



Longboat Key News

November 10, 2023

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InsideLook



*LBK seclusion
for \$2.5 million
...page 9*



*Find the way
to Chardonnay
...page 13*



*Key St. Regis
questions posed
...page 11*



*Room with a
steamy view
...page 10*

Bumper crop of babies sets record for turtles

Throughout the season, Mote recorded a total of 4,284 nests across all sea turtle species—4,091 loggerhead nests and 193 green nests.



The record has been shattered by this year's nesting sea turtles. As sea turtle nesting season has officially concluded on Florida's Southwest coast as of Oct. 31, Mote's Sea Turtle Conservation & Research Program (STCRP), which patrols 35-miles from Longboat Key to Venice of beaches each day of nesting season (May 1-Oct. 31) reports their findings for another record-breaking nesting season. Throughout the season, Mote recorded a total of 4,284 nests across all sea turtle species—4,091 loggerhead nests and 193 green nests. The program also documented the highest numbers of sea turtle nests specifically, the highest number of green turtle nests ever on Venice. Even though Hurricane Idalia impacted beaches towards the end of the season, its impact on nesting was low with 75% of nests completing their incubation prior to the storm's arrival. The majority of the remaining nests were washed out by the storm, however, sea turtles have a natural instinct to nest several

See Turtles, page 2

Sarasota Bay water quality improving in face of threats

One of the first signs of good news for the water system that extends from Tampa Bay to Venice.

Sarasota Bay's water quality has begun improving, though threats remain from warming sea temperatures, stormwater runoff and the legacy of more than 200 million gallons of polluted waste released from the Piney Point phosphate plant in 2021, officials say. One of the first signs of good news for the water system that extends from Tampa Bay to Venice was recent word from state regulators that four southern sections—Little Sarasota Bay, Roberts Bay, Blackburn Bay and a portion of Sarasota Bay—were proposed for removal from a list of impaired waterways.

In Sarasota County, progress continues on the \$210 million Bee Ridge Water Treatment Plant, designed to drastically reduce the release of compounds harmful to

See Water, page 14



Vacation rental rules under review

in 2024, the Sarasota City Commission will consider an ordinance to expand citywide a vacation rental ordinance that currently applies only to properties on the barrier islands.

The ordinance will allow an effective doubling of fees associated with the registration and monitoring of short-term rental properties doing business in residential neighborhoods.

By a 4-1 vote on second reading with Commissioner Erik Arroyo opposed, commissioners approved increasing fees on vacation rental operators on average from \$150 per year to \$350 in an attempt to close the gap of the cost of city personnel dedicated to registering, inspecting and monitoring the properties and the regulatory fees they generate.

The ordinance will not apply to owner-occupied short-term rentals, only to those operating an entire home as a business enterprise.

New College asks state for \$500 million

New College of Florida President Richard Corcoran presented a business plan to Florida's university system Board of Governors on Wednesday that asks for almost half a billion dollars from the state over the next five years.

The college said it needs a "minimum" of \$400 million over that span to achieve the goal it set forward to the Florida Legislature of becoming "a world-class classical liberal arts educational institution," according to the plan.

Any funding would still need to be approved by the Florida Legislature and the governor.

The business plan includes a projection that New College would increase enrollment by about 100 students per year up to 1,200 by 2028, largely due to the expansion of athletics at the school.

The college also said it would focus more on college readiness when admitting students in order to improve retention rates.

Longboat market ready to begin

The Market on Longboat Key will be back for the 2023 - 24 season. Plan to join the fun on Mondays, December 11, January 15, February 12, March 11, and April 15 from 10am - 2pm at Town Center Green, 600 Bay Isles Road.

Follow the action at The Market on Longboat Key or Markets by

See Market, page 2

Turtles, from page 1

times in one season offsetting natural events.

The success of recent nesting seasons could be a result of the long-standing program and local engagement, giving the next generation of sea turtles a better chance.

