



Longboat Key News

March 27, 2026

Serving Longboat Key, St. Armands, Downtown Sarasota & Anna Maria Island

FREE

InsideLook

MAGIC Etch-A-Sketch® SCREEN



America's Etch-A-Sketch Empire's True Cost Added Up ...page 4



Education Centers "Wrap" ...page 15



Is it time for new equipment? ...page 12



The Jet Ski that should not be ...page 10

Lofty Plans, Deep Divide: Longboat Key Fights State's Vision for a Towering Bridge

Longboat Key Town Commissioner Sarah Karon recently expressed her deep disappointment with the state's direction, urging transportation officials to spend more time on the ground to truly grasp the community's culture.



STEVE REID
Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

For the residents of Longboat Key, the nearly 70-year-old drawbridge connecting their island's northern tip to Bradenton Beach is more than just a piece of aging infrastructure; it is a vital marker of their community's low-profile, historic character. Now, as the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) moves forward with a plan to replace the structure with a towering 78-foot-high fixed-span bridge, Longboaters are mounting a fierce campaign to force the state to reconsider.

During recent Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) study hearings—including an in-person gathering at the Christ Church of Longboat Key on Thursday, March 12, and a virtual session on Tuesday, March 17—state planners laid out their preferred alternative. While islanders universally acknowledge that the 1957 bridge requires replacement, the proposed mega-structure stretching roughly one mile north from North Shore Road has sparked intense local backlash.

A Disruption to the Village Way of Life

For over a year, Longboat Key leaders and residents have advocated for a much smaller 36-foot mid-level bascule, or drawbridge. Their preferred design would maintain the current two-lane configuration while adding eight-foot shoulders and a shared-use path for pedestrians and cyclists, minimizing drawbridge openings without dominating the skyline. For perspective, the massive Ringling Bridge in nearby Sarasota stands at just 60 feet high.

Longboat Key Town Commissioner Sarah Karon recently expressed her deep disappointment with the state's

See Bridge, page 3

Sarasota Rejects 50% Parking Rate Hike, Opts for Extended Hours, Fines to Offset \$2.8M

The vote capped a tense regular meeting filled with fiery public comment, accusations of municipal overspending, and desperate pleas from local merchants still recovering from recent natural disasters.

STEVE REID
Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

Facing a ballooning multimillion-dollar deficit in its parking program, the Sarasota City Commission voted unanimously on Monday, March 23, to extend paid parking hours and increase citation fines, while striking down a controversial staff proposal to hike hourly street rates and triple employee permit costs.

The vote capped a tense regular meeting filled with fiery public comment, accusations of municipal overspending, and desperate pleas from local merchants still recovering from recent natural disasters.

Ultimately, the Commission adopted a compromise that spares casual shoppers and downtown workers from rate hikes, but significantly widens the net of when and how the city will collect its parking revenues.

A System Underwater: The Financial Reality

General Manager of Parking Broxton Harvey painted a grim picture of the city's enterprise parking fund, which is legally designed to be self-sustaining. Instead, the combined General Parking and St. Armands Parking funds are projected to operate at a net loss of \$270,784 in Fiscal Year 2026. Without intervention, that deficit was projected to skyrocket to \$2,826,000 by FY 2028.

See Parking, page 4

Turning Down the Volume: Sarasota Commissions Noise Study Amidst Corvette Revvers and "Cranky Neighbors"

The City of Sarasota is officially tired of the noise. Or, more accurately, they are tired of fighting over it.

STEVE REID
Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

Between the thumping bass of downtown nightlife, the roar of modified exhaust pipes, and the hum of massive new pool pumps, residents and business owners are clashing over the ultimate soundtrack of the city. To find harmony, the commission voted unanimously on March 23 to bring

See Noise, page 2

How a 1930s Bungalow is Ground Zero in Sarasota's Battle Over Preservation

Ultimately, the bulldozers won.

STEVE REID
Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

The ongoing tug-of-war for Sarasota's soul was on full display at City Hall this week, crystallized in the fate of a modest, 1930s bungalow.

On one side: the relentless march of high-end redevelopment and the sacred cow of private property rights. On the other: desperate preservationists wielding a metaphor about a fragile "pile of sticks."

Ultimately, the bulldozers won.

In a 4-1 vote on March 23, the Sarasota City Commission approved the demolition of 1668 Oak Street, a single-family home currently functioning as a multi-unit rental. The property sits on the

See Demo, page 3

Noise, from page 1

in the big guns—Gainesville-based Siebein Associates—for a comprehensive, citywide soundscape study. Siebein Associates,

The Symphony of the Streets

The meeting highlighted the growing pains of a city that has rapidly transformed. “We have a lot more residents living downtown than we used to, so now we are trying to find the new and right balance,” noted Vice Mayor Kathy Kelley Ohlrich.

But it’s not just the thumping bass from local bars keeping people awake. Residents and business owners alike pointed the finger at “deliberate noise” from vehicles. Jim Lampl, a downtown resident of 15 years, wanted to make it abundantly clear that he and his neighbors aren’t just complaining about normal city life.

“We expect garbage trucks at 7 or 7:30 in the morning. That’s city living,” Lampl said. He recounted a recent Saturday night featuring a “red Corvette pace car with a guy who kept circling downtown at least four times, deliberately revving and popping between Palm Avenue and Main Street”. “These are people who are not your customers,” he pointed out. “These are people who are just there to get noticed”.

Acoustic expert Gary Siebein sympathized, recalling his own gearhead youth with a stark realization of how times have changed. “When I was a kid, I did some work on automobiles with my friends,” Siebein mused. “You would do this in your driveway, but you never dream of driving downtown and making all this racket”.

Throwing a Cast Net Over the Core

Restaurateurs, meanwhile, defended their right to operate while acknowledging the shifting landscape. Paul Mattison,

owner of Mattison’s City Grill, added a dose of reality for those moving into the bustling urban core: “Chose to live in an urban environment, you’re going to have sounds different from living on a golf course”. He noted that at a previous meeting, most complaints actually centered around engines revving, street racing, and “a trunk load full of speakers at South Lido park”.

Mike Quillin, owner of Gecko’s Hospitality Group, reminded everyone that Sarasota wasn’t always this lively: “We can remember back years and years ago when Main Street, we all know the cliché that you can roll a ball down Main street, close it up at 5:00”.

Ann Rollings captured the sheer difficulty of regulating such a diverse landscape. “It’s not as easy -- I’ll use the metaphor of throwing a cast net over the whole urban core,” she said.

Even residential upgrades are adding to the din. John Harshman pointed out that as older homes are demolished and replaced, massive new air-conditioning units and multiple pool pumps are creating localized noise pollution for next-door neighbors.

Sculpting the Soundscape with “Magic Ears”

Enter Gary and Keely Siebein. The acoustic experts proposed a data-driven approach to “sculpt the soundscape of Sarasota”. Their methodology involves short-term and long-term measurements, focus group meetings, and “soundwalks” during quiet times, busy times, and “midnight acoustics” when the real problems occur.

Keely Siebein highlighted the unique challenge of “verticality” in Sarasota. Often, code enforcement measures sound at street level, finding no violations, while residents on the 10th floor of a high-rise face a direct line of sight to a blaring venue. She also noted the phenomenon of “hidden sound sources,”

where residents might blame a visible restaurant with its doors closed, while the actual culprit is an unseen pop-up venue directly behind it. To combat this, the firm uses 3D computer models—likened to an MRI for city noise—to visualize how sound travels through the urban fabric.

Gary Siebein kept things grounded when Vice Mayor Ohlrich questioned him about the difference between perception and measurement. “We don’t have magic ears,” Siebein admitted. But he perfectly described the shock of high-rise acoustics: “When you go into whatever, Mrs. Jones living unit, 20 floors up above and it’s like, whoa, I had no idea this is what’s happening”.

“Word Salads” and Wallet Shock

Not everyone was thrilled about bringing in high-priced consultants. The proposal from Siebein comes with an estimated budget between \$175,000 and \$250,000.

Vice Mayor Ohlrich directly questioned if the process could be abbreviated to save the people’s money without jeopardizing the validity of the work. Gary Siebein acknowledged that there is some latitude to adjust the scope, depending on how many areas the city ultimately wants studied.

Local provocateur Martin Hyde was far more blunt. “Well, I’m still the same guy I was an hour ago,” Hyde began. “I like the sound of my own voice, but I don’t like noise”.

Hyde wasn’t sold on the fancy 3D acoustic models and data-driven promises. “Word salads are very expensive. No disrespect, but all of these reports are word salads,” he declared. He urged the commission to cap the spending: “Can we call this one a hundred grand and call it quits? I hope so”.

The Law, The Limits, and Missing Cops

Even with top-tier data, enforcement remains a thorny

See Noise, page 3



CREATIVE KITCHENS & BATHS

YOU CREATE THE DREAM — WE CREATE THE REALITY

LEADING CONDO AND HOME REMODELING SPECIALIST LOCATED ON LONGBOAT KEY!



941-925-3723 Transforming your home, one room at a time — bringing your vision to life on Longboat Key.

Longboat Key Showroom

By Appointment Only
5610 Gulf of Mexico Drive | Longboat Key, FL 34228
State Certified General Contractor CG-C-1531837

Serving Longboat Key, Lido Key, Bird Key and St. Armands

CKB has a team comprised of general contractors, designers, expert carpenters, project management and more. We will bring your vision to life from first conversation to job completion.

