



Longboat Key News

June 13, 2025

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InsideLook



Are turtles being led astray?
...page 4



Don't miss Lido Art on Tuesday
...page 3



Two million reasons to toast
...page 11



Tattered flag honored
...page 10

Longboat Key's \$35 million listing sets regional record

Longboat Key resident, United States Congressman and founder of

One of the most expensive and opulent estates on Longboat Key, which straddles more than one acre of Gulf-front on the island's south end, hit the market for \$35 million setting a record for the highest priced residential listing in the region – ever.

So how is \$35 million justified in a market crowded with luxury listings?

Primarily through a preponderance of superlatives.

For instance, the 20,000 square-foot estate, named La Serenissima, sits on 1.1 acres of direct beachfront property behind



the gates of the Longboat Key Club's Islandside development. All six bedrooms, the kitchen and main living room and the grand salon, which can entertain more than 100, are all treated to sweeping and unrestricted

views of the Gulf of Mexico.

The home is currently owned by Jim and Laura Rogers, a retired Fortune 500 CEO, who bought the property in 2020 for \$16.5 million.

See Top Listing, page 2

St. Armands flood project heads to County for funding

Homeowners from St. Armands Circle to Lido and Longboat Key should all be excited with last week's news that the federal government has approved Sarasota County to spend \$210 million in federal funds to help recover from last year's hurricane damages.

What does this specifically means for St. Armands Circle, which was an epicenter for commercial and residential flooding and damage?

Most importantly, it means that a \$10 million "St. Armands Resiliency and Flood Mitigation" project is in

See Flooding, page 2

Christ Church Fights Hunger



A transformational grant of \$40,000 to EFELT has been awarded by Christ Church of Longboat Key. The grant will enable EFELT (Elks Feeding Empty Little Tummies) to build a storage facility to both store and prepare weekend food for at-risk children in Bradenton.

EFELT's mission is to provide children from hunger-deprived families with enough food to get them through the weekend. Food is distributed to at-risk children through 13 Bradenton schools. Each week, EFELT provides weekend food to between 500 and 600 needy children.

EFELT is a totally volunteer organization. It receives discounted food through arrangements with a food bank and several area grocery stores, augmented by

See Church, page 15

WineTimes A study in resiliency... The St. Armands Food & Beverage Sector

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

For those who have heard of the destruction caused by Hurricanes Helene and Milton in shore points around Sarasota Florida but have not had a chance to take a look at the recovery so far, we have generally encouraging news about the food and beverage sector in St Armand's and Lido Key. True, a few favorite venues have either closed permanently or have uncertain futures, but many have reopened or have a reopening date in sight.

In the days following Helene's storm surge flooding of St Armand's and Lido Key on October 26, 2024, many residents feared the worse. Sea water and sludge remained in the streets. Debris covered higher ground and drifted into ponds on lower ground. Flooding of the lower floors of retail buildings in

See Food & Wine, page 15

Thanksgiving in June at Lazy Loster!

Benefiting Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee and All Faiths Food Bank of Sarasota

Why wait until November for your favorite meal of the year? On Thursday, June 26th, three locally owned restaurants—The Lazy Lobster of Longboat Key and both Kacey’s Seafood & More locations (Lockwood Ridge & Tallevast in Manatee County, and Fruitville Road in Sarasota County)—will be serving a Traditional Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner for just \$29.

This festive plate features:

- Fresh roasted turkey
- Homestyle stuffing
- Turkey gravy
- Mashed sweet potatoes
- Mashed Idaho potatoes
- Green beans with fried onions
- Cranberry sauce

The full regular menus will also be available. All guests dining with us between June 23rd and June 27th are encouraged to bring five or more non-perishable food items to support our local food banks. In appreciation, you’ll receive \$10 in Lobster Loot or Kacey’s Kash to use on your next visit.

“This is a challenging time of year for hunger in our communities,” said Co-Proprietor Michael Garey. “School closures limit access to meals for many. Patrons can help simply by enjoying a delicious dinner and giving thanks with a donation. All that’s missing is football.”

For additional details, location hours, or a list of urgently needed items, please visit: www.lazylobsterlbk.com or www.kaceysseafood.com

Top Listing, from page 1

The home was designed by architect Clifford Scholz and was completed in 2005 after five years of construction.

The name of the property, Serenissima, means “the most serene “and is a tribute to Venice, Italy.

The home was crafted with artisans and dazzling details including hand painted Venetian murals, a glass sky dome and a car gallery for 12 vehicles.

The \$35 million listing price marks a new milestone for Sarasota and Manatee counties according to Realtor Rich Polese of Compass Sarasota who is the agent for the property.

Flooding, from page 1

line to be funded.

The city of Sarasota submitted four project proposals to Sarasota County, one of which is the St. Armands proposal.

The plan includes:

- \$1.5 million for design, engineering, and permitting
- \$3.8 million for stormwater drainage and pump system upgrades
- \$2.2 million for underground stormwater storage vaults
- \$1 million for permeable pavement and drainage enhancement
- \$1.5 million for the purchase of removable flood barriers (for the business district, not the residential areas.)

St. Armands Residents Association President Chris Goglia has been tracking the evaluations and recommendations made by the city and county when it comes to stormwater drainage in and around St. Armands Circle. Goglia has urged both entities to take action and prioritize any repairs and upgrades for hurricane season.

“We ask the county commissioner for our district, Mark Smith, to advocate for these desperately needed resiliently upgrades on St. Armands. So much of the area’s commerce, tourism and the property tax base depends on our roadways being assessable, and that our homes and businesses that could be occupied and reopened in days or weeks instead of months,” said Goglia.