“Science-based sea turtle conservation is critical for maintaining endangered and threatened species populations,” said Dr. Michael P. Crosby, Mote President & CEO. “Mote translates and transfers the interwoven science of our Sea Turtle Conservation and Research program, Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Hospital and Strandings Investigations Research program to protect and rehabilitate these animals and their habitats. An example of a highly visible outcome of our work is the recently established voluntary Sea Turtle Protection Zone for boaters in our local waters.”

Senior Biologist and Conservation Manager Melissa Macksey is thrilled to see these numbers continue to rise and is excited to see a growth in these sea turtle species populations. In particular, green sea turtle nesting numbers which have dramatically increased in the last decade. This species recovery in the Gulf of Mexico shows conservation efforts are working and should be maintained.

“This year’s total is the 5th highest overall since our program began 42 years ago,” said Mote Senior Biologist Melissa Macksey. “Over decades, we have learned and are still learning a great deal about the nesting behaviors of sea turtles individually and at the population level, impacts of human activity and animal predators, sea turtle population trends, and more.”

At night, STCRP staff have expanded tagging of nesting sea turtles to three beaches in Sarasota County: Siesta Key, Casey Key, and Venice. This year STCRP encountered the highest number of individuals (528). Researchers identify unique turtles through flipper tags and use these data to answer questions about their behavior.

According to a recent study titled Forty years of monitoring increasing sea turtle relative abundance in the Gulf of Mexico in the scientific journal, Scientific Reports, Mote’s STCRP documented 133,957 sea turtle crawls from 1982 to 2021; 48.8% of these crawls resulted in nests (65,321). Of those, 99.0% (64,692) were laid by loggerheads. There were 608 green sea turtle nests, ten Kemp’s ridley nests, five leatherback nests and two known loggerhead/hawks-bill hybrid nests. These findings can be used to determine how nesting counts and hatchling productions have changed over time and to quantify how nesting turtles on these beaches are contributing to the greater Gulf of Mexico marine turtle populations.

Water, from page 1

Sarasota Bay’s health. The facility is expected to open by the end of 2025.

In Manatee County, about \$40 million is budgeted for the next five years.

Dr. Dave Tomasko, Director of the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program, says, “We’re also seeing pretty substantial seagrass increases. But we’re never going to be pristine. There’s nothing pristine about Florida.”

Tomasko and other experts recently released a report on the effects of the Piney Point crisis, which took place in March 2021 when a leak in one of the facility’s holding ponds threatened a collapse and the wholesale release of untreated, acidic wastewater. More than 200 million gallons of wastewater were pumped into Tampa Bay from the reservoir to relieve pressure, triggering widespread concerns about longer-term environmental effects.

One of those concerns was the combination of long-term discharge of nutrient-dense waters and warming coastal sea temperatures, For environmental experts such as Tomasko, the combination of warmer temperatures and increased nutrient loads is a recipe for disaster, since cyanobacteria requires water temperatures of 68 degrees or higher to thrive.

For environmental experts such as Tomasko, the combination of warmer temperatures and increased nutrient loads is a recipe for disaster, since cyanobacteria requires water temperatures of 68 degrees or higher to thrive.

Market, from page 1

Nancy on Facebook and Instagram to see who will be there and what they will be bringing. Some food vendors let you pre-order order pies, cakes, breads etc so they will be ready and waiting upon your arrival. For more information: 941-289-4141

Mote’s STCRP contributes all of its data to a statewide cooperative effort to monitor sea turtle nesting, coordinated by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

*A false crawl occurs when a sea turtle emerges to nest but returns to sea without depositing eggs.

*Mote’s sea turtle activities are conducted under Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Marine Turtle Permits 027, 028, 048, 054, 070, 126, 216, and 226.



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1325 WESTWAY DRIVE - LIDO SHORES



\$ 15,000,000

Modern marvel overlooking New Pass in Lido Shores! Step into this tropical escape through the hidden courtyard that connects the three-bedroom main home to the secluded, two-bedroom guest house with an expansive sundeck, 60-foot wet-edge lap pool lined with royal palms and unique fire bowls, as the perfect introduction to a contemporary masterpiece.



