

Town Tags, from page 1

in two years.

“She will be rebuilding,” said Tipton.

There has been a push by some residents to raise the maximum height for single family residences to 40 feet, and require a higher first floor elevation, which would render homes able to handle up to 16 feet of storm surge in theory.

Tipton said that next week town staff is traveling to Sanibel Island to learn how its codes evolved after it was severely impacted by Hurricane Ian. He said that the island has become a model of resiliency.

When asked if the two hurricanes this year as well as the flooding and 30 inches of rain in August following Tropical Storm Debbie was an anomaly or the new norm, Tipton said he expects we will see more of the same. He pointed out that the water temperature in the Gulf of Mexico is the fuel creating unprecedented wind speeds and surges.

In many ways, the storm served as a referendum on construction. Older homes, vinyl fencing, awnings and aluminum and trailers were ravaged on Longboat Key by the winds of Hurricane Milton. Hurricane Helene exposed the fact that not only are older homes vulnerable, but that many elevated FEMA compliant homes have furnished their ground floors leading to exposure to massive amounts of damage and content loss.

A million tiny soldiers

Tipton said the beach on Longboat Key is somewhat deflated and the dunes are for the most part gone.

“The beach protects us like a million tiny soldiers,” said Tipton. He said the Town has seen some of the sand returning, but over the next month the town’s beach consultant will survey the extent of damage. This all comes as part of the claim the town will make for federal funds to reimburse the cost of debris removal as well as beach damage and general expenses incurred by staff time and direct losses.

As for debris, Tipton said the town is ahead of schedule in its removal and the whole island will be clear by Christmas.

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Friends and Neighbors,

This past week's storm was devastating, and its effects will be felt throughout our community for a long time. In the last few days, we've heard from many friends and past clients who have been seriously affected and are uncertain about their immediate next steps.

Historically, our Seaward Companies have focused primarily on new construction—both residential and commercial—as well as consulting services. However, in light of the many inquiries we've received, we are now prepared to extend our services to those in our community who have been most impacted by the storm. We are ready to meet with property owners to discuss the best options moving forward.

- **Substantial Home Restoration**

Let us assist you with a full scope of services including initial assessment, engineering, selective demolition, and through the execution of your property restoration.

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Let our team guide you from architect selection and home design through vertical construction on a new or replacement elevated home with enhanced hurricane resistance safety features.

- **Sale of your Property**

For owners who desire to sell their property at this time and forego a construction project, we may be able to assist by purchasing your property. Alternatively, we can also connect you with one of our island team members from our real estate division at The DiPinto Group at Coldwell Banker to accommodate your real estate needs.

We at Seaward Companies are happy to meet with you to discuss all options that you may be considering at this time. We understand over the past two weeks that these storms have affected everyone differently and there is no “one size fits all” solution. What we can do now, is provide you with as much information as possible regarding your property options, from local and trusted professionals in our marketplace. With this important information you will be in the position to make the best decision for you and your family moving forward.

Best regards,



Patrick DiPinto

Please contact us to schedule a consultation:

patrick@dipintocompanies.com and matthew@seawarddevelopment.com



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EditorLetters



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

Spanish Main Thank you

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

It may be useful for us to talk in our villa tomorrow (Friday) if you are available. Our villa is only slightly damaged and will give you a picture of what is actually happening. We will reoccupy our villa in a few weeks. At the same time, when you drive to our villa, you will see what you will see.

I happened to visit PZ&B today for a routine permit. It's obvious that far too many Spanish Main folks, without any standing and/or knowledge, have been tying up time and resources of the Staff. The Town is doing a terrific job. It's internal friction within Spanish Main that is the problem.

Tom Freiwald
Longboat Key

Street Cleaning

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle

For the first time ever, we noted a street sweeper perambulating up and down our Norton Street this morning. Thank you for that, hope it continues periodically.

Unfortunately, I must report that the process did nothing to mobilize the accumulated dried mud from the flood, which has the character of concrete. I guess it's going to take a more robust process to get that stuff out of there (if it's even possible).

Jim Whitman
Longboat Key

Canal debris

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Sir, in my experience with Charlotte County, post Hurricane Charlie we were able to get some funding through FEMA (if I recall) for areas with active maintenance taking place when the storm hit. In our case we cannot demonstrate active maintenance. So, it would most likely be a losing argument.