Sarasota City Engineer Nikesh Patel works in the Public Works Department and has submitted the request to the county for the St. Armands flood project. His submittal seeks to upgrade pump stations with corrosion resistant equipment and backup generators, install backflow prevention devices at stormwater outfalls and improve weirs and coastal structures to better regulate stormwater flow.

The proposal also has a roadway protection measure, including stormwater vaults underground and permeable pavement and infiltration elements.



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Solo the Artist Pop-Up Tour Comes to Sarasota for One Night Only



Following the success of his debut tour in 2023, Los Angeles-based multidisciplinary artist and actor Darnell “Solo” Kirkwood is returning to Florida with a bold new creative experience – and it all begins in Sarasota. The first stop of his Discoveries Along The Way Pop-Up Tour will take place on June 17, 2025, at Cirque St. Armands Beachside for one exclusive evening only from 5–8 PM, in partnership with Hampton Water Rosé.

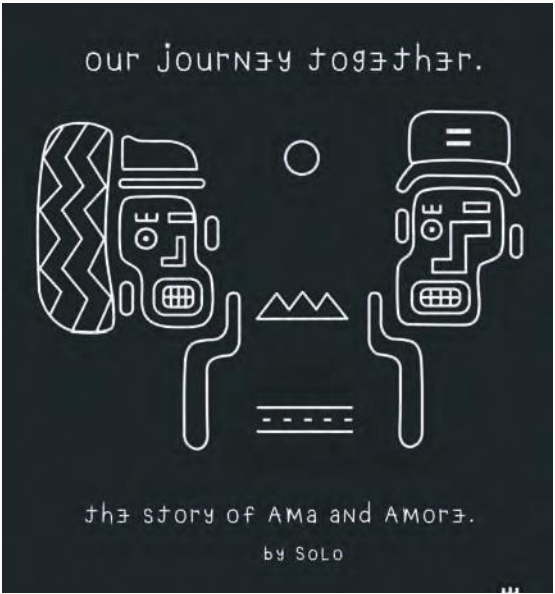


Widely appreciated for his expressive abstract work, Solo the Artist (Darnell) uses color, movement, and personal narrative to explore identity, transformation, and emotion. Often described as “color therapy for the soul,” his art invites reflection and conversation in unexpected ways. A former NCAA athlete and working actor, Darnell brings a dynamic presence to both canvas and community.

Now in its second year, this elevated experience is curated by Swish Creatives, a Canada-based creative marketing agency. Each stop has been thoughtfully designed to blend art, atmosphere, and audience through storytelling, interactive moments, and one-on-one artist meet-and-greets.

“This year is about deeper connection and creating space for emotion through art,” says Darnell. “Each piece tells a layered story, and I’m grateful to once again share this journey with guests across Florida.”

Guests can expect a layered experience where art becomes a catalyst for connection and conversation.



June 17 at Cirque St. Armands Beachside

From 5–8 PM, the lobby will transform into a curated, gallery-style experience. This immersive pop-up invites the community to explore expressive abstract works, connect through layered storytelling, and engage directly with Solo the Artist in a setting designed to spark conversation and reflection.

A FREE flow-through event open to the public.

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.

Ohana status report

To: Longboat Key Town Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons

This seems to be an opportune time to review alternatives which could restore beach access around the property and have a win/win situation for the owners and our citizens.

Paul Karon
Longboat Key

Ohana status report

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon

Thanks Sarah. There's been a building permit submitted for repair of the seawall. No permits have been submitted for repairs at the original house. We have reached out to their fence contractor to have the temporary safety fencing extended further seaward to help provide more of a barrier to the elevation drop-off on the backside of the seawall.

Allen Parsons
Director of Planning and Zoning
Town of Longboat Key

Ohana status report

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons

Can you give us a current report on the damage repair at Ohana? Is the beachfront exposed rebar a safety concern that needs to be resolved? Has a permit been pulled to repair or restore the original house? Any info you can share will be appreciated.

Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Turtles

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon

Thanks Sarah. FYI- Code Enforcement had been in contact with the contractor about the situation below and the silt fence has been relocated to the outside of that hole (photos taken this morning immediately below). Staff will continue to follow-up on every reported concern and will continue to follow-up proactively as part of both building inspections and during the regular turtle patrols. We want to encourage anyone who has reported concerns to contact the Town's Code Enforcement directly (an email to the codeenforcement@longboatkey.org email address will be sent to both of the Town's Code Enforcement officers).

We'll also continue to share with property owners and contractors options like using hay bales to help turtles avoid hazardous conditions. Recent guidance from FWC has highlighted this a straightforward option. On the suggestion about lights illuminating the beach and the angle of view from ATV's, Code Enforcement does walk the beach and does regularly view from angles other than the lower-scale ATV. The standard in the Town's Turtle Protection ordinance speaks to lights that "visible from the beach," which is defined as "Visible to a person standing on any portion of the beach." The best suggestion is for anyone who has concerns about a particular light, to contact Code Enforcement directly. All concerns are followed-up on. We really appreciate the many eyes and ears we have in the concerned citizens who help safeguard nesting turtles and hatchlings.

Allen Parsons
Director of Planning and Zoning
Town of Longboat Key

Turtles

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons

Are we doing enough to inform all of our (many) beachside construction crews about hazards to sea turtles? See below for Terri's recent photos — can your teams be sure the contractors remove these hazards as soon as possible?

