand, all the pool electrical equipment ruined, etc.
There seems to me almost a denial of what has occurred. We seem to be now only addressing the effect rather than the cause. The cause is the Gulf warming and the hurricanes getting stronger....and now we know that the greatest threat to LBK are the tidal surges they create. We need to build back better.
And I believe very strongly that the one and only remedy is to build a barrier reef of limestone rocks to diffuse the power of these extreme tidal events....with the added advantage that it would protect the shoreline against not only hurricanes but the tropical storms which also cause erosion...and leave us endlessly replacing the sand.
A barrier reef could cost what? \$100 million, \$200 million? but what is the combined value of all the properties now lining the Gulf coast of Longboat Key? It could take 10 years to construct - a mile a year? but the costs can be spread and homeowners and business’ will be relieved that something substantial is actually being done to protect their properties, livelihoods and this beautiful island.
The alternative may look like the destruction and abandonment of other hurricane hit areas like Daytona Beach and Sanibel. (I urge you to Google ‘Hurricane Nicole Daytona’ to see how just bad things can get with a slow moving storm pounding a coastline).
I can only request that this note is not ignored or dismissed and that it is circulated to all relevant people.
Nigel Graham

Town of Longboat Key

Hurricanes

To: Lou Graham
Thank you for your presentation to the Commission on Tuesday. These are such important considerations for the Town and the entire west coast of Florida.
Penny Gold
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Bald Eagles

To: Carli Segelson
You issued a tree removal permit for a property on Triton Bend Road for removal of a tree that was occupied by two eagles that have been in that tree for over 25 years. The tree, which I have personally seen for 20 years was not damaged by the recent hurricanes but the people in the home on Triton Bend have wanted the tree gone for some time complaining about Eagle droppings by their pool.
I am disappointed that you have issued a permit based on a report by someone who made money destroying the nest and removing the tree. No officials ever examined the tree and town officials are forbidden by state law from interceding.
The Buttonwood neighborhood residents lost homes in the hurricanes and now they have lost their eagles and the eagles have lost their nest.
While Ms. Kirkpatrick’s name is on the permit she has advised that this decision came from your department. Please let us know how this could happen. Our community has seen too much destruction and this should not have happened.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Bald Eagles

To: Will Robinson
Several years ago before you were in Tallahassee the legislature passed legislation that eliminated the ability for localities to deal with residential tree removal.
There has been a tree in the backyard of a home on Buttonwood that has been home to eagles for over 20 years.
A new home was built in Triton Bend behind the tree. New owners wanted eagles gone. They used hurricanes as an opportunity to have their attorney get a permit from the feds to destroy nest and tree. No local officials could weigh in and no federal people ever saw tree.
Today with both eagles in residence the nest was destroyed and that part of tree was removed. The Buttonwood neighborhood residents, many who lost their homes feel like another home was taken away today. The tree was stable. We need To be able to protect these endangered species. My phone has not stopped and no one understands why local government can’t help.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

FEMA reimbursement

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Penny Gold and Commissioner BJ Bishop
It was great meeting you today. Sharing this note to summarize steps we can immediately take to develop an emergency shelter response plan for the State and FEMA’s consideration. Pallet’s units are considered non-traditional non-congregate and are eligible for FEMA reimbursement under Category B. If we act on the steps below now, we’ll be able to secure units for Longboat Key in response to the recent storms and in preparation for future events.
To achieve this, the City or County must first submit a formal letter to its local and state EM office requesting Pallet’s non-congregate model including the following details:
The need (who are the community members facing displacement, what occurred to cause the need, how long the need is projected, how they are currently being served and why Pallet’s non-congregate model is preferred under the current circumstance).
The Solution (a Pallet Non-Traditional Non-Congregate emergency response village including single and dual occupancy shelters equipped with AC/Heat, beds, desks, shelving, locking door, fully insulated. Hygiene units with two stalls, showers, and sinks. Laundry units with four stackable washer/dryers. 400 sq ft community room for congregate feeding and other activities. See additional info on Pallet’s products, here.)
Infrastructure (a developed plan to prep the desired land including plans for sewage, water, and electricity)
Development (a plan for how the site will be developed)
Wrap-around Services (a plan for how the site will be managed and by who including plans for intake, security, feeding, and social supports)
Costs – Detailed cost breakdown of all of the above.
The above is all very doable and is my top priority. Please let me know your thoughts and if this sounds manageable. Once we have a prospective plan you can submit the letter. After the letter is submitted a Project Worksheet can be submitted to FEMA then finally, approval is granted. From there we will be able to begin deployment.
I am available to meet as soon as requested. Please let me know your thoughts on next steps and I will plan accordingly. Thank you!
Darnell Head
Head of Emergency Management