The reverse-style layout places the main living areas on the second level, optimizing the best of the views. The open concept of this level comprises the gourmet kitchen with its poured terrazzo waterfall edge island and Miele appliances, as well as the family room, living/dining room, and secluded master suite.

Boasting all the amenities required for luxury living, this SMART home's inspired style highlights spectacular water views that stretch out to the Gulf of Mexico from just about every room of the nearly 6,600 square-foot interior.



Stacked glass sliders create a seamless transition to outdoor living, opening to the glass-railing terrace, summer kitchen, built-in grill, and spiral staircase that leads down to the waterside hot tub. Boaters will appreciate the deep-water dock with multiple lifts.

NEW CONSTRUCTION TO BE BUILT



WEST OF TRAIL - HIGHLY DESIRABLE LOCATION \$8,995,000
Waterfront location, this custom home is situated on a quiet cul-de-sac steps to Siesta Key. Offering nearly 5,350 AC/SF, with an open concept floor plan, highly desirable finishes and touches, and 4-car garage, you will be impressed. Work with builder direct to create your dream home.

GULF FRONT NEW CONSTRUCTION



LONGBOAT KEY • 6489 GULFSIDE DRIVE \$16,900,000
Fabulous Gulf front lot offering nearly 100 ft. of sandy beach, this gorgeous DSDG Architect designed home is a rare find. Boasting almost 6,000 AC/SF, this spectacular home is custom built with the finest details throughout. Architect designed landscaped exterior and 4-car garage.

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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.

House Bill 7C

To: Judy Herman
Security Grants
HB 7C (Fine) aims to help increase security at Jewish day schools and preschools amid increasing incidents of antisemitism. The bill provides for \$15 million for grants that could be used for such things as installing lighting, security cameras, fencing and shatter-resistant windows at Jewish day schools and preschools. Another \$10 million would go to the schools for nonhardening security measures, such as hiring security workers and training them on threat awareness, emergency procedures and first aid. The bill also includes \$20 million for what is known as the state’s Nonprofit Security Grant Program, which can be used for security improvements at other types of organizations such as nonprofit schools and museums. The bill specifies that these grant funds must be awarded by March 1, 2024.
Penny Gold
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

House Bill 7C

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Penny Gold
This is a good step and I pray it passes. However, it saddens me that in the USA that this has become so necessary.
Judy Herman
Longboat Key

Water quality standards

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission
As we’ve been discussing lately, we are starting to accumulate more and more evidence of an ongoing recovery of the bay’s health. We are now on FDEP’s draft “De-list” for nutrient impairments for Bowlees Creek, the lower portion of Sarasota Bay proper (between Ringling Causeway and Siesta Drive), Roberts, Little Sarasota and Blackburn Bays – as shown below. The other portions of the open waters of Sarasota Bay were not out of compliance with their established water quality standards for nutrient and algae concentrations in the water and

were’n considered impaired for nutrients. But these five waterbodies on the draft de-list list were previously determined to be out of compliance with their established standards, based on analysis of data from earlier years. These standards were set by SBEP, and then reviewed and approved as official water quality standards by both FDEP and the US EPA. The chlorophyll-a standards established by SBEP are pretty good – they indicated problems for most locations during years when other indicators were suggesting problems. However, the regulatory standards for “Total Nitrogen” are too high – they were not similarly exceeded when chlorophyll-a was a problem and the data for Total Phosphorus are problematic, and indicate a lab issue somewhere, it seems. We will be addressing these issues over the next year, as we work to finalize our Water Quality Protection Plan for Sarasota Bay.
Why did FDEP put us on the “De-list” list? Because our water quality has improved substantially, as shown below in the plot of chlorophyll-a (a measure of phytoplankton abundance) as annual averages over the last 8 years. In this example, lower values represent improving water quality, especially increased water clarity – which is key to recovering the 2,000 or so acres of seagrass we lost between 2016 and 2020.