Also: would it be possible for the Town to offer hay bales to block turtle access where needed? We could charge for them, whatever is necessary, but apparently there are many beachside lots where pools are open and accessible along with construction materials, tools and debris.

Turtlewatch is seeing a high degree of nesting activity so time is of the essence here. I will be happy to make some calls to property owners myself if it would be helpful.

It's possible that our code enforcement officers might be missing some of the lighting hazards that are still present for turtles. Turtlewatch folks think the visual angle of monitoring from atop ATVs is preventing officers from seeing the "turtle-level" perspective. Cyndi and Terri are cc'ed here, perhaps they will provide more specifics as to locations where it would be worthwhile for officers to "dismount" and take a more thorough look?

Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Turtles

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon

FYI. — not the half moon property. Will send those photos shortly.

Terri Driver
Longboat Key

Turtles

To: Longboat Key Code Enforcement Officer David Woods

Can something be done about this ASAP?

Terri Driver
Longboat Key

Street Lights

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

All of the street lights in Buttonwood have not worked for over three weeks. The commercial development pulled the wires from the transformer. There are only two occupied residences on Longview and at the end of Buttonwood only 3 occupied residences. It is not a good environment. Public Works has made a request, but no action. Perhaps you can move the issue to a higher level?

BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Ohana seawall

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon

Sarah this is some of the exposed rebar in front of the seawall at ohana. Picture taken at lower tide. If beachgoers are discouraged from walking on top, then we should work with

See Letters, page 5



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Letters, from page 4

owners to remove buried and dangerous debris that is in front of the seawall where beachgoers are forced to walk.
Maureen Merrigan
Longboat Key North Board

Noise control, & wfish sandbar

To: Longboat Key Town Attorney Maggie Mooney and Interim Police Chief Frank Rubino
Jim Haft and I are wondering what it would take to post some informational signs about noise limits and related fines in the “party boat” areas on LBK North End. Jim says there can be hundreds of boats in the area on busy days and a small percentage blast their stereos to the max.
Neighbors very much appreciate the increased policing in their area but they report that the noise resumes whenever officers are not present. Perhaps some signs would make a difference? Many boaters don’t know the noise ordinance exists. Can you let us know what might be possible?
Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Gulfside Solution

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon
Thanks for being on the LBK North call this afternoon. You mentioned Gulfside today, and I just read about the canal dredging project and the 80/20 split for the cost – which is nothing more than shouldering most of the cost on the property owners who will benefit the most. I own 2 canal front properties – and I agree with this approach 100% - it really is an equitable way to pay for this.
Why wouldn’t the same concept apply to the 16 property owners on Gulfside? The property values on Gulfside will arguably be worth significantly more if groins are installed. (Gulfside is currently vulnerable to storms. I have to believe any real estate appraisal/professional would substantiate and monetize the increase in value). I bet if you take the increase in value divided by the cost of the groins – the value increase would outrun the total project cost! That said, I’m not sure why the 80/20 rule wouldn’t be apply here. Thoughts? Thanks for your consideration.
Steve Weyl
Longboat Key

Gulfside Solution

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon
Congratulations on becoming a commissioner for District 5. I’d like to share a recent email sent to all the commissioners in November 2023. In full disclosure, I had the gulf front property at 6489 Gulfside in contract last year and chose to bail from the contract as I felt it would be irresponsible to build on the highest erosion location on LBK. Now there is a \$17 million spec home that is under construction and for sale at 6489 Gulfside. I am sure that the developer is hoping that the LBK taxpayers will insure their profit.
Thank you in advance for your consideration and representation of the majority.
Hello LBK Leadership – As a resident of LBK, I’d like to share my thoughts on Gulfside Road

and perhaps a reasonable path forward for this troublesome area. Hurricane Idalia certainly affected this strip of 16.
Steve Weyl
Longboat Key

Gulfside Solution

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon
As a resident of LBK, I’d like to share my thoughts on Gulfside Road and perhaps a reasonable path forward for this troublesome area. Hurricane Idalia certainly affected this strip of 16 properties, exposing continuous rows of old seawalls, but this should not be viewed as a new problem. These seawalls date back a half century - well before sea rise concern and put in place for a reason. (see enclosed power point and dating of Ohanna seawall) My fear is that taxpayers are going to be asked to bail out 16 owners of multi-million-dollar properties who made a choice to live/build in an area that has historically endured erosions.
Here are some bullet points that may help guide your future decisions on what to do with Gulfside Road as well as Ohanna.
In a public meeting held June of 2022, one of the LBK commissioners expressed my exact concerns regarding potential unfairness of taxpayer funding for the 16 properties. I know there is some support for this sentiment already.

The Ohanna seawall roadblock is unfortunate from a beach walker standpoint, but I believe this affects very few people, which includes me. Yes, I’d like to continue walking south of Ohanna like I used to, but there is still a very good amount of beach to walk north of Ohanna and I think the vocal minority has gone through their “grieving process” and unhappily accepts the laws regarding beachfront property ownership.
In a candid conversation with the coastal engineer who had input on the enclosed Power Point, he mentioned on a phone call that he did not know how successful the groins would be in holding the sand. He was confident that this area would be a challenge given how far the groins would jet out from Ohanna wall (200’ ++) creating a very unnatural peninsula. He also questioned whether FDEP would actually allow such a project that would extend out that far into the gulf.
If the groins are installed taxpayers will be strapped with maintaining the renourishment at a potentially steep and unknown cost. Note – All of the cost estimates were done prior to recent inflation spikes.
Now that Hurricane Idalia has exposed seawalls and other hard structure – I believe LBK code requires property owners to maintain seawalls (seawalls shall be maintained plumb and in good repair, without visible deterioration, spalling of concrete, exposed reinforcements, ground holes, or other damage). Why not enforce current municipal code? This would also give property owners an opportunity to protect their properties and exhibit their willingness to do so without relying on others (taxpayers) to bail them out.
Casey Key Example:
Use Casey Key as a guideline. Very exclusive beachfront homes protected by natural rocks at homeowner expense. It does not seem to influence property values nor a desire to build beachfront. In fact, new home construction is built to withstand sea rise and as time goes on, people will build with the expectation of erosion and storm surge. I believe that LBK can make an investment and effort to help the 16 property owners with getting the necessary clearance to reinforce their properties. This might not be a perfect solution, but it does not strap taxpayers to a very questionable and expensive project.