FEMA reimbursement for debris in private communities

To: Margaret Dugan
Town staff has had ongoing discussions with FEMA and the Florida Department of Emergency management about the possibility of reimbursement of private road debris collection costs. Unfortunately, the results to date have not been encouraging as neither agency seems to be able to identify a pot of money eligible for these expenses. We have not given up, though, and expect to have more conversations with these agencies to try to develop a path by which private road neighborhoods can at least submit a claim for debris removal costs incurred.

See Letters, page 8

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Going east on Fruitville Rd. make a U-Turn at light (Lakewood Ranch Blvd.), then make a right on to Coburn Rd. Go around the circle to Fruitville Commons Blvd., pass Cooper's Hawk and you will see Clive Daniel Home on the right.



Editor Letters



Letters, from page 6

We still recommend that affected communities locate contractors to do this work, get several bids, document with photographs the debris on site, proceed with removal and keep track of invoices for this process.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

FEMA reimbursement for debris removal in private communities

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Good evening Ken, I am following up on our conversation a couple of weeks ago regarding debris removal and the opportunity to have FEMA reimburse for the expense. You mentioned that there would be a form and guidance on how to apply for this. Is that form/process available?

Margaret Dugan
Longboat Key

Spanish Main

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Thank you for talking with me at the LBK town commission workshop. Looking forward to a productive path forward at SMYC and your collaboration.

Joe Gutmann
Longboat Key

Spanish Main

To: Joseph Gutmann

Good to meet you. We wish you and your neighborhood well.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Debris

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

We want to thank all of you who have addresses on Gulf of Mexico Drive for assisting the Town and meeting our deadline yesterday for placing debris curbside. We have seen tremendous progress with debris pickup and will continue to do so. Our next goal is for all other public roadways to have their debris placed curbside no later than November 18th.

The following are the most current debris pick up numbers: (all totals are in Cubic Yards)

November 3rd through November 10th

Construction/appliances/furniture, etc. – 1,386

Vegetative – 3,747

The town has been hauling debris for 30 days now, with a total of 34,520 CY collected, 76% of debris collected to date

Tina Adams
Fire Administration Manager/PIO
Longboat Key Fire Rescue Department

Property

To: James Haft

I broached the property acquisition several years ago with FDOT and they stated they did not have funds in the Cortez project for land acquisition. I am happy to ask them again.

BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Property

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

The values of those properties are substantially discounted now... just land value. And the owners would probably be thrilled to sell if it could happen before they decide to rebuild.

James Haft
Longboat Key

Property

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

Maybe this program can be used (by FDOT or?) to acquire land for an extended right turn lane on southbound GMD at the Cortez bridge? Those properties have all been destroyed.

James Haft
Longboat Key

FEMA Substantial Damage Estimates

To: Michael Mailliard

I was forwarded your email below. I apologize for the calls you've been receiving & concern on any property owner's part about the notices appearing to be a Stop Work order. They are not.

See Letters, page 13



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415 L'Ambiance Drive #A401 - \$5,840,000
Experience luxury at L'Ambiance with this Southwest corner residence featuring a spacious wraparound terrace and stunning sunsets. Enjoy private elevator access opening directly into your own beautiful foyer, a custom-designed interior with new windows, doors, kitchen, and baths. This choice Royal floorplan offers three bedrooms, all ensuite, a powder room, and a bonus room. Residents benefit from concierge service, a 24-hour guard gate, an Olympic-sized pool, two tennis courts, a fitness center, game rooms, a library, a wine room, and guest suites. Small pet welcome, and one underground parking spot is included. L'Ambiance on Longboat Key is not just a residence; it's an exclusive lifestyle waiting for discerning buyers seeking the pinnacle of luxury living. **No water intrusion in this home from the storms.**
lambianceA401.com