Did this happen because it’s been so dry lately? Well, look at the end year – it’s 2022, not 2023. Our recent improvements in water quality are not because of a dry period and a lack of rainfall (such as we’ve had in 2023) but because of management actions enacted these last few years. Manatee County’s SW WWTP has recently upgraded to advanced secondary, with reclaimed water mostly going to three golf courses, and no surface discharge. Bradenton and the City of Sarasota have AWT WWTPs which have effluent nitrogen concentrations low enough for surface discharge (by state law) but nonetheless have nearly 100% reuse. That is where Sarasota County is going with their Bee Ridge WWTP – the largest single capital improvement project in the County’s history. Throw in the large and award-winning stormwater treatment project in Hudson Bayou (Sarasota County and SWFWMD) and the recently completed stormwater treatment aspect of the City and SWFWMD’s Bobby Jones Golf Course project and you have an awful lot of projects that are reducing our bay-wide nutrient loads. Also add in what we think is a better educated population, since our outreach efforts reach – on occasion – tens of thousands of viewers, and we have thousands of people who follow us on social media and/or get our newsletters and thus get information on how to live a more bay-friendly lifestyle.
To keep track of the bay’s health, SBEP staff aim to be out on the water on a regular basis – so that we know the bay as well as we need to. After all, a forest ranger needs to be out in the woods on a regular basis, and a factory manager needs to walk the floor of their factory. Same with us.

See Letters, page 6



WM Valued Customer

There will be **NO GARBAGE** or **RECYCLING** collection service on Longboat Key on **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd** in observance of the **Thanksgiving Holiday**.
Residents and Businesses regularly serviced on Thursday will be **served on Friday**.



Questions, please call
WM at **(941) 753-7591**.



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Gorgeous 4BR/5BA, canal-front home in Country Club Shores, offering expansive open spaces and seamless indoor/outdoor living. New composite dock with jet ski and 30,000 lb. lift, with direct access to the ICW.

EditorLetters



Letters, from page 4

But we’re not out on the bay every day, which is why we stay in touch with people who are, such as recreational fishing guides. Earlier today, I got a call from Captain Justin Moore, who I’ve come to rely on as a trusted source of information for several years now. Frankly, I get nervous when I see his name come up on my cell phone, because we stayed in regular touch during the months after Piney Point, when we only had bad news to share. Well, Scott just called me to say that he was having a great time on the bay, and that he was seeing great water clarity, and not much of that “Lynbya” type macroalgae out there. Basically, a feel-good call from someone who knows the bay like few others.

His observations are in line with what the data are telling us – that water quality has improved substantially the last few years (with some exceptions in time and space) and that we are expecting to see several hundred acres of “new” seagrass meadows over the next year or so (fingers crossed) when the 2024 seagrass maps come out. He has been one of the three people I rely upon for an “eyes on the bay” input, and it’s nice to hear him call me up with good news. Hopefully that’s how our phone calls will go for the next few years! Happy Veterans Day to those of you out there!

Dave Tomasko
Executive Director, Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

Canal Dredging

To: Longboat Key Town Attorney Maggie Mooney and Town Manager Howard Tipton

While yesterday’s discussion of the canal program didn’t yield a quick solution, it was very useful in recognizing the complexity of the issues involved and identifying a number of issues of confusion and concern. Had to be done.

Maggie/Howard: While yesterday’s discussion of the canal program didn’t yield a quick solution, it was very useful in recognizing the complexity of the issues involved and identifying a number of issues of confusion and concern. Had to be done.

At one point Maggie identified a controlling principle: Because the largest component of work will be done on “local” canals benefiting a limited number of abutting properties, it is necessary that a meaningful assessment for that work be made on those properties. As a result, a mechanism similar to the 80/20 rule applied to beach renourishment on LBK would not be acceptable.