Once we can start demonstrating active maintenance, then we would have a better chance. We would want to have those operating within our system point out where they feel shoaling has occurred and then see if that additional material could assist in adding to the Beneficial Use Dredge Material totals, to support the subaqueous watermain project. I hope this helps.

Charles Mopps
Interim Public Works Director
Town of Longboat Key Public Works

Canal debris

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Would be nice if we could get some help with this.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Canal debris

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

The good news is that we have surveyed all of the canals prior to this storm season so there is a baseline from which to evaluate impacts from the hurricanes. How we will respond to claims that the canals are shallower or otherwise are impacting navigation, I'll leave that to Charlie to answer.

Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Canal debris

To: Longboat Key Interim Public Works Director Charlie Mopps

Is it possible that some of our shallowest canals can be viewed as resulting in part from sand/silt from the storms permitting some relief from the County/State?

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Canal debris

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin

Sir, we have reached out to the Sarasota County EOC and requested to be included in FDEM conducting an inspection and cleaning of our canals. FDEM has this site: <https://floridadebriscleanup.com/#!/submit> for folks to add information. If you get inquiries I would direct them to Julie, who is compiling emails for those that already notified us.

Charles Mopps
Interim Public Works Director
Town of Longboat Key Public Works

Canal debris

To: Longboat Key Interim Public Works Director Charlie Mopps

Charlie if I get any specific calls on canal debris locations. should I take down the address and send it to you, or have them contact you directly.

Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Business Open

To: Pete Dewlaney

See below, our water is safe for swimming and all beaches are open. Many businesses are open as well, and they really appreciate their island patrons as they get back on their feet.

Longboat Key's Facebook page seems to be everyone's top source for local progress reports, so you may want to keep an eye on things there. Longboat Chamber of Commerce will be another good source of info, along with Bradenton and Sarasota tourism agencies. And spread the word: some hotels are offering discounted rates and the weather is beautiful.

Bike lanes and some parks (Durante) are closed due to debris and safety issues, but tennis and pickleball are going strong. Mote and Save Our Seabirds have a longer road to recovery and can use our philanthropic support. Lots of other fundraisers and food drives showing up as well -- everyone who came out of this in one piece is busy giving back, the community spirit is so impressive.

Expect major cleanup work and traffic islandwide for the next several weeks, but overall I think you and your family should "come on back" as soon as you like.

Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Commissioner

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle

Beaches are open to swim. LBK beaches were never closed. Public Works Department did do a testing of the water as a precaution and it came back safe last week.

Tina Adams
Fire Administration Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Commissioner

To: Longboat Key Fire Administration Manager Tina Adams

Thanks, Tina. I'm having trouble finding current status of the No-Swim Advisory due to water contamination, please let me know if you have info on this.

Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 6

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 4

Commissioner

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle
We will share that the beaches remain open, however our public parking beach access points remain closed during the recovery process. We have shared in the past already that due to possible storm debris in the waterways, we encourage those visiting the beaches use caution entering the water. I will share this information again.
Tina Adams
Fire Administration Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Commissioner

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon

One other item will follow up that I failed to mention one of the things that we do is we bring our young grandchildren out with us frequently to spend time in the water and play along the beach and as far as the advisories that you and I talked about advisories with respect to young children would seem to be ultimately most critical to inform the public regarding entering the ocean or even walking along the beach with the potential forstepping on debris that may cause injury thank you again for your consideration
Pete Dewlaney
Longboat Key

Commissioner

To: Pete Dewlaney
Nice speaking with you, Pete. I will follow up on your ideas around broader communica-tions tracking recovery -- what restaurants, hospitality and businesses have reopened, status of no-swim advisories, effects on wildlife, etc. As property owners make plans for their return, we may be able to report accordingly. In the meantime, feel free to keep in touch with questions.
Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Commissioner

To: Pete Dewlaney
Commissioner Sarah Karon (skaron@longboatkey.org) is the District 5 Commissioner, how-ever, all Commissioners will respond to our residents regardless of the district you live in. You may e-mail all Commissioners at one time by sending an email to Commission@longboatkey.org.

org.
Trish Shinkle
Town Clerk
Town of Longboat Key

New Employee

To: Longboat Key Commission
The one new full-time position that was approved in this year’s budget was for a Town Engineer in Public Works. The position was designed to add an experienced set of hands to the projects the Town is working on from utilities to resiliency. We’re excited to share that Jennifer Fehrs has been selected to fill the position and she started on Monday. The attached memo highlights more about her and the position with a fun fact at the end.
The other contribution that this position will bring, along with the Assistant Town Manager role that Isaac has filled, is to strengthen our storm response and recovery capabilities. As we have seen with 6 storms over the past 2 years, these events are an all hands on deck exercise and the Town will benefit greatly from the training, skills, and experience that both of these individuals bring to their new roles.
We’re excited to have Jennifer on the team and look forward to the contributions she will make as our Town Engineer. Please let me know if you have any questions.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Is it safe to go into the water?