- Full Condo & Home Remodeling
- Custom & Semi-Custom Cabinetry | Custom Tile Work
- Hardwood & LVP Floors | Solid Core Doors
- Baseboards & Ceiling Molding/Trim



www.CreativeKitchenAndBaths.com

SECUR-ALL INSURANCE AGENCY



Sandra Smith | 941.383.3388

VISIT US ACROSS FROM TOWN HALL! 510 BAY ISLES ROAD SUITE 1, LONGBOAT KEY, FL 34228

CHUBB, AIG, UNIVERSAL, UNITED, SAFECO, PROGRESSIVE, FRONTLINE, VAULT, FLOOD, WE HAVE YOU COVERED!

Demo, from page 1

southern edge of the Laurel Park National Historic District. While the house itself lacks individual historic designation, it was officially listed as a “contributing structure” when the neighborhood earned its national district status in 2008.

For property owner and renowned architect Todd DeGarmo, tearing down the structure paves the way for a new, thoughtfully designed home that complies with the neighborhood’s strict overlay rules. But for local preservationists, the demolition represents a dangerous precedent—a signal that developers can chip away at the city’s historic fabric, one contributing structure at a time.

“Clear as Mud”

The debate exposed a glaring flaw in Sarasota’s municipal code: the rules governing the demolition of contributing structures are, in the words of legal counsel Jay Daniel, “clear as mud.”

Because the bungalow is not locally designated as a historic landmark—a status that comes with ironclad protections—the Commission was forced to rely on a murky set of criteria derived from a 2024 memo by former City Attorney Robert Fournier. The memo asked commissioners to determine if “reasonable measures” had been taken to save, sell, or relocate the structure before resorting to the wrecking ball.

Charlie Bailey, the land use attorney representing DeGarmo, argued that his client had exhausted all reasonable options. The lot’s strict 35% coverage limit makes expanding the current footprint nearly impossible, the property operates at a financial loss as a rental, and a recent attempt to relocate the house to a nearby vacant lot fell through at the last minute.

“I’m not a developer. This is a house for myself,” DeGarmo told the Commission. “If I was building this for profit, I would not do the project this way.”

A 40-Minute Procedural Sideshow

Before the architectural merits of the house were even debated, the meeting devolved into a fiery, 40-minute procedural dispute over who actually had the right to challenge the demolition.

Ron Kashden, representing the Laurel Park Neighborhood Association, filed for “Affected Party” status to cross-examine witnesses. Bailey fiercely objected, noting that Kashden’s paperwork contained a typo (listing the address as 1688 instead of 1668) and that Kashden, a board member, had authorized himself to represent the association rather than securing the President’s signature as dictated by the group’s bylaws.

“I know the applicant would rather me not have affected party status because that would give me the ability to both rebut as well as cross-examine,” Kashden fired back. “I just respectfully ask that you not rewrite your standards for affected parties on the fly right now.”

Resident Martin Hyde captured the absurdity of the bureaucratic infighting during public comment. “There is a certain irony that you spent 40 minutes discussing whether to give someone an extra two minutes to speak,” Hyde said. “It all feels rather heavy-handed, doesn’t it?... The appellant is using every means possible to get the outcome his client wants.”

The Commission ultimately voted 3-2 to grant Kashden his status, but only after pausing the meeting so Kashden could frantically procure an email from the association’s president.

A “Dubious” Record

The tension wasn’t limited to the public podium. A rare public clash occurred between Bailey and Historic Preservation Senior Planner Susan Dodd over the very legitimacy of the home’s historic status.

During his presentation, Bailey claimed Dodd’s staff report characterized the home’s inclusion in the historic district as “dubious,” pointing out that early surveys from 1988 and 2003 deemed the property ineligible for historic designation.

Dodd immediately took to the microphone to correct the record, stating she wrote the word “irregular” in her report, not “dubious”. However, following a recess, Dodd had to return to the microphone for a sheepish retraction.

“I wrote ‘irregular’ in my writing, but Mr. Bailey is correct. I used ‘dubious’ in speaking at the [Historic Preservation Board] meeting,” Dodd admitted. “That is why I should not be allowed to go off script.”

The Pile of Sticks

Beyond the procedural drama, the hearing underscored a philosophical divide over Sarasota’s future. Commissioner Kyle Battie noted that the city’s real estate culture has fundamentally changed from a place where families buy homes to live in, to a market where buyers “demo it and put what they want there.”

Erin DiFazio, Managing Director of the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation, urged the Commission to hold the line. “When purchasing a historic home that contributes to a National Historic District, it is reasonable to anticipate that you may face some resistance should your goal be to scrape the lot in search of profit,” she said.

Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch, who cast the lone dissenting vote against the demolition, used a poignant metaphor to describe the fragility of the city’s historic neighborhoods.

“A historic district is like a pile of sticks,” Ahearn-Koch said. “The pile is only there because there are individual sticks that make up that district. When you start taking away the sticks, the pile falls apart... Where do we draw the line?”

For now, the line has been drawn around 1668 Oak Street, and the bulldozers have been cleared to roll in.

Bridge, from page 1

direction, urging transportation officials to spend more time on the ground to truly grasp the community’s culture. She voiced her hope that the state makes one final attempt to explore a drawbridge option that preserves the island’s low-profile aesthetic.

Robert McRae, a Longboat Village property owner since 1986, articulated the neighborhood’s collective dread. He pointed out that dropping a colossal bridge into their small, historic community would be profoundly disruptive, and he pleaded with the state to reconsider the more expensive drawbridge alternatives before finalizing their research later this year.

The Staggering Financial Divide

Despite the local outcry, state officials point to severe structural needs and massive cost disparities to justify their high-span preference. According to FDOT presentations, a February 2024 inspection report gave the current bridge a sufficiency rating of just 42 out of 100—well below the 50-point threshold that triggers federal replacement funding. The state maintains that a new bridge is necessary to improve structural integrity, emergency evacuation times, and multi-modal mobility.

However, the state’s estimated price tags present a hurdle that local sentiment has so far been unable to clear:

- High-Span Fixed Bridge: \$138 million (FDOT’s Preference)
- Low-Level Bascule Options: \$176 million to \$185 million
- Mid-Level Bascule Options: \$184 million to \$194 million

Opting for a drawbridge would cost taxpayers an additional \$38 million to \$56 million upfront, ignoring the perpetual costs of bridge tenders and mechanical maintenance.

According to the state’s project website, the five-year work program has earmarked funding for the next phase of project design in fiscal year 2026. While the project requires no private right-of-way acquisition, it will demand a permanent 0.23-acre maintenance easement carved out of the Coquina Bayside Park and boat ramp. Currently, there is no funding allocated for actual construction.

Engineering Flaws Spark Cross-Bay Alarm

The anxiety over the state’s design is not contained to Longboat Key; officials across the pass in Bradenton Beach are equally alarmed by the proposed traffic patterns, warning that the bridge will cause bottlenecks that impact both islands.

Noise, from page 2

issue. Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch expressed concern over state preemptions, specifically Senate Bill 180, questioning if the city would even be legally allowed to implement Siebein’s recommendations.

City staff member Pat Robinson gave a candid, slightly exasperated defense of the Sarasota Police Department against accusations of lax enforcement. “I always tell you guys, we talk about signage, if people followed signs, I would be out of a job, right?” Robinson joked.

Robinson clarified that while some cities use sound cameras, “the state of Florida preempts that technology” for actual ticketing; it can only be used for monitoring. With only about 18 to 22 officers on duty 24/7, the likelihood of an officer being at the exact location the moment a car backfires is “very low”. He added a universal truth of policing to explain why the revving cars always seem to escape: “The cops are there when you don’t want them around and never there when you want them around is actually kind of a real thing”.

The Final Vote

Despite the skepticism and legal hurdles, the business community strongly backed the study. Restaurateur Mike Quillin expressed a desire for a long-term solution so businesses and residents can peacefully coexist: “I might not like the results. I have no idea. But I think we’re at least doing our best shot”.

Ultimately, Commissioner Liz Alpert moved to authorize the City Attorney to retain the acoustic consultant, which passed unanimously. A second motion to create an ad hoc noise control committee to guide the process also received consensus.

With the experts officially on board, Sarasota is hoping its noisy growing pains can soon be engineered into a manageable hum.

According to the state’s presentation, the massive new bridge footprint will require shifting the current Coquina Beach South driveway approximately 500 feet north. The existing driveway will be converted into an underpass to maintain bay-side recreational access for north and southbound traffic.

Following the March 19 city commission meeting, Bradenton Beach Mayor John Chappie detailed his alarm over the new routing. He explained that funneling boat ramp traffic to the west side of Gulf Drive will force trucks towing large trailers to execute difficult turns and wait for clearings in the traffic flow—a scenario he firmly believes will exacerbate existing backups.

Commissioner Scott Bear, leveraging his background as an engineer, echoed these warnings. He noted that forcing departing boat trailers to cross southbound lanes will likely paralyze traffic in both directions. Bear revealed that when he asked project managers why they had not included an acceleration lane to assist with merging, they admitted they had overlooked the concept.

While state planners have promised to review the feasibility of an acceleration lane for future design meetings, Bear maintained that pushing the bridge further north to accommodate boat clearances underneath, combined with shifting the current boat ramp exit 500 feet, will ultimately worsen the region’s traffic woes rather than solve them.