As we all consider ways to move forward on this matter, I think it would be helpful for counsel and staff to identify and circulate any other controlling principles that will apply to this program so that we are aware of the boundaries in which we must operate.

Ken Schneider
Mayor, Town of Longboat Key

Canal Dredging

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Will do. Thank you.

Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Canal Dredging

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Agreed, and we must be willing to make a call and not kick this down the street, or canal as it were. I’m sorry I had to miss this one. I was too sick, but I watched every minute of it... definitely in the 20+ years since our canal was dug it has had some filling in and that’s even with constant usage. Adjacent seawall collapses is something else we need to address, among a score of other issues.

Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Connecting

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra Williams

I was so glad to meet you at a recent gathering hosted by the League of Women Voters at the Panera on Manatee Ave. At that time you mentioned the monthly Town Commission Meeting and invited me to attend. I wanted to let you know that I was hoping to attend this month but have a work meeting that conflicts with the Commission meeting. I believe I saw on your website that the meetings are live streamed? I will also plan to put the December meeting on my calendar now!

I look forward to connecting with you in the near future and learning more about the work of your town commission.

Diana Shoemaker
Longboat Key

Connecting

To: Diana Shoemaker

Nice to hear from you. You can attend any commission meeting and introduce yourself. Each meeting starts with public comment where members of the public are invited to address the commission. Our first meeting in December is December 4 at 1 p.m.

Debra Williams
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Connecting

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra Williams

I’ve got the next meeting on my calendar. Thank you.

Diana Shoemaker
Longboat Key

Boats

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons

There are some small boats and kayaks that seem to be piling up just south of the Town’s boat ramp in the village. Would you ask Code to swing by and take a look to determine if there are any violations. Thanks!

Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Boats

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Copying in a few folks as the questions about boat storage on Bayside Dr. (south of the Town boat dock/ramp) and possible actions could touch a couple of different departments. The grouping of boats (currently) are generally stored between signs delineating that portion of the

See Letters, page 8

Growing in Jesus’ Name



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Growing in Jesus’ Name



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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 6

r-o-w for stowing of vessels. There's one kayak that's currently a little outside of that area. The signage delineating that area dates back to approximately 2019 and were placed there at the request of residents of the Village. Prior to 2019, boats were just generally stored in that area and had been for decades.

It's difficult to tell whether the boats have been abandoned. There is a deflated boat covered in barnacles (see 3rd picture below) that is likely abandoned. Town Code Chap. 99 has procedures for dealing with abandoned property and it refers to the provisions of F.S. 705 for specifics. There are differing processes for property & for vessels (although the vessels process appears to be oriented to vessels on the waters of the state; these are located on Town r-o-w). We'll consult with Maggie if we head down the path of removing one or more as potentially being deemed abandoned.

The other email you forwarded (attached) had a suggestion for creating some kind of sticker system to allow for storage limited to local boat owners or installing a rack system. Both of those suggestions would take further discussion and likely consultation with legal on the ability to limit to Town/Village residents. We can discuss further at next Tuesday's Dept. Head meeting.

Allen Parsons
Planning, Zoning and Building Director
Town of Longboat Key

Boats

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider

Below you will see PZB's response to the vessels on Bayside Drive ROW just south of the Town's dock. It does appear that it is an area that was either informally and now formally designated for this purpose for many years.

My two cents - I would hope that before we put a lot of work into creating an ordinance to restrict kayaks and small vessels at this location and then finding the time to enforce whatever is put into place that a community conversation could be held to see if this can be solved with neighbors coming together and taking personal responsibility for a use that has been there for a long time.

Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager, Town of Longboat Key

Boats

To: Carla and Pete Rowan, Rusty Chinnis

Do you think you can work with village leaders and neighbors to resolve ideally without some new ordinance or heavy town involvement? Seems like something that could be tackled by you 3 more easily.