To: Longboat Key Town Commission, Sarasota City Commission
It’s been almost three weeks since our watershed was impacted by Hurricane Milton, which was itself about two weeks after we were impacted by Hurricane Helene. Which came on the heels of impacts from Hurricane Debby - which was itself preceded by the impacts of Invest 90L – which gave us the highest hourly rainfall amount in over 50 years. So, record-setting rainfall, record-setting storm surge, and hurricane-level winds have all impacted our neighbor-hoods and bays over the past few months. I consider myself lucky, in that the storm surge from Helene came up to my garage, but not in it. After Milton, I got my power back in just over a week, I was able to save my AC unit (which got blown off a three-foot stand) and I’m only looking at a couple of thousand dollars’ worth of damage to my house. Take a drive through Siesta Key, St. Armands Circle, Longboat Key, Anna Maria Island, or Cortez if you want to see what large-scale destruction looks like.
But now, almost into November, how is our water quality holding up? Well, our long-term monitoring efforts have been affected by damage to our coastal fringe. Mote Marine Lab staff are dealing with facilities on City Island that were badly damaged. Our local governments have been rightly focused on issues such as clearing roads and debris removal and inspecting
See Letters, page 8

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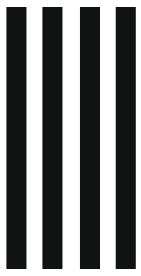
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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 6

bridges, and other infrastructure. So, in response, the SBEP reached out to our colleagues at the University of Florida, who coordinated a sort of rapid response water quality sampling effort from Tampa Bay down to the Caloosahatchee River, in coordination with our colleagues at the Tampa Bay Estuary Program, the Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Program, Charlotte County, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

The researchers at UF have not only offered to analyze water samples, but they’ve driven down from Gainesville twice to collect samples from Tampa Bay and Charlotte Harbor. To help move this effort forward, both Ryan and I used our own personal boats to sample Sarasota Bay, allowing UF to focus their efforts elsewhere, where data collection was hindered by the lack of boats and/or crews. The data we collected have not all been analyzed just yet, but we do have results from bacteria sampling. We also have other entities that have been tracking bacteria levels as well.

Generally, speaking, the levels of bacteria in our open bay waters and along most of our beaches are good, although some of the shoreline areas have elevated levels still. In other words, sort of back to where we normally are. These results are discussed in greater detail below:

One and two weeks after Milton, Ryan and I headed out to eight sites in the bay. Ryan visited four sites in Blackburn, Little Sarasota and Roberts Bays, and I went out along the mainland shoreline from Whitaker Bayou up to Longbar Point. According to UF, none of the bacteria levels we found were in exceedance of even bathing beach standards (70 enterococci/100 ml) much less the standards used for the open waters of the bay (130/100 ml). Results are shown in the first attachment. It should be noted that values were elevated at two sites in the Dona Bay region, just inside of Venice Inlet, but technically outside of our NEP’s boundaries.

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) samples for enterococci at designated beach sites in Manatee and Sarasota Counties - Florida Healthy Beaches | Florida Department of Health. FDOH has three categories of results: 1) “good” when enterococci are less than 35/100 ml, 2) “moderate” when values are between 36 and 70/100 ml, and 3) “poor” when values exceed 71/100 ml.

In Manatee County, the latest results show that 6 of 7 sites have “good” values for enterococci for bathing beach standards, including all Gulf beach sites. One sample, on the south side of the Palma Sola Causeway, had “moderate” levels of enterococci bacteria. In Sarasota County, the latest values show “good” values at 14 of 15 sites, with “moderate” values at Lido Casino Beach. Values at Bird Key Park (along the Ringling Causeway) improved from “poor” to “good” between October 21 and October 23.