See Letters, page 6

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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 5

In summary – Gulfside erosion is not a new problem as is evident with half century old seawalls. The owners of these properties are/were aware of the challenges in this area (or at least should have been aware with some due diligence) and LBK can empower these homeowners by getting the necessary clearance to reinforce their properties, enhance the aesthetics, and help maintain property values. Taxpayers should not be asked to bail out 16 homeowners that have current property values of \$4 million (land only) to as much as \$17 million (i.e. spec home currently being built at 6489 Gufside Rd) for an expensive experimental project that will require constant funding. In the best interest of the majority of LBK homeowners, wouldn't it make sense to at least explore and try this approach first before committing to such a large investment – what do we have to lose? Thank You for reading this.

Steve Weyl
Longboat Key

Noise control, & wfish sandbar

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

As Sarah points out, it's unlikely that boaters are aware of our noise ordinance. Appropriate signage would alert boaters to the ordinance and the possibility of fines. Currently, the only way they become aware is when they receive a warning from our police. Signage works 24/7 and will hopefully reduce the need for continuous enforcement by our marine patrols. I would suggest 3 or 4 signs on the JFK sandbar itself, and 1 or 2 on Greer Island as well.

FS 327.40 and 327.41 provide for FWC to issue permits for waterway signage. However, the intent of the statutes is primarily aimed at restricting municipalities from unilaterally erecting signage that would regulate speeds and navigation, create restricted boating areas, and the like. The FWC signage application form contemplates just that. If we were to draft our application as a request for an "informational sign" (informing people of the existence of our noise ordinance), I believe the likelihood of approval would be much greater. Thank you all for your attention to this issue.

Jim Haft
Longboat Key

Noise control, & wfish sandbar

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon

Thank you for reaching out and sharing these concerns. We certainly recognize the challenges created by the high volume of boaters in the North End area, particularly on busy weekends, and appreciate the feedback from the neighbors.

After discussing with Mr. Tipton, we believe that to fully explore the feasibility, locations,

jurisdictional considerations, and any permitting requirements, we should schedule a meeting to discuss this further. Posting informational signs about the noise ordinance may be a helpful step in raising awareness and encouraging compliance among boaters.

We recommend including our Public Works Director, Charlie Mopps, and a representative from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), considering their authority over the waterways and potential role in enforcing and placing such signage.

Please let me know your availability, and we will coordinate a meeting to move this conversation forward.

Frank Rubino
Interim Chief of Police
Longboat Key Police Department

Emergency Management Bill Seeks to Eliminate More Home Rule on Development

To: Florida Representative Andrew Parker

That would be great. Thanks.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Emergency Management Bill Seeks to Eliminate More Home Rule on Development

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

The bill has not yet been signed by the Governor or presented to him. I don't particularly know what the plan in place for doing so is yet. While session is still active, the Legislature narrowed the scope of bills being considered to strictly budget related items. SB 180 will either go into law as is or not at all. Want to plan for the 26th? Say 10 o'clock?

Andrew Parker
Rep. Florida

Emergency Management Bill Seeks to Eliminate More Home Rule on Development

To: Florida Representative Andrew Parker

No problem, Andrew. Do you know if the Governor has signed the bill or plans to? If not, could there be an opportunity to withdraw the bill. If the bill is signed as is, we would be looking to next session to permit hurricane-damaged communities to amend their zoning laws in ways (1) unrelated to storm damage (in our case, to restrict the width of a boat and its dock

See Letters, page 8

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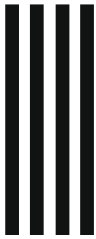


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EditorLetters



Letters, from page 6

from extending too far into our narrow canals) or (2) in ways directly improving the resiliency of structures (in our case, to require rebuilt structures to include 2 feet of additional freeboard, to minimize flooding risk to occupied areas). I am available any day after June 19 for a call.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Emergency Management Bill Seeks to Eliminate More Home Rule on Development

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

I owe you a big apology. We were called back up to Tallahassee last week for budget conference and setting a time up for you and the Rep totally slipped my mind. I am sorry. Would you still like to chat with her about the bill? What days over the next two weeks may be good for you?

Andrew Parker
Rep. Florida

Emergency Management Bill Seeks to Eliminate More Home Rule on Development

To: Florida Representative Andrew Parker

Thanks for reaching out. I believe the issues I raised are contained in amendments introduced by Representative MacFarland to SB 180 which, if I'm not mistaken, was passed but not yet signed by the Governor. While some wide ranging objections have been posed by others to the moratoria on development changes called for by the amended bill, we on Longboat Key have struggled with the perhaps unintended and undesirable consequences of the initial versions of these restrictions, enacted after Hurricane Ian.