Growing in Jesus’ Name



CHRIST CHURCH
OF LONGBOAT KEY
PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Dr. Julia Wharff Piermont, Pastor

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

Friday, April 3 • 7:30 PM

Tenebrae Service with Musical Meditation

“Shadows of The Passion”

A service of decreasing candlelight with Scripture and Musical Meditation composed by Dennis Piermont, local LBK resident, and presented by local trio and classical guitar.

EASTER DAY FESTIVAL SERVICE

Sunday, April 5 • 10:00 AM

A Festival Celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord with Trumpet, Organ, Choir and Flowers!

“Little Word, Wondrous Life”

Childcare Available
Visitors & Residents Welcome

Watch any service via livestream at:
www.bit.ly/cclbkservers

6400 Gulf of Mexico Dr. • 941.383.8833 • www.christchurchoflbk.org

Parking, from page 1

City staff blamed the deficit on a perfect storm of recent crises and looming capital expenses. The flooding of St. Armands drastically hurt the bottom line. During that crisis, the city postponed the collection of parking fees and ceased writing citations entirely. Furthermore, the city saw increased expenses due to replacement costs for flooded elevators and destroyed meters.

The parking fund is also currently saddled with the Bayrunner’s annual funding of \$924,231, underutilized garages, and steep upcoming capital projects, including a \$750,000 State Street elevator replacement in 2027 and a \$650,000 on-street meter replacement in 2028.

To dig out of the hole, staff presented three primary recommendations:

1. Increase Citation Fees: A standard \$5 increase across the board (e.g., an expired meter ticket rising from \$25 to \$30).

2. Increase Permit Parking: Standardizing employee permits for both Downtown and St. Armands at \$30 monthly. Currently, Downtown employees pay \$20, and St. Armands employees pay just \$10.

3. Adjust Transient Rates: Staff offered two paths. Option 1 would raise on-street rates from \$1.50/hr to \$2.25/hr. Option 2 would keep rates flat but vastly extend enforcement hours—making on-street parking enforced from 8 a.m. to midnight (16 hours total) and making garages paid 24 hours a day.

“A Slap in the Face”: The Public Pushes Back

The presentation was met with immediate and harsh criticism from the public, who accused the city of bloated spending and blindsiding local businesses.

Resident Eugene Karovski slammed the parking department’s rising budget, calling the proposals an unacceptable burden. “It all sounds like nobody is buying what you guys are selling,” Karovski told the commission. “If an enterprise has trouble financially... they scale down resources, reduce expenses, which is the obvious missing piece in this report.”

The business community was equally alarmed. Rachel Burns, Executive Director of the St. Armands Circle Association, expressed deep frustration over a lack of communication from the city, noting she only found out about the proposed hikes by reading the news. She forcefully reminded the commission that St. Armands merchants are already paying for 50% of a \$16 million parking garage bond.

“To just have these kind of changes come in without any conversations is really frustrating,” Burns said. She targeted the proposed employee permit hikes, noting that while an increase to \$30 a month might look small on a spreadsheet, it places an undue burden on local labor. “Those are individual employees and business owners who are already struggling and they are already paying half of that \$16 million debt.”

The sharpest words of the night came from resident Martin Hyde, who mocked the city staff’s reputation. “You keep using the term ‘dream team’ to describe city staff when a better phrase would actually be ‘nightmarish,’” Hyde stated. He lambasted the proposed 50% hourly rate hike, calculating it would suck roughly \$3 million out of the local economy. “This is an absolute slap in the face for the local economy... and you are hurting the very poorest people in our community. This is a disgrace.”

The Commission Brokers a Compromise

Faced with intense public backlash, the commissioners searched for a middle ground that would fund the city’s urgent capital needs without crippling the workforce or deterring downtown shoppers.

Commissioner Kyle Battie defended the concept of paid parking as a necessary reality for a growing city. “As the population of the city increases, more parking becomes limited... We build a garage so that we have parking,” Battie explained. “Those garages have to be paid for and this is how they get paid for. It’s not like we just arbitrarily say, ‘Oh yeah, we want to tax people.’”

Mayor Debbie Trice agreed that parking isn’t inherently free, pointing out that structured parking costs the city tens of thousands of dollars per space to construct. She also suggested

that staff should look into aggressively raising fines for true public safety violations. “I was picking up obstructing traffic. Why aren’t we charging more for that as a fine? For parking in a fire or emergency lane, why is that a minor pittance where these are really safety problems? I would increase them to at least \$50.”

Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch emerged as the architect of the final compromise. She acknowledged the necessity of raising funds to build a contingency savings account and to eventually move the Bayrunner trolley off the city’s Economic Development budget. However, she firmly drew the line at punishing employees.

“They are hurting so much right now,” Ahearn-Koch said of local businesses and workers. “It is a small amount of money, but it is a lot to a business and employee at this time. Maybe someday, but I don’t think this is the day to be talking about raising the fees for the employees.”

Ahearn-Koch introduced a motion to move forward with a hybrid approach:

- YES to increasing the citation fines.
- YES to extending the hours of paid enforcement (Option 2).
- NO to raising the hourly parking rate.
- NO to raising the employee permit fees.

The motion, seconded by Commissioner Battie, passed unanimously. While drivers will still pay the standard \$1.50 per hour on the street, they will now be on the clock from 8 a.m. all the way to midnight, seven days a week.

Ads that work...
ads@Lbknews.com or 941.387.2200

BREAKFAST • BRUNCH • LUNCH • DINNER • CATERING • GOURMET DELI & BAKERY • CORNER STORE




WEEKLY SPECIALS
BEST BRUNCH ON LONGBOAT KEY
20% OFF BOTTLES OF WINE DAILY
RESTAURANT & DELI
HAPPY HOUR 3-6
NIGHTLY DINNER SPECIALS



525 ST. JUDES DRIVE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL 34228 • HARRYSKITCHEN.COM • (941) 383-0777



NEW HOURS!
NEW MENU!

Enjoy your favorites all day!
Great food & drinks served continuously.

MONDAY - FRIDAY: 11:30 AM - 9:00 PM
Early Dining & Happy Hour Menu
11:30 AM – 5:00 PM
All-Day Dinner Menu
11:30 AM – 9:00 PM

SATURDAY: 1:00 - 9:00 PM
Early Dining & Happy Hour Menu
1:00 – 5:00 PM
All-Day Dinner Menu
1:00 – 9:00 PM

CLOSED SUNDAYS

5350 Gulf of Mexico Dr. | In the Centre Shops
www.LazyLobsterofLongboat.com | 941-383-0440

Live in Your Home’s Best Light
CALL BRINGLES BLINDS TODAY

SALE! \$500 OFF all Custom Interior Shutters & Shades



Longboat residents and business owners Chris & Dana Bringle

Bringles Blinds provides affordable blinds, shutters, shades, and master installation services to the Longboat Key, Sarasota, Bradenton, Lakewood Ranch and surrounding areas.

CALL FOR A FREE QUOTE — 941-320-7019
BRINGLEBLINDS.LBK@GMAIL.COM
BRINGLESBLINDS.COM
*Offer valid with minimum purchase of three



A LIFE AQUATIC.



A PRIVATE MARINA & UNOBSTRUCTED CITY AND BAY VIEWS FROM EVERY RESIDENCE.

By the water, in the water, on the water. Whenever you wish. Wherever you want. All this, steps to Sarasota, yet tucked privately away on Golden Gate Point. This is the incomparable life Amara, unquestionably, Sarasota's most exciting and remarkable residences, ever.

NOW ACCEPTING CONTRACTS

Visit Our Sales Gallery | 1819 Main Street, Suite 110 | Sarasota, FL 34236

AMARA

ON SARASOTA BAY

CONDOMINIUM RESIDENCES FROM \$3.9M | 941.867.7160 | AMARASARASOTA.COM



ORAL REPRESENTATIONS CANNOT BE RELIED UPON AS CORRECTLY STATING REPRESENTATIONS OF THE DEVELOPER. FOR CORRECT REPRESENTATIONS, MAKE REFERENCE TO THE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED BY SECTION 718.503, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO BE FURNISHED BY A DEVELOPER TO A BUYER OR LESSEE.

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.

Congratulations

To: Rabbi Jessica Spitalnic Mates

Thank you so much for your kind words and invitation to speak. I would be honored to meet and speak with your congregants. A phone call might be best to arrange a date and topic. I will reach out to you, or you can call me. I look forward to speaking with you.

Debra Williams

Mayor

Town of Longboat Key

Congratulations

To: Longboat Key Mayor Debra Williams

Mayor Williams - Congratulations on becoming mayor of Longboat Key. We are so lucky to have you in leadership. I would love to invite you to speak to our congregants during our Shabbat services on a Friday night at 5:30 PM. We can make it work anytime that is good for you. Let me know the best way to get us on your calendar. If I or, the Temple can be of any help please let us know. Many thanks and all the best. Jessica.

Rabbi Jessica Spitalnic Mates

Temple Beth Israel

St. Regis Sign

To: William Pepe

I first raised this issue when the sign went up and I will continue to urge my colleagues we follow our sign code and have this removed. I believe it is scheduled for our May meeting and I urge you to attend.

BJ Bishop

Commissioner

Town of Longboat Key

St. Regis Sign

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

I am writing to express concern about the unauthorized sign erected by the St. Regis on its beach groin in Longboat Key.