Maureen Merrigan
Longboat Key

Boats

To: Maureen Merrigan

I agree, Maureen. Hopefully, this can be taken care of within the neighborhood. There is Village history regarding the storage of those boats. Dates back to the time the first memorial bench was placed on that strip of beach; when Dave Bullock

I agree, Maureen. Hopefully, this can be taken care of within the neighborhood.

There is Village history regarding the storage of those boats. Dates back to the time the first memorial bench was placed on that strip of beach; when Dave Bullock was Town Manger. Will have to go chat with those Villagers involved; those who can present that history. Boat storage was confined to where you see it now; north of the two benches, rather than all

over that strip of sand, including being tied to the benches. The neighborhood has changed through those 10(?) years. Residents may have new views. We send the daily feed to a committee of 17: that group is aware of what Rusty is suggesting and are networking.

We will be back in town next week. The plan now is to hold the December LBVA meeting soon after TG and present the 'issue' for consideration. Since not all Villagers will be present and not all are members of the LBVA, we will suggest taking a ballot survey via the SavetheHistoricVillage e-mailing list. That will take a weekend. Will share the findings. Best we can do.

Carla and Pete Rowan, Rusty Chinnis
Longboat Key

See Letters, page 11



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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 8

Follow-up Questions (Re: St. Regis)

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Following up on two questions Manatee Co. Commissioners asked about the St. Regis project:
Q: What is the anticipated number of employees that will be working at the St. Regis when fully staffed?
R: Approximately 200 total employees (over various shifts).
Q: Has there been any study of the estimated economic impact of the St. Regis?
R: An economic impact study has not been done.
Allen Parsons
Director Planning, Zoning & Building Department
Town of Longboat Key

Follow-up Questions (Re: St. Regis)

To: Longboat Key Commission
As a follow up to the questions asked yesterday, Allen has provided answers below. Typically, an economic impact study is done to justify incentives that may be given by a governmental entity (town, county, state). In this case, with no incentives offered for the project, a study was not completed.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Follow-up Questions (Re: St. Regis)

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Not sure you consider it an incentive but they have promised \$200,000 to the tennis center since they are building a resort at a former tennis resort with no tennis courts.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Longboat Key

Follow-up Questions (Re: St. Regis)

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
Correct on both counts. It is a promise they have made which will need to be fulfilled before CO and it is not an incentive.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Follow-up Questions (Re: St. Regis)

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
I believe the discussion that led to the \$200k payment arose in part from the absence of tennis at the St. Regis, but the obligation is to the Town and not for any particular purpose. Please confirm.
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Longboat Key

Follow-up Questions (Re: St. Regis)

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
Condition 56 in Ordinance 2018-07:
56) In recognition of the Town's need for additional recreational facilities to serve permanent and temporary residents, and Florida law, which would exempt the existing 237 tourism or dwelling units from payment of recreation impact fees, the Applicant will donate \$200,000 to the Town to be designated for improvements to public recreation facilities.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Follow-up Questions (Re: St. Regis)

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
Good morning. I am happy to participate in a call or sit down and meet to discuss any further questions/details about the donation and the condition referenced below. The stipulation was offered at the 2018 hearing by the applicant.

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Maggie D. Mooney
Town Attorney
Town of Longboat Key

Comprehensive Plan

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons
Allen, can you forward to me the notice we received I think it was from the state regarding personal flight craft to be included in our mobility part of the plan?
Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Longboat Key

Comprehensive plan

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin
Thanks Gary. There were two recently revised Policies that I believe you're referring to that speak to evolving transportation options that may arise.
The first is Mobility Policy 1.2.1 (copied below):
The other is Future Land Use Policy 1.4.6 (copied below):
Allen Parsons
Director Planning, Zoning & Building Department
Town of Longboat Key