I would be happy to share these thoughts with the Representative, by phone or otherwise, whenever she has a free moment. Next week works for me, especially if there is a chance of blunting the effect of some of the unintended consequences of S 180 mentioned above before this session ends.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Emergency Management Bill Seeks to Eliminate More Home Rule on Development

To: Kenneth Schneier

Subject: RE: Amendment to Emergency Management Bill Seeks to Eliminate More Home Rule on Development - The Bradenton Times

To: Longboat Key Town Mayor Ken Schneier

I can try to set some time up for y'all and the Rep to chat if you would like. I know we do have to plan her visit to the Commission for a post session update. Maybe both can serve as one.

Session is of course still going on but it is solely about the budget now as the presiding offi-

cers are negotiating and then the full chambers will hopefully go into budget conference soon.

Let me know what y'all would like to do. Have a great weekend, sir!

Andrew Parker
Legislative Aide to Representative Fiona McFarland
District 73

Emergency Management Bill Seeks to Eliminate More Home Rule on Development

To: Rep. Legislative Aid Andrew Parker

I had read about this bill, which seemed like a further/permanent extension of the already extended moratorium for any development restrictions on Longboat. Since this has blocked us in the past from instituting safety and resilience measures (such as the boat/dock width limit and the freeboard height requirement to improve flood control), can we try for exceptions to changes like these that don't impede reconstruction but are positive developments? Especially as the sponsor is our Fiona?

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Boating Hazard

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin

Hi Gary, hope all is good with you guys. We were taking a boat ride this past weekend and noticed the broken old fishing reef marker pole still sticking up a foot or so above the water off Yardarm about a hundred yards off the sea wall. There is an orange life vest tied to it which is helpful in the daytime but not so much at night. Should we call the CG? Have a good Summer.

Bob Gault
Longboat Key

Waste Management follow up

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin

Brenna Haggar, from Waste Management, wanted me to pass along how lovely it was to meet you all on Monday, and to let you know she looks forward to serving Longboat Key as our WM representative.

She also mentioned to me that you had asked about scheduling an e-waste/HHW collection event. We are working on this and will have an update soon with proposed dates. I will also make sure to work with our communications team to get the word out, once we solidify plans.

If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Julie Anderson
Public Works Office Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Waste Management follow up

To: Longboat Key Public Works Office Manager Julie Anderson

Julie, that's fabulous news. Thank you for your quick response.

Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Waste Management follow up

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin

Brenna Haggar, from Waste Management, wanted me to pass along how lovely it was to meet you all on Monday, and to let you know she looks forward to serving Longboat Key as our WM representative.

She also mentioned to me that you had asked about scheduling an e-waste/HHW collection event. We are working on this and will have an update soon with proposed dates. I will also make sure to work with our communications team to get the word out, once we solidify plans.

If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. Can you attend joint meeting June 18?

Julie Anderson
Public Works Office Manager

See Letters, page 12

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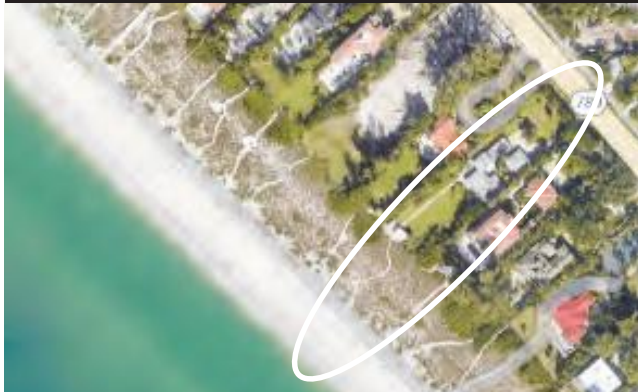
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OnPatrol

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

June 6 Citizen assist

7:29 a.m.
Officer Mathis was dispatched to the 2900 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to an American Flag hanging upside down observed by someone passing by and requested a welfare check due to the possible signal of distress. Officer Mathis and Officer Troyer responded to the residence and observed that the American Flag had been torn from the grommets. Officer Troyer and Officer Mathis removed the damaged American flag, properly folded it and placed it on the front porch bench of the residence. Officers attempted to make contact with the residents by knocking on the door and ringing the doorbell but unfortunately no one was home. Case clear.



Bird

5:11 p.m.
Officer Troyer was dispatched to Sands Point Road for a bird who was attacking customers. While enroute, Officer Troyer contacted the complainant by phone and he stated that over the course of a week, multiple customers were attacked by a bird while standing outside of the front lobby. Staff had to block off a section of the front lobby to prevent any further attacks. The complainant requested animal services relocate the bird. Officer Troyer spoke with Sarasota County Animal Services by phone. Animal Service Office reported they were unable to relocate the bird or nests, because the actions appeared to be natural, but they would contact Venice Wildlife Center for assistance. Case clear.

June 7 Disturbance

10:03 p.m.
Officer Pescuma while on patrol in Channel Lane, was approached by a motorist in reference to a verbal dispute. Officer Pescuma made contact with the motorist and passenger who stated that they were leaving the restaurant when a man was causing a disturbance and started a verbal altercation in the parking lot with the two complainants. Officer Van Dyke and Officer Pescuma located the man in the area of Channel Lane as he was walking home to his residence. Both parties stated it was a verbal altercation and it never got physical. Both parties left the area without incident. Case clear.

June 8 Found property

10:20 a.m.
Officer Troyer was dispatched to the 4800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on the report of found property. The caller reported a lost umbrella base which he left on the beach. Upon arrival, Officer Troyer met with the caller who said they left the umbrella base on the beach and when he returned this morning, the base was gone. The man felt the incident was theft, however, Officer Troyer informed him leaving the item on a public beach could be perceived as abandoned property. The man assumed this was the answer, but was unsure. Case clear.