As a longtime visitor to Longboat Key since the 1970s and now a homeowner, I value the Town's commitment to enforcing the codes and standards that have preserved the island's character, appearance, and quality of life. Those rules matter, and most property owners and businesses make the effort to follow them.

That is why this situation is so frustrating. The St. Regis's decision to install this sign without

approval appears to reflect a "do it first and ask forgiveness later" approach rather than respect for the Town's process and standards.

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated concern. Many residents have already been troubled by the resort's issues involving sea turtle lighting compliance and the circumstances surrounding its temporary certificate of occupancy. In that context, this latest action feels less like an oversight and more like part of a broader pattern of noncompliance.

I respectfully urge the Town to support the Planning and Zoning Board's position and require the St. Regis to remove the sign.

Longboat Key's codes should be applied consistently to everyone, especially large, high-profile developments that have a responsibility to be good neighbors and good stewards of the community. In my view, the St. Regis has not demonstrated that standard, and continued accommodation by the Town risks encouraging further disregard for the rules.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your service to Longboat Key.

William Pepe

Longboat Key

FDOT

To: Longboat Key Commission

Attached, please find a copy of the recent letter from Mayor Debra Williams to FDOT and also a copy of former Mayor Ken Schneier's letter to FDOT from June 2024, which is included in the current letter by reference. Letters were sent electronically to the FDOT District 1 Secretary and also to members of the FDOT PD&E project team today with hard copy to follow in the mail.

Isaac Brownman

Assistant Town Manager

Town of Longboat Key

Bridge

To: Paul Hylbert

Of course, Paul! Do you know someone who can assume the Presidency of the Republican Club? My term ends on April 21st at the annual meeting and I will be stepping away.

Nick Gladding

Longboat Key

Bridge

To: Nick Gladding

Thanks for your support of LBK North for the low bridge option

Paul Hylbert

See Letters, page 13

MEMBERSHIP: *Come Test the Waters.*

LONGBOAT•KEY•CLUB

Prospective members can explore several tiers of membership, providing access to various high-end amenities. Contact membership@longboatkeyclub.com or (941)387-1661 to learn more.

DIVE IN!

KeyRealEstate

Bird Key, Lido Key, Longboat Key latest sales

| Address | Sq. Ft. | List Price | Bed/Bath/Half Bath | Days On Market | Sale Price |
|-------------------------------------|---------|-------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------|
| 415 L AMBIANCE DR Unit#A801 | 3,380 | \$6,995,000 | 3 3 1 | 107 | \$6,700,000 |
| 590 BIRDIE LN | 4,297 | \$5,999,990 | 4 4 1 | 7 | \$5,500,000 |
| 1445 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#304 | 1,859 | \$1,475,000 | 3 3 0 | 155 | \$1,425,000 |
| 1701 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#404 | 1,551 | \$1,550,000 | 2 2 0 | 214 | \$1,300,000 |
| 1050 BOGEY LN | 1,706 | \$1,295,000 | 3 2 0 | 51 | \$1,100,000 |
| 1445 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#404 | 1,787 | \$1,150,000 | 3 2 0 | 193 | \$1,062,000 |
| 1135 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#502 | 1,392 | \$1,175,000 | 2 2 0 | 12 | \$1,025,000 |
| 5393 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#211 | 1,300 | \$860,000 | 2 2 0 | 31 | \$850,000 |
| 4500 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#202 | 1,312 | \$695,000 | 2 2 0 | 168 | \$650,000 |
| 3070 GRAND BAY BLVD Unit#612 | 1,371 | \$639,500 | 2 2 0 | 103 | \$629,950 |
| 3320 GULF OF MEXICO DR DR Unit#208C | 1,154 | \$599,000 | 2 2 0 | 107 | \$590,000 |
| 4960 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#204 | 1,096 | \$599,000 | 2 2 0 | 46 | \$585,000 |
| 730 SPANISH DR S Unit#99 | 1,375 | \$369,000 | 2 2 0 | 282 | \$337,500 |
| 1255 N GULFSTREAM AVE Unit#607 | 1,672 | \$1,550,000 | 2 2 0 | 11 | \$1,450,000 |
| 1750 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#9C | 1,364 | \$1,300,000 | 2 2 0 | 25 | \$1,275,000 |
| 111 S PINEAPPLE AVE Unit#604 | 1,513 | \$1,195,000 | 2 2 1 | 97 | \$1,100,000 |
| 33 S PALM AVE Unit#1602 | 1,562 | \$1,199,000 | 2 2 0 | 288 | \$1,075,000 |
| 430 KUMQUAT CT Unit#304 | 1,057 | \$900,000 | 2 2 0 | 0 | \$900,000 |
| 652 OHIO PL | 1,072 | \$885,000 | 2 2 0 | 346 | \$842,500 |
| 101 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#54 | 1,275 | \$850,000 | 2 2 0 | 126 | \$735,000 |
| 888 BLVD OF THE ARTS Unit#707 | 1,288 | \$799,000 | 2 2 0 | 75 | \$725,000 |
| 800 N TAMIAMI TRL Unit#1010 | 1,323 | \$599,000 | 2 2 0 | 186 | \$575,000 |
| 101 S GULFSTREAM AVE Unit#10E | 1,200 | \$500,000 | 2 2 0 | 392 | \$479,000 |
| 800 S BLVD OF THE PRESIDENTS Unit#9 | 1,090 | \$525,000 | 3 2 0 | 32 | \$430,000 |



**JEFF
RHINELANDER**

941-685-3590

Jeff@jeffrhinelander.com



**COURTNEY
TARANTINO**

941-893-7203

courtney.tarantino@floridamoves.com



443F John Ringling Blvd. • Sarasota, FL 34236



BIRD KEY • SARASOTA
247 Robin Drive
New Construction • \$13,999,000



ST. ARMANDS • SARASOTA
212 Tremont Lane
.73 Acre Waterfront Lot • \$6,995,000



NOW PENDING

L'AMBIANCE • LONGBOAT KEY
435 L'Ambiance Dr #J703
3BR/2BA/1HB • \$4,495,000



BIRD KEY • SARASOTA
259 Robin Drive
3BR/3FB/2HB • FULL BAYFRONT • \$8,195,000



GULF FRONT NEW CONSTRUCTION
4005 Casey Key Road, Nokomis
6BR/6.5BA • \$9,950,000



BEACHES OF LONGBOAT KEY
775 Longboat Club Rd. #203
3BR/3BA • Full Gulf View • \$1,750,000



\$3.4 Billion Career Sales

JUDY KEPECZ HAYS Team



Leah George
941-780-0597



Judy Kepez-Hays
941-587-1700



Steven Kepez
941-376-6411

L'Ambiance

SOLD - We made it happen!
#A801 for \$6,700,000

Surpassing my previous \$6.5M record in the 415 building — setting a new benchmark.

Improved Pricing

435 L'Ambiance Drive #L807
\$3,500,000 | Furnished
LAmbianceL807.com

415 L'Ambiance Drive #B202
\$2,150,000 | Furniture Negotiable
LAmbianceB202.com

Sanctuary

Epic Views of Sarasota Skyline and Longboat Key Golf Course

545 Sanctuary Drive #B506
\$1,828,000
SanctuaryB506.com

Casa del Carnevale on St. Armands

Improved Pricing

139 S Washington Drive
\$14,950,000 | Furniture Negotiable
CasaDelCarnevale.com

Our expertise is undeniable—deeply understanding the local market and truly listening to our clients.

Ritz-Carlton Managed The Beach Residences

#809
#709
#303

Membership to the Ritz-Carlton Beach Club available with this residences immediately!

1300 Benjamin Franklin Drive #809 | \$4,800,000 | Furnished
BeachResidences809.com

1300 Benjamin Franklin Drive #709 | \$3,450,000 | Furnished
BeachResidences709.com

1300 Benjamin Franklin Drive #303 | \$2,150,000 | Furnished
BeachResidences303.com

St. Armands

Open House - Sunday 1 to 4 PM

New To The Market

408 Jackson Drive
\$2,998,000
408JacksonDr.com

Hideaway Bay

757 Hideaway Bay Drive
\$7,488,000
757HideawayBay.com

Islander Club

2301 Gulf of Mexico Drive #11N & #12N
\$2,488,000
IslanderClub11N-12N.com

Villa di Lancia

2165 Gulf of Mexico Drive #115
\$2,350,000 | Furnished
VilladiLancia115.com

OnPatrol



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

March 20

Animal

3:55 p.m.

Officer Martinson was dispatched to the 4000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on a call of a dog on the beach. The caller said there was a dog in a cage under a white and blue pop-up tent. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson walked out the beach and located the white and blue pop-up tent. Next to the tent was a group of four women. Officer Martinson spoke to the dog owner who said the dog was a service animal and it was trained. Officer Martinson advised that since the dog is a service animal it was allowed on the beach but it she lets the dog out of the cage, it should be on a leash. Case clear.



he would comply and return inside. Case clear.

Disturbance

1:00 p.m.