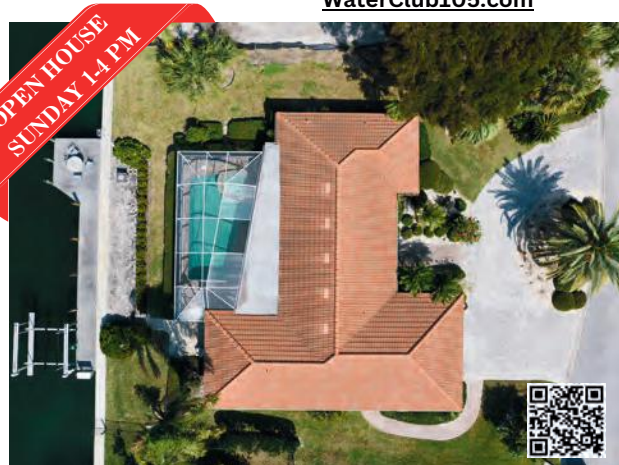
L'AMBIANCE



415 L'Ambiance Drive #F608 - \$6,900,000 - Contract available for assignment:
Experience luxury living at its finest with this stunning Royal floorplan. Offered turnkey furnished, thoughtfully curated, only a few items excluded. This exquisite residence features three bedrooms ensuite, office or bonus room. Private elevator into your residence, 10-foot ceilings, stunning herringbone-patterned wood flooring. This home has been fully renovated to the highest standards by Mark Sultana of DSDG, featuring premium Thermador appliances and new windows and doors. State-of-the-art fitness center, Olympic-sized pool that overlooks the Gulf with direct access to the beach. L'Ambiance on Longboat Key is not just a residence; it's an exclusive lifestyle waiting for discerning buyers seeking the pinnacle of luxury living.
No water intrusion in this home from the storms.



2251 Gulf of Mexico Drive #204 - \$7,999,000
This epic Gulf-front corner residence, which feels like a home on the beach, offers 3 bedrooms plus an office (or 4 bedrooms) and 3.5 bathrooms in a lavish 4,032 sq. ft. space. Gourmet Miele kitchen with large walk-in pantry. 3,400 sq. ft. terrace featuring a 40-foot private infinity pool, fire pit, and summer kitchen, with private stairs leading straight to the beach. Garage suitable for 3 to 5 cars with an electric charging station. Wellness center with state-of-the-art fitness equipment. 1/2-mile walking path, Historic Villa am Mar with social room, guest suite, dining room.
No water intrusion in this home from the storms.
Aria204.com



521 Putting Green Lane - \$1,899,000
Value-Location and Instant enjoyment is waiting for you in this 3BR bedroom home w/deeded beach access on protected, sailboat water w/direct access to SRQ Bay w/no bridges. It is located in desirable Country Club Shores on the South Longboat key. This home offers Newer HURRICANE IMPACT GLASS/Sliding glass throughout the entire home. Newer roof, air conditioning, mar-cited pool and spa, newer seawall and lift rated for a 10,000-lb capacity. Enjoy all the amenities of elegant living, plus the social and enriching events that make Sarasota the cultural capital of Florida. Sarasota bustles with many art galleries and antique shops. From New York bagels to elegant bistros and world-class restaurants, its marinas, and golf courses.
No water intrusion in this home from the storms.
521PuttingGreenLn.com

WATERCLUB



1241 Gulf of Mexico Drive #105 - \$2,575,000 - Furnished
The Water Club on the South end of Longboat Key is a rare jewel in condominium living. Almost new 2,585 sq. ft. under air, features a garden, and partial Gulf views. Southern exposure w/walls of glass, 10 ft. ceilings, wood flooring, extended 1,000 sq. ft. terraces. The Water Club exquisite clubhouse offers state of the art fitness center, message room, spa, lounge, library w/fireplace, ballroom, game room and phenomenal staff providing concierge services, an Olympic-sized pool, tennis, and 2 pets under 35 lbs. welcome. Walk down the beach and enjoy restaurants at the new St Regis.
No water intrusion in this home from the storms.
WaterClub105.com



5941 Gulf of Mexico Drive - \$9,500,000
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5941GulfOfMexicoDr.com

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OnPatrol

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

Nov. 8 Boat

8:47 a.m.
Officer Mathis was dispatched to the 4000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a suspicious man sleeping in the park. Prior to his arrival, Officer Troyer had arrived and was speaking with the man who said he had been fishing in the Sarasota Bay in a jon boat with a six horsepower outboard when he lost his balance due to water conditions and fell overboard. The man further explained that he was floating in the bay for some time with his personal floatation device when a passing boater stopped and pulled him from the water. The man advised that the boater brought him to shore at the park where he was waiting on his girlfriend to come pick him up. Sarasota Sheriff’s Office assisted in searching the bay for the lost vessel but was unsuccessful in any attempt to locate the missing boat. Case clear.



ing pictures of storm and flood debris. Officer Mathis related this information to the complainant who advised that she was afraid that someone was trying to case her neighborhood for future criminal activity. Case clear.