Noise

9:19 p.m.
Officer Pescuma was dispatched to the 4300 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to 5 or 6 juvenile males running around in the parking lot and swimming in the resort pool. The caller had concerns that they may be trespassing. Upon arrival, it was determined by the property manager on scene, that the juveniles were in fact guests at the resort. Caller was advised, case clear.

June 9 Vessel

2:12 p.m.

Sgt. Montfort while on marine patrol, observed a vessel run aground on Greer Island. Due to the sea's condition, officers were unable to approach the vessel to make contact. Officer Mathis contacted Officer Maple who responded out to the beach on the UTV. Officer Maple, Officer Nazareno and Officer Tillman made contact with the boat captain who stated his engine stopped running. He was advised to contact his tow company, but refused to have his vessel pulled off the sand. The man stated he was going to wait until high tide, which will occur on June 10 at 11:56 a.m. The man placed his anchor in the sand and will be awaiting high tide. Case clear.

Noise

10:58 p.m.
Officer Tillman, Officer Ericsson and Officer Miklos were dispatched to the 3100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a disturbance between a man and a woman near a silver Infiniti reported by a third-party caller. Upon arrival, the silver Infiniti had left. Officer Miklos conducted a check of the area and located a woman standing near the beach access. The woman wearing gray clothes and blond hair advised she was okay and waiting on an Uber. The woman was uncooperative and denied being a part of an argument. Officer Miklos conducted a suspicious vehicle report earlier in the shift at the same location on a silver Infiniti. At this time, the vehicle or occupant was unable to be located. Case clear.

June 9 Solicitors

3:11 p.m.
Officer Nazareno was dispatched to Bayou Sound for a suspicious person call regarding an employee from a window soliciting door to door at the location. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno made contact with the caller who advised that she had told the employee from the window company that there was no solicitation allowed in the Bay Isles community. The complainant was unable to give a direction of travel for the solicitors. Officer Nazareno then conducted an area canvass and got an additional call at Bayou Sound for the same complaint. Officer Tillman made contact with an employee for a building company who had been advised by a homeowner that there was no solicitation allowed in the Bay Isles subdivision. The home builder employees left the area without incident. Case clear.

June 11 Alarm

11:15 a.m.
Officer Troyer was dispatched to Bay Isles Road on the report of a rescue assist with apple fall notification. Upon arrival, Officer Troyer made contact with the subject who stated that she threw her phone in her purse and the notification went off. No emergency services needed, false alarm. Case clear.

June 2 Vehicle

1:06 a.m.
Officer Van Dyke responded to the 6000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a suspicious vehicle. A concerned citizen observed a red truck parked at the marina. The caller didn't wish to meet. Upon arrival, Officer Van Dyke observed a red truck and spoke to the driver who stated that she was arguing with her boyfriend on the phone, therefore she pulled over for approximately 15-20 minutes. Officer Van Dyke noticed that her vehicle contained several miscellaneous possessions. The woman advised the officer that she had caught her boyfriend cheating on her this evening, therefore she took her belongings to move out of the residence. According to the woman she was enroute to Bradenton and she said the vehicle is owned by the boyfriend. Officer Van Dyke stayed on scene while the woman departed northbound onto Gulf of Mexico Drive. Responding officers canvassed the area for signs of forced entry or unusual circumstances indicative of criminal acts, yielding negative results. Officer Van Dyke checked the woman for warrants yielding negative results. Ultimately the woman calmly explaining her actions helped dispel any immediate concerns. Case clear.

Vehicle

2:36 p.m.
Officer Ericsson while on patrol, observed a Gray Mazda pull onto the intersection of Broadway and Gulf of Mexico Drive approach the stop sign and fail to stop while making a right turn onto Gulf of Mexico Drive northbound. Upon observing this traffic violation, Officer Ericsson conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle in the 7000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Ericsson contacted the driver, who provided his insurance and photo ID from Honduras. The man didn't speak English and called a friend who responded to the scene to translate. Officer Ericsson spoke to the friend and advised why he was stopped. The man stated he didn't have a Florida Driver's license and has never had one. He further stated he had a driver's license in his country but didn't have it with him. It should be noted, the vehicle was registered in his name and address, however there was no Driver's License number associated

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380 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#536	2,903	\$2,275,000	4	4	1	88	\$2,000,000
1906 HARBOUR LINKS CIR Unit#14	2,180	\$1,630,000	3	3	1	124	\$1,575,000
740 OLD COMPASS RD	2,586	\$1,685,000	3	3	0	88	\$1,500,000
3341 BAYOU SOUND	2,421	\$1,495,000	4	2	1	0	\$1,325,000
1925 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#G8-307	1,257	\$787,000	3	2	0	11	\$735,000
701 SAINT JUDES DR S Unit#4	630	\$235,000	2	1	0	68	\$215,000
2800 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#M-07		\$180,000	1			195	\$170,000
2600 HARBOURSIDE DRIVE Unit#P-04		\$189,900				113	\$170,000



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Letters, from page 8

Town of Longboat Key

Can you attend joint meeting June 8 ?

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

In today's Longboat Key North Zoom meeting, Tal let us know that the Manatee Commissioners will be meeting with John Chappie and his team to plan for the Fourth of July holiday, especially regarding policing on land and water. Bradenton Beach has declared a temporary state of emergency for that holiday weekend, I assume to enable special rules and enforcement.