Suncoast WaterKeeper samples at 7 sites in Sarasota Bay - Is Your Water Safe? - Suncoast Waterkeeper, using enterococci bacteria as well. They sample at various access points and compare their values to bathing beach criteria. They break down values into the three FDOH categories of “safe” (less than 35/100 ml), “take caution” (36 to 70/100 ml), and “don’t swim”

(>71/100 ml). For results as of October 22, 3 of the 7 Sarasota Bay sites met their criteria of “safe to swim” (Palma Sola Causeway North, Sarasota Sailing Squadron, and Indian Beach), while one was deemed “take caution” (New College Bayfront) and 3 were listed as “don’t swim” (Longboat Key Boat Ramp, Longboat Key Bayfront Park, and the Bay Park site (close to Centennial Park).

For boaters that like to take their boats out to sandbars by our inlets, toss out an anchor, and jump over the side – the available information is that this activity should be as safe as it was before these recent storms. Want to go waterskiing in the bay? Should be perfectly fine. Fishing? No issues. For those who wish to go to our Gulf Beaches – the latest results show that that activity is also safe. For those that wade into our bay from the shoreline from areas not sampled as designated bathing beaches by FDOH – such as New College’s shoreline or the Longboat Key boat ramp – bacteria levels most likely will exceed bathing beach standards – so use appropriate care.

In comparison, we had elevated levels of bacteria (over 130 enterococci/100ml) for at least four weeks in the open waters of the lower bay after Debby. Why has the bay not shown the same problems after Helene and Milton as it did after Debby? Likely because Debby, as in Ian (back in 2022) was a storm that brought us massive amounts of rainfall, while Helene and Milton brought us storm surge and wind damage. In terms of water quality impacts, not all storms are the same – something that the SBEP is working to highlight on our website. Our bay appears to be more susceptible to impacts of high levels rainfall than storm surge and/or wind damage, likely due to impacts to our wastewater and stormwater infrastructure.

This is not to suggest that all the debris brought into the bay from storm surge has had no impact on our bay. It certainly has. And if you’re out there pulling debris out of the water, be careful. My friends and I pulled huge piles of debris from the Tropic Isles RV Park out of a canal by our HOA’s kayak launch, which included lots of sharp metal edges and hundreds of nails. I was particularly glad that I got my tetanus shot a week ago, as I cut my arm on a nail working to clear up debris around my own house this past weekend. If you’re doing debris cleanup – check on your tetanus shot status, and if you’re overdue, get up to date on that!

So be careful out there – especially if you’re pulling debris out of the water or wading into the bay along our creeks and urban shoreline. Or both. But as far as fishing, water skiing, or going to our beaches with your friends and family – the available data we have suggest we’re pretty much back to pre-storm conditions. Go out and enjoy yourselves again!

Dave Tomasko
Executive Director
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

See Letters, page 15



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No water intrusion in this home from the storms
WaterClub105.com

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

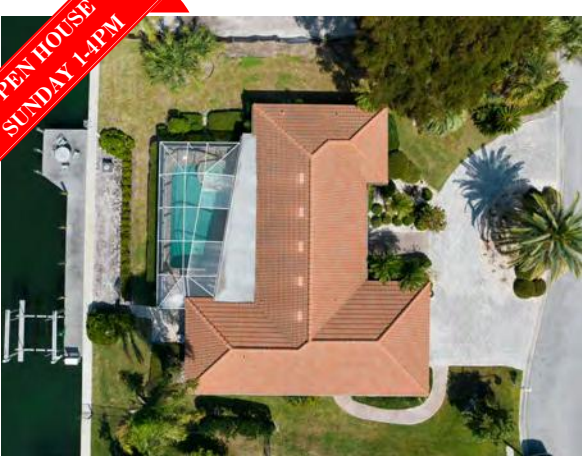


415 L'Ambiance Drive #F608- \$6,900,000-Contract available for assignment:
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415 L'Ambiance Drive #A401 - \$5,840,000
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lambianceA401.com



435 S GULFSTREAM AVE, #1004-\$1,289,000
This tranquil section of Palm Avenue invites residents to enjoy leisurely strolls with easy access to all the offerings of downtown Sarasota. Recently updated, this 1,829 sq. ft. residence optimizes its gracious split floor plan. The living room boasts spectacular views to the north and west, featuring expansive vistas of downtown's bayfront and Marina Jack's Park. Thoughtfully planned upgrades include newer flooring, a neutral color palette, and a modern kitchen outfitted with stainless LG appliances and a Bosch induction cooktop. Updated bathrooms and an abundance of closet space—including brand new closet organizers. Large storage room/ bonus room, in-residence washer and dryer. **No water intrusion in this home from the storms.**