Nov. 9 Doorbell

9:34 p.m.
Officer Ramsaier was dispatched to El Centro for an initial call of a burglary in progress. The complainant said that he observed an unknown man attempting to gain access to the address via an alert from his Ring doorbell camera. The complainant said he observed an unknown man wearing a light gray shirt and dark pants. The complainant said that the man fled on foot. Upon arrival to the location, Officer Ramsaier and Officer Pescuma conducted a canvass of the immediate area. The door was locked, with no signs of forced entry observed. A grid search of Spanish Drive South and Spanish Drive North was conducted by Officer Van Dyke, Officer Troyer and Sgt. Butler. All met with negative results. Officer Ramsaier observed a screened front door that was open at the time of arrival, and Sgt. Butler conducted a latent fingerprint test on the door hand of the screen. There were no fingerprints observed on the handle. Latent fingerprint test met with negative results. Officer Ramsaier requested a copy of the Ring doorbell camera from the complainant which was received via email at 9:09 p.m. Upon review of the Ring doorbell camera footage, which was one minute and 15 seconds in total, showed that the Ring camera motion sensor was activated due to a plastic covering over the front door which had come loose and was blowing in the wind and in front of the camera. The call was re-categorized as a suspicious incident, a copy of the camera footage was attached to the report. Case clear.

Nov. 10 Swimming

12:04 a.m.
Officer Ramsaier was dispatched to the 4600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a disturbance call. The complainant stated a wedding party who was in the pool area and jacuzzi after hours, was asked repeated to leave and argued with staff. Upon arrival, Officer Pescuma was met by the complainant and directed to the individual. Officer Pescuma interviewed the man who said he had just spent a lot of money on a wedding at the hotel and wanted his party to be able to continue to use the pool and jacuzzi area. Officer Pescuma informed him that the hotel had their rules which needed to be abided by. The man and his wedding party understood and left to go to their hotel rooms. Case clear.

Hurricane

11:00 a.m.
Officer Mathis was dispatched to Hideaway Bay Drive for a suspicious person in the area trying to access property and taking pictures. According to the complainant, two men that were wearing yellow vests and displaying Longboat Key town identification cards were trying to access property and take pictures of homes. Upon Officer Mathis’ arrival to the area, he made contact with one of the men matching the description. The man explained that he was the one who was at the incident location taking pictures. The man further explained that he is tak-

Nov. 11 Eagle

12:06 p.m.
Officer Maple was dispatched to Buttonwood Drive for a citizen’s assist call. The call was in reference to a distressed tree on a property line with an active Bald Eagle’s nest. Upon his arrival, Officer Maple met with the complainant who stated her neighbor located directly behind her house was in the process of pruning a tree located on her property which has an active Bald Eagle’s nest. The complainant took the officer to the location of the disputed tree and showed the two Bald Eagles and described her property line and that she didn’t want him to aggravate the nest until after nesting season. Officer Maple then spoke to the individual who stated he had authorization to remove the nest from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and there was in fact no eggs in the nest. A permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the removal upon verification of no eggs in the nest. A check on the Sarasota County Property Appraiser website showed the Eagle Nest coordinates on the complainant’s property but a visual inspection appears to show the nest could be on the person’s property. The person was concerned about the leaning of the tree over his home and wanted to prune it back clear of his property. The complainant contacted Town Hall Commissioners for help while the person reached out to his personal lawyer. Officer Maple received word from higher authority to not permit cutting of the tree until the property line could be confirmed by the property town personnel. The person was upset that he had paid for the tree crew to commence work and a large crane to be used. Officer Maple was able to pause the situation until follow up could be done by both personnel with town hall authorities in the morning. Case clear.

Pool

3:34 p.m.
Officer Nazareno while on patrol was flagged down by a resident who said that water was being pumped from the pool at a house on Gulf of Mexico Drive and into a canal. Officer Nazareno observed the violation from the side of the home and made contact with the man who was cleaning the pool for the homeowner. The man turned off the pump immediately and pumped the pool water into the yard. The man was given a verbal warning. Case clear.