Tip and Frank, might you or someone from your teams be able to attend the meeting — set for 1 p.m. on June 18 in the Manatee County chambers? (Tal please confirm I have date/time right).

Jim Haft will be attending, and he mentioned it would be good if someone from the Manatee Sheriff's team would be present as well (perhaps that is already in the works).

From what I am hearing, it sounds like Longboat's crowded Memorial Day weekend was a direct result of Coquina Beach parking overflow. Apparently the lot fills up by 8:30 a.m. on busy weekends. Crowds are getting bigger and I know you are already making plans to manage them. Also, I heard that the Chiles Group did not open their lot for parking on Mem Day weekend, rather some enterprising beachgoers took it upon themselves to remove the cones blocking entry. Thank you for working on solutions to manage these crowds, we appreciate you!

Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Waste Management follow up

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Brenna Haggar, from Waste Management, wanted me to pass along how lovely it was to meet you all on Monday, and to let you know she looks forward to serving Longboat Key as our WM representative.

She also asked that I pass along this clarification regarding a question you had about how the annual price adjustment applied to commercial accounts. This is her response:

I confirmed with our team that the adjustment is applied only to the "(b) Monthly Fee/Unit" column in the "Commercial Collection Service Rates" sheet (highlighted in the attachment).

While this change does impact the "(e) Franchise Fee," it's important to note that the adjustment is not applied directly to (e). Instead, (e) is calculated based on the values in both the (b) Monthly Fee/Unit and (d) Disposal Fee columns—so any increase in (b) or (d) will indirectly affect (e).

If you have any follow up questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Julie Anderson
Public Works Office Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Email

To: Longboat Key Planning Board Members

This is once again another reminder that all Town business must be conducted on town-issued email accounts and not personal email accounts. Not only is this requirement codified in adopted Town policy (see attached Resolution 2013-41), this policy ensures that each of you do not become a records custodian of your own public records and then have the legal obligation to produce all emails when public records requests

are received. The Town Clerk's office automatically produces all responsive emails sent to/from your town issued accounts. Accordingly, the requirements in Resolution 2013-41 are for your protection. Using your own personal email to conduct Town business exposes your personal email accounts and your devices to Florida's public records laws.

Further, pursuant to Section 5 of Resolution 2013-41, continued use of personal email accounts may subject individuals from removal from their respective Board. Specifically, the section of the Resolution states:

SECTION 5. Any Board or Committee Member who elects to utilize an e-mail

account other than the Town Business Account regarding official business of that

member's board or committee may be subject to removal from office or other sanction as determined by the Town Commission.

Finally, intentional violations of this policy will limit the Town's obligation to indemnify you in the even the Town gets sued under this law.

It has come to my attention that many of you may have received at least one unsolicited email relating to Town business on your personal email account(s) from a fellow Planning Board member's personal email account. Please do not respond to any of your fellow Board member(s), and immediately forward the unsolicited email to your Town issued email account.

We can discuss public records obligations and the proper transmittal of emails at next week's PZB meeting. If there are any individual questions regarding these instruction(s) please contact me directly. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Maggie D. Mooney
Town Attorney
Town of Longboat Key

General Harris

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons

Following up on our conversation today: now that the Town has hired an attorney to pursue foreclosure, the next step will be seeking approval from the special magistrate on June 20. I'm cc-ing Allen Parsons, director of Planning, Zoning and Building, in case you have further questions for him. If the magistrate grants approval, we will hope that you and your neighbors will see some cleanup and improvements to the property once the property's lender is alerted to current conditions. Thank you for your patience in this unfortunate

See Letters, page 13

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Letters, from page 12

situation and please keep in touch with questions, progress and feedback.

Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

General Harris

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon
Sara, The last time we spoke about the General Harris home it was up for discussion at the next commissioners' meeting, as I was told.
As we all know Sandy Wall has passed away from her fall(due to no handrails and all of the junk everywhere she stumbled and fell from her balcony! The youngest son Shawn is still in the home with his girlfriend and the oldest Justin has moved out.
Sandy , passed away on Feb.3rd and the nothing has been done to clean- up the stagnant , scum-filled pool that smells more and more as we get hotter days! There is no will !
The neighbors should not have to suffer and lose their property value because of the lack of cooperation in my point of view. Would you please pass on the latest and I will forward the info. Many Thanks Sara.
Katharine and Warren Girle
Longboat Key

Father’s Day Tribute - Call for Photos

To: Longboat Key Employees
The Town’s Communications Team is preparing a special post to recognize and celebrate the incredible fathers and father figures within our organization as we approach Father’s Day.
If you'd like to be included, we'd be honored to share a photo of you with your children and or anyone you are a father figure to on the Town’s social media platforms.
Please email your photo to the Communications Team by Thursday, June 12 or text photo to 941-356-8187. Thank you for helping us honor the meaningful role you play in your family and our community!
Tina Adams
Fire Administration & Communications Manager/PIO
Town of Longboat Key

Sandcastle today

To: Sarasota City Clerk Lucia Panica
Thank you Ms. Panica for the follow-up information and outline of the process. This is much appreciated.
Jen Ahearn-Koch
City Commissioner
City of Sarasota

Sandcastle today

To: Sarasota City Commission
Good evening, Code Compliance has begun the Notice of Violation process as we have not seen any movement or contact from the owners of the property. Josh Spence has let Ms. Gardner know about this next step.
After service of the Notice of Violation has been reached to the parties involved, whether that is through certified mail or posting the property itself, a reinspection date is created to notify the inspector when to go by the property to verify compliance. If the property remains out of compliance and the owner(s) do not make contact with the inspector requesting additional time to comply, photos are taken to further document the violations and a notice of hearing is set. This is established so that the parties involved can be brought in front of the special magistrate until the violations are corrected and the possibility of fines/costs are weighed.
Please let me know if there are any other questions.
Dave Bullock