Officer Martinson was dispatched to the 2000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on a call of a disturbance. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson met with the complainant inside her condominium unit. The complainant said that at 1 p.m. the owner of the unit below her knocked on her door and she said when she opened the door, the man said "Well you did it again." The woman said when she asked him what she had done he replied, "You (expletives) where do you think

the water goes?" The complainant said she told him she thought the water went down the little drain holes on the lanai deck and out to the property grounds. The man again called her a name and that it was going down onto his lanai. The complainant said the neighbor was possibly intoxicated and was waving his arms around when he was yelling and swearing at her. The complainant said the man never crossed the door threshold into her condominium unit nor did he attempt to touch or harm her. The complainant said the neighbor never made any threats and said she felt that he should not treat her or other people that way and wanted the incident documented for her HOA. Officer Martinson then walked down to the neighbor's unit to speak with the neighbor. He knocked on the door several times, but no one answered. Case clear.

Vehicle

5:30 p.m.

Officer Troyer responded to Harbourside Drive in reference to a suspicious vehicle. The complainant called the Sarasota County dispatch, and she reported a white van was parked in front of her residence. She was concerned because the vehicle was on a jack and the front right tire was removed and she did not want the vehicle to fall. Upon his arrival, Officer Troyer cleared the vehicle's displayed registration through NCIC/FCIC. Officer Troyer observed the tag was not consistent to the vehicle attached as the tag was assigned to a Nissan Versa and the vehicle was a Ford Transit van. Officer Troyer was able to see through the windows of the van and in plain view were packages. It appeared to be a possible delivery van. Officer Troyer ran the vehicle through NCIC/FCIC to ensure the vehicle was not stolen. Officer Troyer observed the vehicle was registered to a man from Tampa. Officer Troyer spoke with the complainant who was just concerned about being responsible for the vehicle if it did fall and cause damage. Officer Troyer informed the complainant that if she wanted the vehicle removed, the Homeowner's Association would be responsible for ensuring the vehicle be removed since it was private property. Officer Troyer canvassed the area, but did not locate anyone walking in the area that was associated with the vehicle. Case clear.

March 23

Person

1:26 a.m.

Sgt. Smith observed a man on the property at the 400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive conducting a business check, observed a person on the property coming from behind the building carrying two fishing poles. Sgt. Smith made contact with the man who stated he had been fishing and had done so at this location in the past, advising that no employees had previously asked him to leave. Sgt. Smith informed the subject the business was closed and that he would need to leave the property. The subject was identified by a Florida Driver's License. A records check revealed no wants or warrants; however, the subject's driver's license status was suspended. The subject stated he would make arrangements for both himself and his vehicle to be picked up. Case clear.

March 31

Dog

10:45 a.m.

Officer Miklos was dispatched to the 4000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a dog locked in a Mercedes SUV. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos located the SUV which was locked with a small white dog inside. The weather was 67 degrees with a slight breeze. The owner was located near the pickleball courts and left without incident. Case clear.

Vessel

1:15 p.m.

Officer Mathis while on patrol on Greer Island observed a vessel beached in the exclusionary zone on the island. Officer Mathis then notified Officer Barrett who was operating nearby. Officer Barrett conducted a vehicle stop at the location on a Seadoo Jetboat. The operator was cited for being beached in the vessel exclusionary zone which is in violation of town ordinance. After being cited the operator removed the beached vessel from the exclusionary zone which was posted by signs. Case clear.

Citizen Assist

9:52 p.m.

Officer Nazareno was dispatched to Bay Isles Parkway for a report of a vehicle unable to maintain a lane. Upon canvassing the area, the caller advised that the vehicle pulled over and parked at Bayfront Park. At the park, Officer Nazareno made contact with a 70-year-old driver who stated that she had lost her prescription glasses and was using her reading glasses and was having a hard time seeing the road. The woman did not appear to be under the influence of any substances and did not report taking any medication. Officer Nazareno was able to contact relatives who picked up the woman and drove her home. Case clear.

March 24

4:38 p.m.

Officer Troyer while on patrol made contact with a man in the 4900 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Mathis and Officer Troyer made contact with a man who had been on the island prior in the night and currently was, but officers learned that the man had an active warrant for his arrest out of Sarasota County. Upon making contact with the man he was seated in the driver's seat of the disabled vehicle at the location. He had the vehicle doors locked and was smoking a cigarette while on the cell phone. Officer Troyer initially tried telling the officers his name was different and gave a different social security number. Officer Troyer gave the man a warning about providing false information while lawfully detained and he confirmed his actual identity. Officer Troyer was also able to positively identify him based on a driver's license photograph which clearly identified him and showed his distinct neck tattoos. The man also confirmed his actual social security number and provided an accurate address on file. Officer Troyer confirmed the warrant through the dispatch center. Officer Troyer transported him to the Manatee County Sheriff's Office Jail where he was left in the care and custody of Manatee Sheriff's Office Correctional Deputies. Case clear.

March 22

Noise

4:00 a.m.

Sgt. Smith was dispatched to the beach area in reference to loud music, based on complaints from two callers. Upon arrival, Sgt. Smith did not hear any music and he observed a headlamp approximately 300 yards from the beach access and made contact with the individual. The subject stated he had been playing music earlier while crabbing with friends. He advised it was his first time on Longboat Key and that he was unaware of the Town's noise ordinance. The subject was advised of the town ordinance, a verbal warning was issued, and the subject said

March 25

Parking

11:53 a.m.

Officer Martinson was dispatched to Marbury Lane on a report of illegal parking. The caller stated there was a landscaping truck blocking the roadway. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson drove the length of Marbury Lane and had no issues driving past the parked landscaping truck. Officer Martinson contacted the complainant and she stated the truck must have moved further over to side of the road. Before leaving Officer Martinson spoke with the workers and advised them to just make sure when parking they leave enough room for other vehicles to drive by. Case clear.



LBK
Liquors

941.953.1835

The Island's largest selection of Beer, Wine & Spirits
Come check out our competitive prices!

Discounts on cases of wine | Special orders welcome

Locally owned & operated

Whitney Beach Plaza
6854 Gulf of Mexico Drive | Longboat Key, FL

Ads that work...

ads@Lbknews.com or

941.387.2200

Editorial Opinion

Etch-a-Sketch Empire: The True Cost of an Aimless War, from Hormuz to Longboat Key

While the President shakes the reasons for this Iranian adventure like a child's Etch-a-Sketch—one day thumping his chest about regime change, the next muttering about “back-channel negotiations”—the American taxpayer and the global markets are being buried under the debris of his shifting rationales.

STEVE REID
Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

Here on the barrier islands, the illusion of insulation is one of our most cherished local commodities. We watch the Gulf tides shift and trust that the manicured quiet of Longboat Key will remain untouched by the world's noisier calamities. But there is a predatory force currently bleeding the domestic economy dry, and it requires no passport to reach our shores. It is the arithmetic of a war that has no goal, no ending, and no basic economic sanity.

While the President shakes the reasons for this Iranian adventure like a child's Etch-a-Sketch—one day thumping his chest about regime change, the next muttering about “back-channel negotiations”—the American taxpayer and the global markets are being buried under the debris of his shifting rationales. This is not just a strategic quagmire; it is a full-scale assault on the domestic economy. And for a President who campaigned so vociferously on an “America First” platform of keeping the republic out of endless foreign entanglements, this catastrophic expedition is fast becoming an “America Last” betrayal.

The traditional, fiscal-conservative Republican base—the very voters who pulled the lever to stop the hemorrhaging of the national treasury—are watching in horror as the President goes to Congress, hat in hand, demanding a staggering emergency supplemental allocation to fund a war without a compass. It is a profound political and economic betrayal, and the receipts are arriving daily.

The Math of Asymmetric Absurdity

If one wishes to understand the pure, uncut folly of this conflict, do not look to the Pentagon's sanitized press briefings. Look at the ledger. In a classified briefing in mid-March, military officials confessed to lawmakers that the United States incinerated over \$11.3 billion in just the first six days of the conflict. At the onset, the burn rate was a dizzying \$2 billion per day, which has since “stabilized” to roughly \$1 billion every 24 hours.

But the true absurdity lies in the margins of asymmetric warfare. The United States is currently defending against and retaliating against Iranian Shahed-136 drones. A single Shahed drone, effectively a flying moped with explosives, costs Tehran roughly \$34,000 to produce. To knock it out of the sky or strike its launch site, the U.S. Navy is firing Standard Missile-6 (SM-6) interceptors that cost up to \$4.9 million apiece, and Tomahawk Block V cruise missiles carrying price tags of up to \$3.6 million each.

We are using a multi-million-dollar sledgehammer to kill a thirty-four-thousand-dollar fly. No nation, no matter how vast its treasury, can sustain that ratio of mathematical suicide without plunging its own economy into the abyss.

The Transubstantiation of Patriotism at the Pump

The immediate domestic tax for this unforced error is being collected at the gas station. On March 4, the de facto closure of the Strait of Hormuz froze 20 million barrels of crude oil per day—roughly 20 percent of global consumption. The transubstantiation of hollow patriotism into pain at the pump was instantaneous.