Nov. 13 Public Works

1:52 p.m.
Officer Troyer responded to the 4300 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for an unsecured manhole cover. Upon arrival, Officer Troyer observed a large manhole cover whereas the cover was sideways inside of the cradle. The cover was too heavy to move also. The complainant said the Public Works Department responded but would not do anything about this due to it being on private property. Officer Mathis contacted the Public Works Department by phone and they concurred the statement and said this was an association manhole and nothing to do with the town. The complainant had maintenance employees mark off the hole and she contacted a company to respond to take care of the issue. Case clear.

Nov. 14 Assistance

7:21 p.m.
Officer Van Dyke responded to Bay Isles Parkway in reference to a hit and run. Upon further investigation, the call was updated to an Officer’s assistance. Upon arrival, Officer Van Dyke met with the complainant who said she quickly realized that since no plastic was underneath her vehicle, it was most likely struck earlier in the day at her nail salon in Holmes Beach. Officer Van Dyke advised her to contact the Holmes Beach Police Department if she wants to file a report. The complainant was cooperative and appeared satisfied with the outcome, therefore no further investigation is required. Case clear.

Boat

9:48 p.m.
Officer Van Dyke responded to Cutter Lane in reference to lost property. Upon arrival, Officer Van Dyke met with the complainant who advised that his Suncatcher Elite was missing after returning to his backyard after an approximately three-hour hiatus. Officer Van Dyke then viewed video surveillance from their residence and observed the vessel drifting away unattended at approximately 6:44 p.m. Case clear.

Water main

10:33 p.m.
Officer Ramsaier responded to Longboat Drive South for a call of a possible water main break. Upon arrival, Officer Ramsaier observed a significant amount of water in the area. Officer Ramsaier made contact with the on-call member of the Public Works Department who said they were aware of the water in the road and determined that it was due to surging water from the bay and not from a water main break. Case clear.

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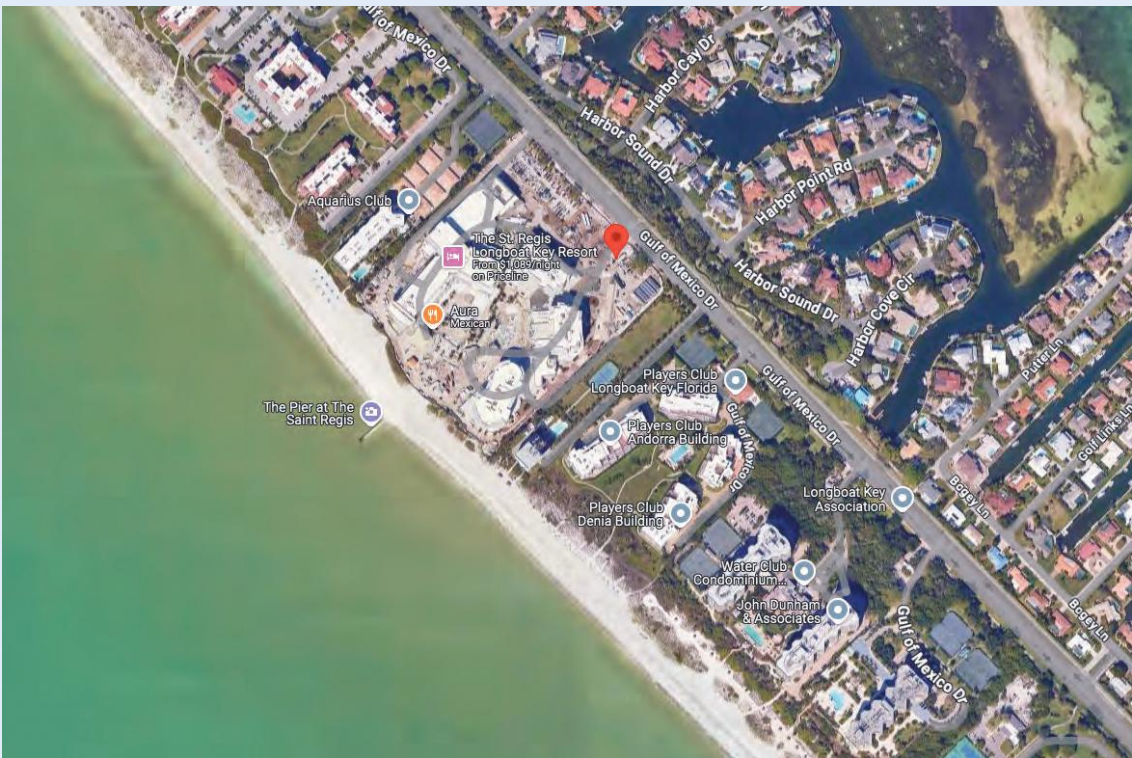