City Manager
City of Sarasota

Sandcastle today

To: Barbara Gardner
Thanks for the email and update, much appreciated. It is my understanding that Code Enforcement was monitoring the situation and allowed them two weeks to get into compliance. It is also my understanding that that was over two weeks ago but am not sure if the current situation and communications but have copied Staff on this email to respond with an update (and copy me as well).
Jen Ahearn-Koch
City Commissioner
City of Sarasota

Sandcastle today

To: Sarasota Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch
Even worse condition than a week ago....no progress after 8 months. Lido Key needs help from the city please!
Barbara V Gardner
Longboat Key

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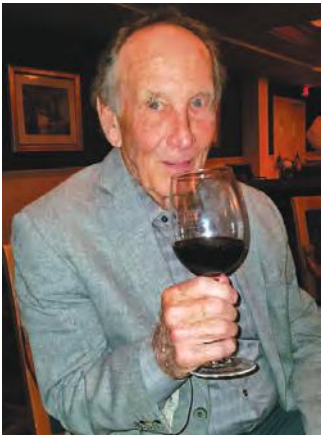


WineTimes

Food & Wine, from page 1

the center of the Circle did not bode well for the future. The eye of Hurricane Milton brought high winds and flooding to the area a week later. Things looked desperate.

The hot, swampy weather following the storms, including record high Gulf temperatures during November 2024, quickly progressed into the early days of the dry season. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) helped moved mountains of debris from flooded streets, businesses, and homes off-island. Sarasota County storm drainage management remained hapless in the face of anything more threatening than a thunderstorm. Acting in their own interests, two of the more popular food and beverage venues in an area prone to flooding did not hesitate long before beginning rapid recovery efforts. Several times during the past few years, flood water has breached the Columbia Restaurant, Sarasota's oldest restaurant. The muck out drill has become familiar to the Gonzmart family owners of the Columbia. Generations of the Gonzmart's have lived through Gulf Coast hurricanes and tropical storms in Tampa; as soon as the flood waters recede, the restaurant staff and contractors sweep the muck off the tile floor into the street and set up high fans to dry out the interior. Across the street, Rafael Miccio and Eleonora Lodi have a crew of younger family and restaurant staff members clearing the area in front of the Venezia Italian Restaurant for sidewalk tables. Inside, construction workers removed, scraped out behind, and replaced concrete wainscot panels. Within weeks, both restaurants had ramped up to near peak capacity.



Other restaurants in the vicinity began to open soon after. Seven and a half months after Helene and Milton, the food and beverage sector on St Armand's - Lido Key has filled in most of the old pieces. Starting before the bridge to Long Boat Key at New Pass on City Island near Ken Thompson Park and Mote Marine, the Old Salty Dog Restaurant (great fried shrimp, grouper filet, and edamame medley side) and the New Pass Grill and Bait Shop have resumed waterfront dining. Proceeding south on Boulevard of the Presidents, Speak's Clam Bar (happy hour baked oysters on the half shell), Blu Kouzina (Greek, Moussaka), Lynch's (Irish beer, whiskey, and stew, and hamburgers), Venezia (pizza and pasta), and Daquiri Deck (sports bar) are operating at full capacity. Following Benjamin Franklin south to Lido Beach, the Lido Island Grill at the Pavilion serves appetizers, sandwiches, and seafood dishes during the day to beachgoers. At the Lido Beach Resort, the pool bar crowds have returned and the elegant Drift Restaurant on the 7th floor has a full bar and tables at windows overlooking the beach and the Circle. At the Ritz-Carlton farther south and down a walkway, the Lido Key Tiki Bar opens a path to the beach.

Retracing northward on Ben Franklin, we found the poolside of the bar at the new Cirque Lido Key Beachside hotel added tables around the pool. Across the small lobby in the restaurant, booths offer diners lush cushions and curtains in a circus-themed, private setting. The Cirque has not only restored a venue damaged by the hurricanes. It improves dramatically what was there before.

Farther northward at the intersection of John Ringling and S Washington Dr., one of the more heavily damaged areas by the Helene Tidal surge and formerly the site of Tommy Bahama's restaurant, the very popular Kilwin's Ice Cream and Candy shop next door, now temporarily closed, has posted a sign announcing that the shop will reopen. Good news for the Circle. In the meantime, the River Street Sweets ice cream and candy store is serving similar treats to children who are exploring the Circle.

The path continuing around John Ringling and other sectors of the Circle has more to show

us. We will continue the story of the St Armand's -Lido Key recovery next week.

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.

Church, from page 1

donations and purchases of food. Their storage and packing facilities previously were in temporary borrowed space, and they were often asked by donors to vacate, disrupting operations.

Having its own building will transform how EFELT operates. The building will cost \$53,000 and will be located on donated land at an Elks facility in Bradenton.

Past transformational grants from Christ Church were given to Harvest House to start a mental health program that is now thriving; to Selah Freedom to fund a consulting program that is now helping trafficking organizations throughout the U. S. and abroad; and to Beth-El Farmworker Ministry to restructure its food program so migrant families can get fresh fruits and meats that previously were unavailable.

For More Information, contact Jerry Fox at info@christchurchoflbk.org or Andrea Hitcho, Executive Director of EFELT, at efelteast@gmail.com

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