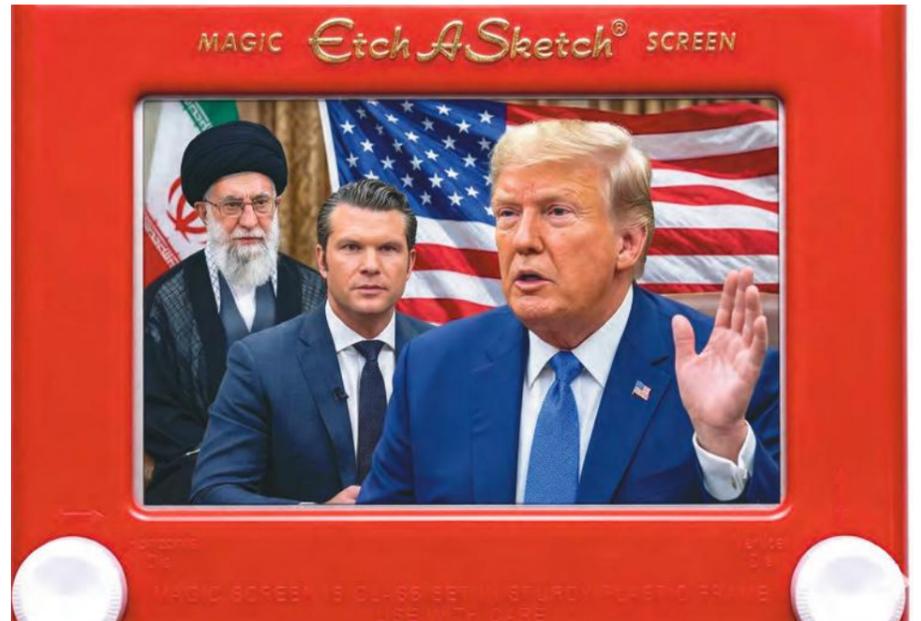
The national average for a gallon of regular gasoline has spiked 30 percent in a month, hitting \$3.97, the highest since 2023. But the true killer is diesel. Up nearly 50 percent, diesel is the lifeblood of the American supply chain. Because 85 percent of U.S. agricultural goods move by truck, this \$1.69-per-gallon surge is a direct, unavoidable tax on every cart of groceries purchased in Sarasota and beyond. Jet fuel has more than doubled, forcing carriers like United Airlines into an emergency posture of slashed flight schedules and skyrocketing fares.

Supply Chain Shocks and the Market's Verdict

Beyond the petroleum panic, the conflict has severed the arteries of modern technology and agriculture. As the spring planting season arrives, U.S. farmers are staring down a catastrophic fertilizer shortage. One-third of the global urea trade passes through the Middle East, with the



STEVE REID



U.S. importing 20 percent of its supply directly from Qatar.

Simultaneously, Iranian strikes forced the shutdown of Qatar's Ras Laffan industrial complex. Because Qatar is the world's second-largest producer of helium, this is not merely a regional crisis—it is a direct blow to the manufacturing of semiconductor chips powering global AI, not to mention aerospace and medical MRIs.

The financial masters in New York and London have rendered their verdict, and it is grim. Global stock markets have spent the last month violently shedding value, recognizing this war not as a calculated geopolitical maneuver but as an erratic, inflationary gamble. The flight to safety has been chaotic. The 10-year Treasury yield has spiked, placing severe upward pressure on mortgage rates and effectively strangling the spring home-buying season in its crib.

Perhaps most illustrative of this chaos is the flight to safety that isn't. In a normal geopolitical crisis, the gold market is the harbor of choice for terrified capital. Not this time. Since the war began, gold has paradoxically plummeted, trading not as a safe haven but as a volatile “risk asset”—shedding nearly 15 percent of its value in a matter of weeks. The markets recognize that this war is not a standard strategic play but an existential threat to the stability of the global system itself. Even the World Trade Organization (WTO) has sounded the alarm, warning that sustained energy prices could shave 0.3 percent off global GDP growth this year.

A Delusion Sold to the Base

The macroeconomic fallout is clear: we are welcoming a vicious wave of “second-order” inflation. As the costs of shipping and fuel bleed into everyday consumer goods, the 3 percent inflation the U.S. was finally taming is poised to roar back to life.

Yet, the President continues to try and sell this Etch-a-Sketch strategy to the American people as a necessary defense of the free world. It is a pitch that rings increasingly hollow to a Republican base that was promised a departure from the neoconservative nation-building of the past two decades. They were promised borders, domestic prosperity, and a focus on the home front. Instead, they have been handed a trillion-dollar tab for a sandbox skirmish that achieves nothing but the enrichment of defense contractors and the immiseration of the American consumer.

The historical parallel is damning. We are repeating the hubris of past decades, but executing it with a financial recklessness that is entirely modern. America is not being made great; it is being made deluded again. And the proof is not in the rhetoric out of Washington, but in the arithmetic at the gas pump, the tumbling global equities, the paradoxical plunge in gold, and the multi-million-dollar missiles fired into the void.

The President can shake the toy all he wants. The bill is already in the mail.

You Don't Praise a Rat for Fleeing a Sinking Ship: Sarasota Commission 'Listens' After Being Verbally Cajoled into Reality

Welcome to the neon-lit bureaucratic casino of Sarasota, where the house always loses and the dealers want you to thank them for the privilege of being robbed.

STEVE REID
Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

This past Monday, the City Commission sat perched atop their dais, listening to their self-anointed “Dream Team” of parking bureaucrats and consultants explain how they managed to steer the city's parking enterprise into a projected \$2.8 million ditch by 2028.

Let's rewind the tape and look at the crown jewel of this

municipal swamp-fever: the St. Armands parking garage. Back in 2017, the city rammed through a \$17.5 million bond to build this concrete monolith. And what did they almost immediately try to do with it? They desperately tried to give it away to private developers. If you read the dispatches on LBK News, you'll remember the hallucinatory 2022 and 2025 hotel pitches. Developers wanted to ram three-story hotels onto the Circle, jack up the density, and—here's the absolute kicker—seek waivers to use the publicly funded parking garage to meet their own private parking requirements. The local merchants and taxpayers were left footing the bill for the bond, while the city openly entertained letting hotel tycoons cannibalize the spaces. Pure, unadulterated Florida madness.

So, how does the “Dream Team” fix the fact that they are hemorrhaging cash today—partly because they're willingly

bleeding out \$924,231 a year to subsidize the Bayrunner trolley? They decided the best solution was to shake down the working class.

The staff's brilliant, spreadsheet-fueled proposal was to triple the monthly parking permit for the workers on St. Armands from \$10 to \$30, and hike downtown employee permits by 50 percent. Yes, let's balance the bloated ledgers on the backs of the people scrubbing the pans, pouring the drinks, and folding the resort wear. Let's squeeze the last few drops of blood from the turnip so the city doesn't have to reckon with its own financial incompetence.

Thankfully, the public showed up. And they were feral. The pushback was a beautiful, visceral wave of pure rage. Citizens and business owners marched to the microphone and

See Steve Reid, page 13

TeeTime



New Equipment vs Old Equipment: When is it time to upgrade?

This game is definitely about distance and if a company says you can hit this further than what you currently use I am very interested in trying that new Technology.

TERRY O'HARA
Columnist
News@lbknews.com

This is a question I get asked over and over with both members and new players. What do you suggest to someone learning the game? A golfer looking for more distance? A lady looking for more help getting her irons in the air? These are all great reasons to consider what up to date state of the art equipment can do for your game.



TERRY O'HARA

When I was learning the game in the early 70's as a young golfer I took my Grandfather's second set and had the local pro cut them down so this eight-year-old could learn with the correct length. There were no graphite irons when I started so I made due with steel shafts and learned to swing what I had. I figured it out but growing up now and looking for clubs is so different than my early days back in the 70's. When I was given my set of clubs they were purchased at the local sporting good store and the iron set came 3-PW. I had no choice on what eight clubs I wanted in the 3-PW and I took all of those clubs (regardless of if I needed all of them) and made it work.

Let's fast forward to today's choices. Getting fit is definitely the way to go when making that purchase. With a good fitter they can dial in exactly what you need so that all 14 clubs match your swing speed, lie angle, shaft flex, grip size and length.

Let's use an 18-handicap golfer as an example of what would be best for the player. First off let's realize that this golfer is in their mid-60's with a driver swing speed in the mid to low 80's. The first thought is we need to suggest something light to create speed in the swing. I love a 10.5 loft on most drivers and all of new equipment now comes with shafts that all allow you to increase or decrease loft in the head of the club. After watching this 60-year-old hit balls and factoring



in his handicap I know the shaft is graphite with a senior flex. Senior flex has enough whip in the shaft to help this golfer create speed in his swing.

Since this golfer is now in his 10.5 loft for the driver I now suggest both a 5 wood and 7 wood. I feel that 3 woods don't have enough loft to get the ball up in the air quick enough.

Now heading to the irons, I suggested starting the irons at 7 iron and including the 8-9-PW-SW & LW. There is no need to suggest any irons lower than that in his set. Where golf has really improved was the invention of the Hybrid. This student was fit to a 4-5-6 hybrid which is so much easier to get up in the air.

The next question most golfers ask is when they should upgrade their equipment. My answer is always the same.... when the new technology promises you more distance and

better forgiveness with what you currently use. I have many students that keep irons/hybrids for three to four years but want to demo the new version of the drivers that are coming out. This game is definitely about distance and if a company says you can hit this further than what you currently use I am very interested in trying that new Technology.

Terry O'Hara is entering his 17th year as Director of Golf at the Longboat Key Club. A 28-year member of the PGA of America, Terry is originally from Worcester, Massachusetts, and now lives in Sarasota. Terry and his wife, Lisa, have two children, Jack and Ava. His son, Jack, is also a teaching professional at the club. Terry is a diehard Boston sports fan and loves supporting all of his hometown teams.

Come Find Your Joy...