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1591 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#310	3,130	\$4,825,100	2	2	1	0	\$4,825,100



1591 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#310



Jeff@jeffrhineland.com



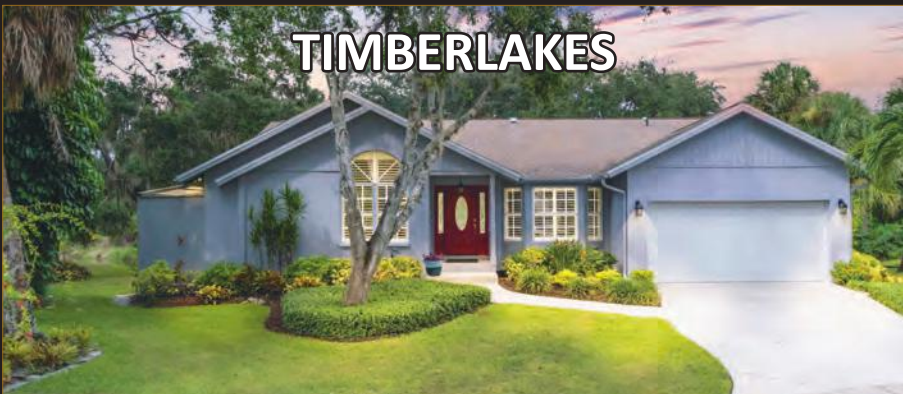
courtney.tarantino@floridamoves.com



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3BR+DEN/2BA • 2,092 SF



453 E. ROYAL FLAMINGO DRIVE, SARASOTA • \$8,495,000
NEW CONSTRUCTION • 5BR/6BA • 4,500 SF



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WineTimes

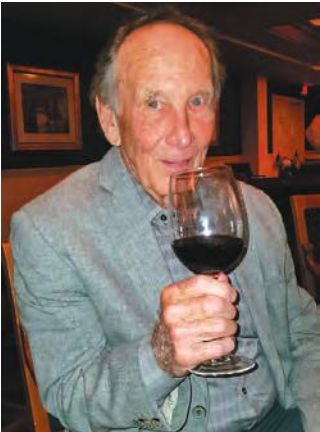
Diverse Wine Varieties

A seemingly endless list of globally known, regional favorite, and local grapes give both those new to wine and wine consumers wide horizons to explore.

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

Wines come in different varieties. Each wine variety has its own DNA signature. A Chardonnay variety of wine comes from pressing of Chardonnay grapes; a Cabernet Sauvignon from Cabernet Sauvignon grapes; a Sauvignon Blanc from Sauvignon Blanc grapes; a Syrah from Syrah grapes. You may suspect that in an industry with a long and rich history, these simple relations break down, and they do. Some varieties of wine have evolved from accidental mutation or deliberate cross-pollination of varieties of wine grapes. Cabernet Sauvignon, for example, evolved in 17th Century France from a chance crossing of the Cabernet Franc and Sauvignon Blanc grape varieties. It has now attained a dominant role in many wine growing regions across the globe.

Different clones of grapes (genetically identical cuttings from a “mother” vine) retain mutations in the mother vine and differ from other vines of the same variety. Clones of Syrah with mutations useful in Australia and have been given the name “Shiraz” to differentiate them from the clones of the



French Syrah variety. The clones of the French Mourvèdre and clones of the Spanish Mataro or Monestrell belong to the same grape variety but may have characteristics more suitable to the regions where they grow.

In the USA the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms agency (ATF) regulates use of wine varieties on bottle labels by requiring that the name of the variety may appear on the

label only if the bottle contains 75% of that variety of grape. While French Burgundian Blanc wines (Chardonnay) and Rouge wines (Pinot Noir) conform to the USA ATF standard, many European wines have the name of a wine region on the label. The Bordeaux Blanc blends Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon and the Bordeaux Rouge blends Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, or Merlot typically with Petit Verdot or Malbec. These traditional blends define the wines of the Bordeaux region.

The 2022 Despagne Biface Vin de France (\$17) blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon has a pleasant floral nose and a crisp citrus taste that rivals more costly Chardonnay.