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



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

Oct. 25 Post office

1:02 p.m.
Officer Troyer responded to Bay Isles Road for a report of a man refusing to leave the post office. Upon arrival, Officer Troyer observed the man yelling at staff workers inside of the post office. Officer Troyer spoke with the man and asked him to leave the building to speak with him. The man complied and spoke with Officer Troyer outside. The man said he recently lost everything due to the hurricanes, but his paintings. The man said he did research and measured his paintings because he wanted to ship them to his house in New York. He went to the post office and was greeted by the worker who told the man the paintings were too large to ship and would not accept them. The man tried explaining to the staff worker that he measured the paintings, but the worker started arguing with him. The man tried placing the boxes into the window, but the worker pushed the boxes back at the man which caused the box to strike him in the stomach. The man said he didn't feel any pain from this, nor was it a big deal. The man kept trying to explain how the boxes were able to be shipped, however the worker said he was going to call the police. The worker said he didn't want to make a big deal out of this, he only requested the man leave the building and he would not be provided service. Officer Troyer spoke to the man and he loaded up his packages and left the building without incident. Case clear.

Driver's license

8:34 p.m.
Officer Pescuma while on patrol, observed a vehicle traveling southbound on Gulf of Mexico Drive at a low rate of speed around 26 mph in a posted 45 mph, subsequently impeding traffic. The vehicle was located and Officer Pescuma made contact with the driver. Officer Pescuma provided the reason for the traffic stop and advised the driver that he was operating below the posted speed limit subsequently impeding traffic. Officer Pescuma then asked for the driver's license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance. The driver handed the officer a Honduras Passport and Officer Pescuma asked if he has or ever had a driver's license to which he said 'no'. Officer Pescuma advised that he should not be driving without a valid driver's license. Officer Pescuma asked him where he was going and he said he was providing a quote for a job on Longboat Key. Officer Pescuma issued a criminal citation for no valid driver's license. Officer Pescuma advised that the driver could not drive and he made arrangements for transportation. Case clear.

Oct. 27 Generator

10:30 a.m.
Officer Troyer responded to the complainant at the 2900 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive reporting that someone whom he needed to pay regarding a generator was at his house. The complainant was not home either. Upon speaking with the complainant on the phone, he reported the following: the complainant borrowed a generator from another person after the storm. Through the course of using the generator, the generator broke which the complainant returned the generator to the owner. The complainant paid the neighbor in full for everything besides the generator. The complainant said the neighbor keeps showing up at his residence, looking for the generator, however the complainant said he has seen the generator in the back of the truck. The complainant said he wanted the incident documented. Case clear.

Fishing

8:37 p.m.
Officer Ramsaier was dispatched to the 7200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a suspicious person call. The complainant stated a group of men were fishing on Longboat Pass Bridge. Upon arrival, Officer Ramsaier observed two men fishing on the bridge. The officer requested the fishermen to move from the area they were in and they were compliant. Case clear.



Oct. 28 Debris

10:31 a.m.
Officer Nazareno was dispatched to Longboat Drive for a suspicious incident call regarding a landscaping company placing debris from the location. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno then observed workers from a landscaping company put wooden debris on the easement and at the corner of Longboat Court. Officer Nazareno then made contact with the workers and verbally warned them that his company cannot place any of the debris into the property across the street. The man then ordered all workers to move the debris back to Longboat Drive to be collected. The man was given a verbal warning. Officer Nazareno made contact with the complainant and advised him that all debris were removed from the property. Officer Nazareno also made contact with the homeowner for Longboat Drive and advised him to ensure that the workers are not placing debris from his property into the neighbor's yard. Case clear.

Oct. 30 Appliances

4:50 a.m.
Officer Miklos while on patrol in the 3500 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive observed a man attempting to load an appliance into his vehicle that had been left for trash pickup. Officer Miklos came into contact with the man who was near his truck. Officer Miklos advised him that scrapping along Gulf of Mexico Drive was against Longboat Key Town Ordinance. The man was checked through NCIC with negative results and issued a written warning. Case clear.