18 South Blvd. of the Presidents
St. Armands Circle
(941) 388-6402



THE EDUCATION CENTER AT TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL

Like College, Only Better!

2025-2026

LECTURE SERIES

- PAINTING CURRENT EVENTS
- QIGONG YOGA **MEDITATION**
- BRIDGE MAH JONGG CANASTA
- SUPREME COURT** AMERICAN HISTORY
- LITERATURE & POETRY **MOVIE & BOOK GROUPS**
- MUSIC & ART APPRECIATION JAZZ NIGHTS
- MORNING FORUMS THEOLOGY **WORLD POLITICS**
- FILM FESTIVALS** THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES
- AUTOBIOGRAPHY **IPHONE & IPAD** BIRDING
- NATURE WALKS** WELLNESS NORDIC WALKING
- LANGUAGES **PIANO LESSONS**
- SUNDAY CONCERTS** BROADWAY BIOS
- CRAFTS** SPECIAL ONE-TIME EVENTS
- & MUCH MORE!**

Everything Under The Sun To Learn & Enjoy

Many Programs Available on Zoom.

THE EDUCATION CENTER AT TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL
567 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, FL 34228
VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.TBleducationcenter.org
For a brochure or inquiries call: (941) 383-8222
or email Admin@tbleducationcenter.org



Town of Longboat Key ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS

The Town of Longboat Key is accepting applications for appointment to the following board:

- Citizens Tax Oversight Committee**
- Zoning Board of Adjustment**
- Sarasota County Bicycle and Pedestrian**
- Technical Advisory Committee**

All applications must be submitted to the Office of the Town Clerk **by 12:00 p.m. on April 17, 2026**. All applicants must be registered voters of the Town of Longboat Key. Late applications will be held for one year for any future board/committee vacancies that may arise.

All members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment are required to file a financial disclosure form within 30 days after appointment and annually thereafter for the duration of the appointment as required by Florida Statutes Chapter 112.

The Town Commission may schedule a Meet and Greet with applicants at a later date. Please call the Office of the Town Clerk at 941-316-1999 for an application or for any questions. Completed applications may be submitted to:

Town of Longboat Key – Office of the Town Clerk
501 Bay Isles Road
Longboat Key, FL 34228

Stephanie Garcia, Deputy Town Clerk II
Published: 03-13-2026, 03-27-2026

Letters, from page 6
Longboat Key

Bridge

To: Christina Vescovo

On behalf of the members of the fire department, thank you for taking the time out of your day in support of our Open House. I hope that you all had the opportunity to speak with our personnel and visit the firehouse. Again, thank you for your support!

Paul B. Dezzi
Fire Chief
Longboat Key, FL

Bridge

To: Longboat Key Commission

My letter is not so much about a new bridge because it's not my decision. I have a few good ideas for you to look into. I am in commercial real estate & travel a lot researching. I've lived on the north end of LBK part time & also have a condo in Palm Beach on A1A, so I have a lot to compare to. It may actually help if a few township leaders drive to the east coast to see how much help the parking meters are in PB.

We do not have traffic jams on A1A. Never anything this heavy...they put WAY too many spots at Coquina Beach. Manatee Co may consider re-planting pine or flood resistant mangroves & eliminating the a row near the beach. Too many spots up there in my opinion.

#1 Immediately: Manatee Co. would avoid a lot of congestion if they put meters at Coquina as soon as possible, before the new Cortez Bridge is complete. This week. ParkMobile is on everyone's phone & super easy to use. That will eliminate everyone coming in at 11AM & all trying to leave at Happy Hour.

2 Charge to come over from Cortez to all of the islands like they put on Boca Grande, or fee to & from LBK. That would protect all of the other islands too. We can make the town look good by putting % toward beach/eco system restoration or the turtle charity workers!

We are going to get ambushed w gawking tourists here for no reason w/ new houses on Cortez. No more beach parking ANYWHERE. If they want to be there, great they will pay for the fee to come across our nice, small bridge that already exists.

Christina Vescovo
Longboat Key

LBK Pass fixed bridge has a 6.5% slope!

To: Vassyl Lonchyna

The plan and profile are drawn in industry standard engineering plan detail for profile drawings, which s typical to see horizontal scale and vertical scale being different. The slope appears to be correct by calculation (may even be less but do not want to approach that with FDOT yet).

Isaac Brownman
Assistant Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Steve Reid, from page 11

verbally eviscerated the dais. And guess what? The Commission folded. They voted unanimously to reject the hourly rate hikes and the brutal permit hikes on workers, opting instead to extend paid parking hours and boost citation fines for the people who actually break the rules.

Now, the politicians are practically dislocating their shoulders trying to pat themselves on the back for "listening to the community." But let's get something straight: this wasn't an exercise in higher cognitive functioning or enlightened policymaking. This was the osmosis of anger. It was like yelling at an Alzheimer's patient until they finally drop the car keys. They didn't change their minds because the math suddenly made moral sense; they changed their minds because the sheer volume of public hostility vibrated through the floorboards and rattled their fillings.

Why does it always take a mob to act as the stick and the whip? If you look at the national contrast, it is painfully clear that while other municipalities run their parking programs as well-oiled, profitable machines, Sarasota's program bleeds money like a stuck pig. They don't seem to learn from successful cities, and they certainly don't learn from their own history. They just stumble blindly from one deficit to the next, hypnotized by their own consultant-speak.

They did the right thing, eventually. The workers won't see their permits tripled, and the hourly street rates stay put. But we shouldn't have to assemble a screaming militia every time the city tries to balance its absurd ledgers. Until the "Dream Team" wakes up from whatever bureaucratic hallucinogen they've been smoking, keep your pitchforks sharp. You're going to need them again.

Transform Your Interior For Less

Save up to 35% All Products Now!



Call for a Free Quote **941-251-1924**

Visit our Showroom

4201 N. Washington Blvd. Sarasota

Mon-Fri 9 am to 5 pm & Sat 10 am to 2 pm



www.blindsanddesignsofflorida.com

RINGSIDE
EAT. DRINK. SAVOR

Sarasota's Newest Dining Spectacle - Now Open!
A fresh, inventive dining destination just a short stroll from St. Armands Circle, Ringside balances bold flavors and Gulf seafood favorites in the mesmerizing setting of Cirque St. Armands Beachside.

opalcollection.com/cirque-st-armands 941.388.5555

DRIFT
KITCHEN & BAR

Top-Ranked for a Reason
Perched on the eighth floor of Lido Beach Resort, Drift ranks #1 among 900 Sarasota restaurants on TripAdvisor for its unrivaled views and unforgettable flavors.

opalcollection.com/lido-beach 941.388.2161

Business Directory



Dr. Nathalia Mesa, MD
Board-Certified Family medicine Physician
Your health, held with care

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS!
SAME-DAY APPOINTMENTS
941-251-0600

Primary Care • Wellness • Medicare Accepted
Medical Weight Management • Hydrafacial
Botox • Skin Care

Email: Hello@MesaPrimaryWellness.com
3645 Cortez Rd., W | Ste. 110, Bradenton, FL 34210

MesaPrimaryWellness.com

Loved again
Boutique
UPSCALE WOMEN'S CONSIGNMENT STORE



HIGH END CLOTHING, SHOES, AND ACCESSORIES

- JOHNNY WAS
- CHANEL
- HERMES
- JIMMY CHOO

4141 S. Tamiami Trail #8 • Sarasota
BESIDE TRADER JOE'S
941.702.8159



GREENWICH INTERIORS, LLC

Creating beautiful, functional residential and commercial spaces.

- New construction
- Remodeling
- Project management

We bring your vision to life.

NANCY O'ROURKE, Principal
(941) 279-7500
nancy@greenwichinteriors.com
Greenwichinteriors.com

YOU MAY BE MISSING MEDICARE BENEFITS

- ★ • Turning 65 Soon?
- ★ • Save on Doctor Visits
- ★ • Get Grocery Benefits

CALL NOW
941-225-8411

KENNETH ZUMBA
Licensed Medicare Specialist

FREE MEDICARE PLAN REVIEWS
Serving Sarasota and the Islands

Cortez Bait & Seafood

Fresher than Fresh!
Local Florida Seafood
Oysters • Shrimp • Clams
Fish Spread • Smoked Mullet

MON - SAT: 10 AM TO 6:30PM | SUN: 10AM TO 5PM
941.794.1547 12110 Cortez Road West
www.cortezbaitandseafood.com Cortez, FL
SEE US ON FACEBOOK



Call for a FREE Evaluation!

SERVICES

- Personal Care
- Respite Care
- Alzheimer's Care
- Light Cleaning
- Med Administration
- Meal Preparation
- Errands & More

ROSA TORRES, OWNER
941-536-6372
epichomecareprovider@gmail.com

ads@Lbknews.com
941.387.2200

KAREN & ANGELO POMPETTI
Two Generations of Master Barbers

Traditional & Cutting Edge Barbering
38 Years in Business



200 CENTRAL AVE. SUITE 11
ACROSS FROM WHOLE FOODS
484-889-8991 • menshaircutsarasota.com

Steff's Stuff
ANTIQUES AND TREASURES
ESTATES & CONSIGNMENTS ARRIVING DAILY

5380 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE
IN THE CENTRE SHOPS • 941.383.1901
SteffsStuffLBK.com

PD by CSTF



SCAN HERE TO SUBMIT A TIP OR DOWNLOAD OUR FREE MOBILE APP



CRIME STOPPERS
of Sarasota County

REWARDS UP TO \$5000
FOR ANONYMOUS TIPS THAT LEAD TO AN ARREST

941-366-TIPS
SarasotaCrimeStoppers.com

DESIGN 2000 Celebrating 27 years on the island!