In Italy, the labels of famous wines carry the names of the Barola and Barbaresco regions also but come from the same variety of grape: Nebbiolo. Winemakers from the Montalcino and Chianti regions make wine from Sangiovese grapes but label the wines with the names of the regions.

Whether labelled by grape variety or region, the amazing diversity of grape varieties and blends increases the number of good wines available in most any region. Growers of wine grapes have for centuries planted or grafted imported clones of grapes. DNA comparisons show that California Zinfandel and Italian Primitivo come from different clones of the obscure Croatian Crljenak Kaštelanski and Tribidrag grapes. The Vouvray label on French white wine tells us that the bottle contains wine made from the Chenin Blanc grape, a variety that now thrives in South Africa and produces excellent bargain alternatives to Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc. French Malbec grapes that originated in Cahors and Cabernet Sauvignon from Bordeaux dominate the wine industry in Argentina and Chile, as does French Sauvignon Blanc in New Zealand. Nothing remarkable in that: the Vitis Vinifera species of grape grew wild in the areas around the South Caucasus Mountains on the dividing line between Asia and Europe, where cultivation of wine grapes began some 8,000 years ago, and over centuries expanded westward into the Middle East and Europe. These superior wine grapes have now jumped to geographic regions with compatible climates, particularly in arid and warmer elevations with soils not ideally suited to growing rice, wheat, corn, potatoes, or animal feed crops.

California has imported a major industry. Since prohibition, regions in middle and northern California have seen land values and exports of wine soar in the dryland ranches of Napa, Sonoma, Paso Robles, Contra Costa, the North Coast, Monterey, Lake County, and Mendocino. In addition to Zinfandel, another minor wine originating in Europe has gained a foothold in California: a hybrid of Syrah and a rarely planted Peloursin grape developed by French botanist Francois Durif around 1880, now usually called “Petite Sirah”. This small berry child of Syrah has intense dark fruit hue and flavors. The 2021 Vinum Pets Petit Sirah (\$18) from the Clarksburg region in the Sacramento Valley opens with a spicy nose and follows with a good balance of tannins and dark fruit acidity.

A seemingly endless list of globally known, regional favorite, and local grapes give both those new to wine and wine consumers wide horizons to explore. Sparkling wines such as French Champagne and Crémant, Spanish Cava, and Italian Prosecco and Spumante have their own list of varieties, as do the Sauternes, Muscat, Reisling, and other dessert wines. The Thanksgiving holiday gives us ample motive and opportunity to explore diverse wine varieties..

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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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 6

The photo of the Restricted Use placard that was included in your email indicates that a structure is “Ok to Occupy” but lets a property owner know that there has been observed flood damage & that repair actions such as removing drywall, mold remediation, electrical, plumbing or mechanical may be needed.

We’re also providing notice that repair work generally requires a building permit. The Town has allowed property owners to commence work & then get a permit within the next business day. The notice is being provided because many people assume that drywall repair doesn’t require a building permit. Repairs up to 48 sq. ft. don’t require a building permit but work in excess of that amount does.

These substantial damage estimates & notice efforts are requirement of the Town’s participation in the National Flood Insurance Program & the continued availability of that program for Town property owners. We understand that people are being hit with a lot of new stressful & complicated information to absorb from a number of different sources. I would encourage you to have anyone who’s inquiring about these notices, what the flood related requirements are, or any other question that’s confusing to contact the Planning, Zoning & Building Dept. We are here to help.

Allen Parsons
Director Planning, Zoning & Building Department
Town of Longboat Key

FEMA Substantial Damage Estimates

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Department Allen Parsons
Thanks, Allen. Very helpful.
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

FEMA Substantial Damage Estimates

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Attached is the photo of the postings on Reid Murphy’s home on LBK. He and others have been contacting Mike Mailliard, their insurance agent, about Stop Work postings relating to dry wall and other restoration projects due to the storms
Tip: Attached is the photo of the postings on Reid Murphy’s home on LBK. He and others have been contacting Mike Mailliard, their insurance agent, about Stop Work postings relating to dry wall and other restoration projects due to the storms for which insurance funds have already

been made available. Past practice apparently has been to not require (or request) permits for interior repairs. Now there is confusion about whether these stoppages relate to town rules (being enforced in part by inspectors seconded to us by other jurisdictions), FEMA inspections and/or concerns over the 50% rule. Any help in explaining the process and relieving the logjam would be very helpful. Thanks.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Ballot language

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Penny Gold
As requested, here’s the proposed ballot language for the subaqueous project that you’ll be reviewing today.
“Shall Town of Longboat Key be authorized to borrow money through a State Revolving Fund loan, not exceeding \$33,000,000, bearing interest not exceeding maximum legal rates, maturing over a term not longer than 25 years, payable from revenues of the Town’s water and sewer utility system and a backup covenant to budget and appropriate legally available non-ad valorem revenues, to finance the design and construction of a subaqueous wastewater line across Sarasota Bay?”