Welfare check

12:24 p.m.
Officer Troyer responded to Cedars Court regarding a welfare check due to not hearing from a woman since recent hurricanes. Upon arrival, Officer Troyer knocked on the front door to the residence. Officer Troyer did not receive a response and spoke to a neighbor and asked if she had seen the woman recently. The neighbor did not, however she said a maintenance man was in the residence today and did not report anything suspicious. Officer Troyer went to the front clubhouse and spoke with the employees. The one employee said he had not spoken with the resident since after the first hurricane. The employee gave the officer her phone number, but the woman did not answer. Officer Troyer spoke with the complainant and she said she hadn't spoke to the woman since Hurricane Helene. The complainant was concerned for the woman because she always responded to her phone calls and emails which she had not done recently. Officer Troyer informed the complainant where the investigation had led him so far. Officer Troyer called the number again and the woman finally answered the phone. She said she did not want to contact the complainant and was purposely ignoring her because she would not give her a ride from the condominium to her house on Marbury Lane after the hurricane. The woman felt the complainant was a bad friend for that and wanted no contact. The woman said she was doing okay and she was in New York trying to buy a vehicle so she could drive back to Longboat Key. Case clear.

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1581 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#505	4,017	\$7,650,100	4	4	1	0	\$7,650,100
540 HARBOR POINT RD	4,626	\$5,499,000	5	4	1	269	\$5,000,000
1281 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#1005	2,667	\$4,395,000	3	3	0	230	\$4,000,000
6609 GULF OF MEXICO DR	4,132	\$4,500,000	4	4	1	346	\$3,650,000
3312 SABAL COVE LN	5,150	\$3,380,000	4	4	2	155	\$3,200,000
1581 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#507	1,721	\$2,248,700	1	1	1	0	\$2,248,700
2721 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#308	884	\$1,250,000	2	2	0	14	\$1,305,000
5055 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#426	1,632	\$1,075,000	3	3	0	110	\$1,005,000
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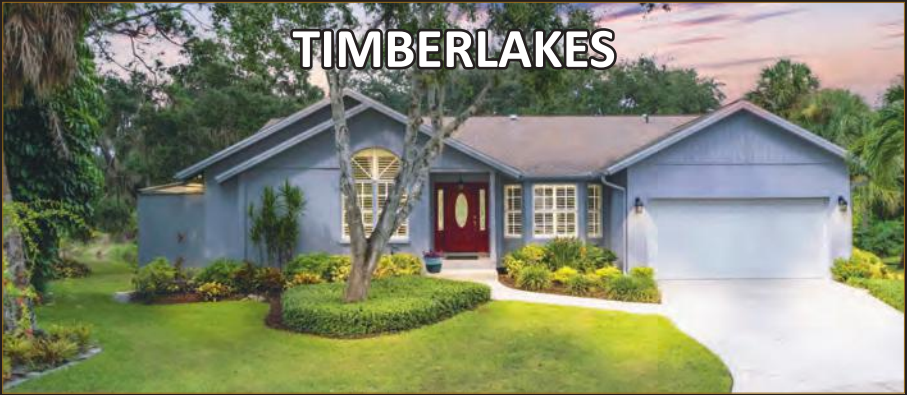


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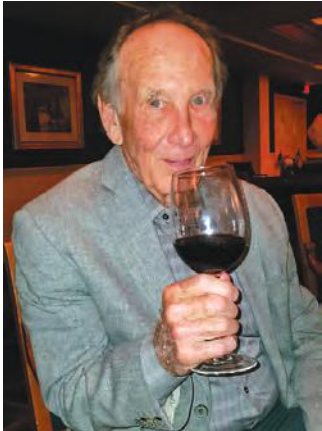
Novlist Carl Hiaasen has mused about a Cat 5 Hurricane being the solution to Florida’s problems, and Donald Trump commented the other day about hurricanes opening up beachfront property. The lessons learned from Hurricanes Helene and Milton seem less funny now in these parts.

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

The eye of Hurricane Helene passed Sarasota some ninety miles to the west in the Gulf of Mexico on September 26, 2024.

Other tropical storms and hurricanes at that distance had modest impacts on the barrier islands beach communities of Casey Key, Siesta Key, Lido Key, St. Armand’s Key, Longboat Key, Bradenton Beach, and Anna Maria Island. Hurricane Irma (2017) had brushed past Sarasota Florida to the east and Hurricane Idalia (2023) to the west. Both had pulled water out of Sarasota and Tampa Bays at first. As the storms raged northward, seawater surging back into the beaches and bays had little more impact than a September King Tide.