EXCELLENCE AND EXPERIENCE IN HAIR AND NAIL DESIGN
941-387-9807

Welcoming the clients and stylists after the closing of David Gregory Salon!

6840 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE AT WHITNEY BEACH PLAZA
www.design2000longboatkeyfl.com

THE FISH HOLE 18 HOLES
OPEN 9am-9pm 7 days a week
COME PLAY A ROUND!

ADVENTURE GOLF

115 BRIDGE STREET
BRADENTON BEACH, FL 34217
PHONE: (941) 778-3388 www.THEFISHHOLE.com

ANTIQUE ORIENTAL RUGS.COM

FOR OVER 40 YEARS...
ALL HAND CHOSEN
ALL ONE-OF-A-KIND
BOUGHT • SOLD • APPRAISED



Visit our Sarasota Gallery
Call Robert Mosby
941.925.1025
By appointment only

Ads that work...
ads@Lbknews.com or 941.387.2200

WineTimes



Iberian Wines for Quixotic Times

Who better than the denizens of the Iberian Peninsula to supply us with libations to help us weather legions of failed, often dangerous, idealists?

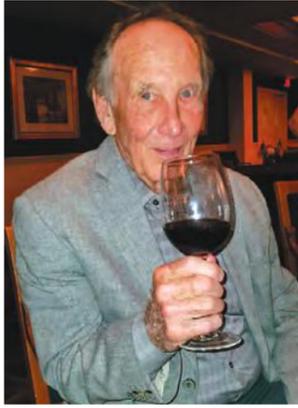
S.W. and Rich Hermansen
Guest Writers
wine@lbknews.com

The Oxford English dictionary traces the use of the word “quixotic”, coined after the publication of Cervantes’ account of the delusional Don Quixote in 1605, and it now reveals that usage of the word has increased rapidly since 1950 and is approaching its zenith during the 21st century. This index of sentiment among English speakers seems far too close to the truth to be denied. After the horrors of WWII, an era of civility in Europe and North America inspired efforts to promote peace and harmony. The edges of civility have since frayed; theocracies, autocracies, and centers of corruption now known as kleptocracies (rule by thieves) have increased in numbers.

Thus who better than the denizens of the Iberian Peninsula to supply us with libations to help us weather legions of failed, often dangerous, idealists. The Iberian Peninsula endured invasions by the Carthaginians under Hannibal during the Punic Wars and the Romans after 218 BC. Visigoth allies of the Romans took control of the Peninsula in the 5th Century AD, only to be displaced by the Muslim Moors invasion during the 8th Century. Northern European monarchies pressed to recover areas controlled by Muslims in southern Spain in the centuries following. The “Reconquista” of Spain by Christian forces enabled the Spanish Inquisition from the 15th to the early 19th centuries, followed by the Spanish Civil War and, much later, four decades of the Fascist government of Francisco Franco.

The wines of Spain and Portugal retain the character of regions that have struggled to maintain their identity. The northern Rioja and Ribera del Duero regions continue to produce wines from the old Tempranillo grape vines that scratch their concentrated flavors from arid and thin soils. The dark, shriveled grapes produce wines that rival the best of the Bordeaux and California Cabernet Sauvignon products; for example, the 2023 Emilio Moro Finca Resalso Ribera del Duero, Spain (\$20) excels when served with beefsteaks and lamb. The 2021 Quinta da Devesa Reserva Tinto Douro, Portugal (\$18) from Touriga Nacional, Tinta Roriz, and Tinta Barroca grapes, has a flavor profile more like a fine Italian Barolo: fresh fruit, moderate acidity, and soft tannins, well suited to pork, vegetables, and fish rich in Omega 3 oils.

Grapes widely planted in Spain and Portugal tend to be unknown internationally and sell at bargain prices abroad. Mencia (Jaen in Portugal) has a taste similar to a blend of French



Beaujolais and a California Zinfandel. The white grapes Rueda Verdejo and Godello have delicate floral noses with intense stone fruit flavors. The better known Albariño (Alvarinho in Portugal) grape produces wines that stand up to Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc.

The varieties of Iberian Peninsula wines let us escape from the jingo rantings of delusional religious and secular zealots. Spain and Portugal have held on to their land and the core values of the people who live there despite invasions and attempts to dominate them. We call for a toast for the Iberian Peninsula!

A recent visit to Los Bohemios Wine Bar and Tapas off Clark Drive in southern Sarasota Florida reminds us of the creative spirit that Bohemians brought to France and the Americas. Romani ethnic groups originally from India, misidentified as Egyptian (Gypsies) migrated through eastern Europe bearing letters of safe conduct from the Bohemian King Sigismund. Romani artists settled in France and developed an aura of free and creative outcasts. French artists and writers in the Latin Quarter began calling themselves Bohemians. Courbet and Modigliani, soon joined by Americans Mary Casset and Whistler, called their unconventional art and lifestyles “Bohemian”.

The classic tapas we ordered at Los Bohemios, the Bocarones white anchovy filets in olive oil, parsley, and garlic tasted as hoped. Perhaps the wines that accompanied them added a Bohemian flair. A crisp and clean 2023 Tarima Mediterraneo white wine from Alicante Spain near Valencia. Well-suited to fin and shellfish dishes, the obscure Mersequera grape blended with Moscatel has a floral scent and white peach taste that somehow melds with briny seafood tastes. The grape varieties in this wine combine to produce a fine white wine.

Our server behind the bar, Martin, recommended pairing the Iberian Jamón Croquettes with a red Garnacha (75%) spiced with a touch of Syrah (25%). The 2024 Bodega Cure Tinto Sobre Lías from Cariñena in the Aragón region of Spain. This wine has an intense but mild red fruit taste that matches well with the savory crust and fillings of the Croquettes. Disfrutamos mucho.

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.

KeyCommunity



What’s happening at the Longboat Key Education Center?

The Education Center has operated under the not-for-profit umbrella of Temple Beth Israel for the past five years, while maintaining its own distinct secular program identity.

SUSAN GOLDFARB
Columnist
News@lbknews.com

We are wrapping up the season at The Education Center and looking forward to planning next season. Our lifelong learning and cultural enrichment center offers everything from Shakespeare to iPhones, art history and current events, to painting, nature walks and birding, yoga, jewelry making, American history, theology, writing, book and movie discussions, film festivals, bridge, Happy Hour jazz nights, and a100 other diverse courses, lectures, special events and Sunday concerts, which generated over 3, 250 registrations this season! In January and February, we conduct 8-12 programs a day.

Westcoast Black Theatre’s Motown concert and the Billy Joel tribute each brought in 300 attendees. Our final Sunday concert featured the Los Rumberos group playing Mediterranean melodies, warm Latin jazz, and the passionate rhythms of flamenco— topped off with a sizzling flamenco dancer!

The Education Center has operated under the not-for-profit umbrella of Temple Beth Israel for the past five years, while maintaining its own distinct secular program identity. It draws on more than 40 years of experience in lifelong learning and cultural programming, shaped by decades of community engagement. We are grateful to serve our community in a beautiful facility graciously hosted by the temple.

The only prerequisite for participating is a desire to keep pursuing new educational and cultural adventures regardless



GOLDFARB



of religion or educational background. We believe that lifelong learning keeps the mind and body active, and the spirit young. It is the key to staying vibrant and engaged in our family life, friendships, communities, and the world.

If you would like us to send you a brochure for the 2026-2027 season, please email us at Admin@tbieducationcenter.org. Our programs are published on our website in mid-September, visit www.tbieducationcenter.org. The center will be closed in mid-April and will reopen in the fall.

Ads that
work...

ads@Lbknews.com or
941.387.2200

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

Sales
Lillian Sands
Steve Reid
ads@lbknews.com

Graphic Production
Dottie Rutledge

Letters to the Editor
letters@lbknews.com

STUNNING VIEWS | A STORIED HISTORY | PREMIER LOCATION | SUPERIOR QUALITY | A LOCAL TEAM | OUTSTANDING SERVICES & AMENITIES

EST. **M** 1922

MIRA MAR

Residences



STARTING FROM THE HIGH \$3 MILLIONS

THE GULF COAST'S MOST DISTINGUISHED NEW ADDRESS

Discover Luxury Living in The Heart of Downtown Sarasota

MIRAMARSARASOTA.COM | (941) 390 2955 | 1258 NORTH PALM AVENUE, SARASOTA, FL 34236



ORAL REPRESENTATIONS CANNOT BE RELIED UPON AS CORRECTLY STATING REPRESENTATIONS OF THE DEVELOPER. FOR CORRECT REPRESENTATIONS MAKE REFERENCE TO THIS BROCHURE AND TO THE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED BY SECTION 718.503, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO BE FURNISHED BY A SELLER TO A BUYER OR LESSEE. THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN FILED IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND NO OTHER STATE. THIS IS NOT AN OFFER TO SELL OR SOLICITATION OF OFFERS TO BUY THE CONDOMINIUM UNITS IN STATES WHERE SUCH OFFER OR SOLICITATION CANNOT BE MADE. PRICES AND AVAILABILITY ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE ANYTIME WITHOUT NOTICE.