The dollar amount has been increased from prior conversations just to provide an additional safety net in case costs escalate beyond our projections. The Town will of course only spend up to the amount that is absolutely necessary to complete the project. The term is also longer than the original 20 years discussed as the payback period under the State Revolving Loan Fund begins six months after the project is completed. Again, we will go with a 20-year term for the financing, but the ballot language provides flexibility on when that actually begins. Please let me know if you have any questions.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

LBK Recovery Update

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Debris - Here are our latest numbers on debris pick up here on LBK:
Oct 28th through Nov 3rd- All below numbers are Total Cubic Yards
Construction/Demo/Appliance = 100.5
Vegetative = 8,098
Sand = N/A at this time – Sand will be removed once other debris is picked up

Total Debris Collected to Date = 29,387.5 Cubic Yards
The Town would like all remaining debris along public roads, placed curbside by November 12th. This would allow the Town to perform the final pass of debris removal, with the goal of substantial completion by Thanksgiving. The Town
Dumpsters – the dumpster at Atlas Beach Access has been removed, however Waste Management still has them provided at Bayfront Park and Broadway Beach Access for those who wish to use
Waterways - If you know where waterway debris exists please enter the location and description in this website: <https://floridadebriscleanup.com/#!/submit>
Damage assessments- continue on Longboat Key. Our Planning, Zoning, and Building Department has additional assistance starting today with their team. These members will have Town ID Badges for identification purposes. For additional assistance from our PZB Department, please contact
See Letters, page 15

Longboat Key News Sarasota City News

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

Steve Reid, Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

Associate Publisher
Melissa Reid

Columnists
Susan Goldfarb, Sig Hermansen,
Greg Rusovich, Blake Fleetwood

Sales
Lillian Sands
Steve Reid
ads@lbknews.com

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Tina Adams
Fire Administration Manager/PIO
Longboat Key Fire Rescue Department

To: Karen Kober

James G. Haft
Longboat Key

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider
Thank you! I appreciate your input!
Karen Kober
Longboat Key

To: Karen Kober
You raise a good point which I will forward to Town Manager Howard Tipton and Planning
and Zoning Director Allen Parsons.
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
Andy and I live at Rountree Dr, Longboat Key, FL 34228 and have lived here since 2021. When we purchased our home, we had Duncan Seawall replace our seawall which was in major disrepair. At the time, the height of the seawall and hence the new dock was 4.5 feet, the code at the time. Now it is 6 feet. Our 2022 boat was totaled by the Helene & Milton as it was located on our lift and floated up, coming down off kilter from its typical position. It is our hope that we can avoid this in the future, we were going to raise our lift. However, the town restricts the height of the piling to be "no more than 5 feet above the dock". We would gain only 6 inches. As part of Longboat Key's "Sea Level Rise and Recurring Flooding Resilience Plan, I am urging you and the zoning and planning boards to change the current code. The current code is much more restrictive than the Sarasota County code. Mr. Taylor was very responsive

An advertisement for 'Ebikes and cycles'. The top half features a man and a woman riding e-bikes on a paved path. The woman is on the left, wearing a pink long-sleeved shirt, red pants, and a white helmet. The man is on the right, wearing a grey jacket, green pants, and a black helmet. Both bikes have large black baskets on the handlebars. The background shows trees and a clear blue sky. The bottom half of the image is a solid black background with white and green text. The logo 'Ebikes and cycles' is at the top left, with 'E' in green and 'Bikes' in white, and 'and cycles' in green. Below the logo is a green circular icon with a white gear-like pattern. The text 'The area's largest selection of quality electric bicycles.' is in white. Below that, 'We will custom fit you to your E-bike to match your riding style.' is in white. At the bottom, 'SALES SERVICE ACCESSORIES' is written in green. The address '423 Suwanee Ave, Sarasota, FL 34243' and phone number '(941) 531-2453 • www.ebikesandcycles.com' are in white at the very bottom.

Karen Kober
Longboat Key

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

To: Sami Araboghli

BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

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