Hurricane Helene appeared to be following the same pattern. It emerged suddenly through the gap between the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico and Cuba and strengthened mightily as it spun into the steaming waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Residents of the barrier islands across Sarasota Bay



from downtown Sarasota breathed a sigh of relief as the eye of Helene turned to the north and followed a beaten path to the beleaguered Big Bend of Florida.

Legends attributed to pre-Columbian tribes on the west coast of Florida portrayed Sarasota Bay, with its shallow waters offshore of the barrier islands and its niche below Tampa Bay, as a protected zone from hurricanes in the Gulf. Hurricane Ian had turned into Ft. Myers Beach and Sanibel Island and generally spared the Sarasota barrier islands. Hurricane Idalia had ventured close to Sarasota, causing some flooding on the barrier islands but had inflicted more damage south of Casey Key.

Yet while the eye of a hurricane once again bypassed the barrier islands between the Gulf and Sarasota, bands of high winds radiating from the center of the Videos from drones show a river of seawater surging north along esplanades of Boulevard of the Presidents and Ben Franklin Drive into St. Armand’s Circle and coursing east on Ringling Boulevard toward the bridges crossing Sarasota Bay. Helene caused an estimated \$1.25 billion in property damage in Sarasota, and left sixty percent or more of residences in some areas uninhabitable. Seawater levels of 3.5 foot or more in many houses at ground level left contents of houses suitable only for dumpsters.

Novlist Carl Hiaasen has mused about a Cat 5 Hurricane being the solution to Florida’s problems, and Donald Trump commented the other day about hurricanes opening up beachfront property. The lessons learned from Hurricanes Helene and Milton seem less funny now in these parts.

Helene demonstrated that staying a long distance from the eye of the storm doesn’t always protect us from harm. Evacuate a barrier island if a hurricane comes anywhere close.

Milton let us see what it’s like in the devious eye of the store: calm, peaceful, and deviously deceptive. Then the winds It’s the second act of a horror movie.

Don’t count on legends and hundred-year storms. If we create the ideal conditions for disastrous hurricanes, they will come in a hurry. The Florida Legislature and Governor can’t pass a bill to prevent natural disasters. They can create an insurance disaster.

Ah, we must not forget the title of this article. In the wake of the storm surge, bottles of wine washed up from various hiding places. The bottles of wine survived the flood better than most anything else. A liter bottle of 2014 Silkwood Alicante Bouschet (~\$30) from the Napa Valley of California not only survived in swirling waters, it retained the intense dark red fruit yet smooth tastes of this classic Southern European grape. So did a couple of bottle of Pouilly Fuisse (Chardonnay), the classic white wine from Burgundy, and unpretentious yet tasty Chenin Blanc from South Africa. Whether in a shipwreck, earthquake, or similar catastrophe, the wine abides.

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

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Moving Forward Together...

We have so much to be thankful for. We offer our sincerest appreciation to all of the first responders and Town officials who are helping us recover, and to members of our community for pulling together when it was needed most.

Let's all support our local businesses that have reopened.

— Sandra Smith, Secur-All Insurance



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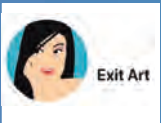
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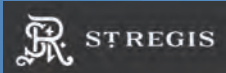
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Ed Center, from page 1

What’s Happening At The Education Center At Temple Beth Israel

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The Winter term, which begins Monday, January 6, offers an abundance of stimulating programs---everything under the sun to learn and enjoy. Some of the many programs include women’s groups, birding, film festivals, more nature walks, an annual Lecture Series with 12 lectures presented on diverse subjects by distinguished speakers, Sunday concerts and theatrical productions, jazz nights, opera previews, Shakespeare, world politics and current events (including post-election programs), theology, morning forums, Ted Talks, Supreme Court, private piano lessons, watercolor, iPhone & iPad, Apple Watch, languages, Broadway bios, and special events, including the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe annual performance. I will highlight more upcoming programs in subsequent columns as the season progresses. For a brochure or inquiries email us at admin@tbieducationcenter.org or call 941-383-8811. “We do what we love, that’s why people love what we do!”

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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 questions. Applications are also available online at: www.longboatkey.org. Completed applications may be submitted to:

Applications may be submitted to:

Town of Longboat Key – Office of the Town Clerk
501 Bay Isles Road
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Stephanie Garcia, Deputy Town Clerk I
Published: 11-01-2024, 11-08-2024

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