Fish Ribbon Cutting

To: Longboat Key Commission
My wife Deborah and I were happy to attend the Fish Ribbon Cutting last Friday! The site is on the south side of Cortez Road only about a mile from the bridge. A lot of work on the site has been evident recently as you drive by, and the site is really coming together, will be an amazing place to walk and experience the natural scene; the site goes from Cortez Road all the way south to the Sarasota Bay shoreline.
The Sarasota Bay Estuary Program is excited to announce a Ribbon Cutting Event at Fish Preserve! The site, which

sits along Sarasota Bay on the south side of Cortez Road, was bought and protected by The Florida Institute for Saltwater Heritage (FISH) in 2000. Over time, partnerships and support from SBEP, EPA, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, NOAA, Manatee County, EarthBalance, ESA, Rick Richards, Inc. and others began transforming the coastal habitat piece by piece. With significant support from the EPA, SBEP and partners were able to carry out the last, large phase of work to complete the restoration vision.
The overall project now provides nearly 40 acres of tidal wetland nursery habitat for commercially and recreation-ally important fish species. The upland areas offer roosts for ospreys, eagles and hawks, and ground cover for other wild-life. Plans are underway for trails, bridges and educational signage to complete the experience for visitors.
Dr. Jim & Deborah
Longboat Key

Flying taxis

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons
Flying taxis are coming and communities need to be prepared.... this was in our comp plan, mobility element.
Gary Coffin
Commission
Longboat Key

Flying taxis

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin
Got it. Good! I do recall including that article as back-ground. Sorry I didn't catch that that's what you were referring to. Based, in part, on that article and other discussion, the Board (and then Commission) then incorporated the language that I sent yesterday in recognition of evolving

See Letters, page 12

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Chardonnay by any other name

The Chardonnay grape has during the last seventy decades become the most widely planted wine grape on the planet.

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

In the area of France where it originated, perhaps as early as the 12th century, Chardonnay holds sway as the dominant white wine grape. Often blended with Pinot Noir in the Champagne region, varietal Chardonnay wines have many different names in the Burgundy region south of Champagne. If produced in the Burgundy region, white wines will almost always contain only the juice from Chardonnay grapes.

Not that Chardonnay wines made from Champagne and Burgundy white grapes taste the same. Not at all.

Blanc de Blancs Champagnes contain grapes grown in the northernmost range of Chardonnay grape plantings in France (though climate changes could alter that restriction). In the Champagne region, the grapes develop less sugar than riper grapes grown farther south in Burgundy. A typical Blanc de Blancs Champagne has Brut (dry), tart, and clean tastes. The northern Chablis region in Burgundy also produces dry, tart wines using simple, traditional winemaking techniques. Chablis has a pleasing level of acidity on the tongue and in the back of the mouth.

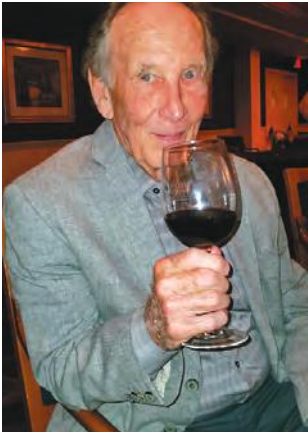
Proceeding south from Chablis, the generic name White Burgundy applies to Chardonnay varietals from the Côte de Nuits, Côte de Beaune, Côte de Chalonnaise (Côte translates to “slope”), and Mâconnais. These wines age at least a few months in French oak barrels. Some age for years. Aging in oak, often accompanied by secondary fermentation that converts malic acid to lactic acid and “batonage” that stirs up and increases exposure to lees (grape skins and by products of a primary fermentation), change the character of Chardonnay wines. In the Échezeaux Grand Cru area of the Côte de Nuits, the S. C. E. Domaine Forey Pere & Fils 2019 Échezeaux Grand Cru offers tastes of dark fruit and spice with rich notes of aging tannins and old French oak barrels. Few Chardonnay varietals outside Burgundy have the same aging potential.

Burgundy insiders tend to distinguish aged White Burgundy from others. In the Côte de Beaune, for example, the names Meursault, Puligny-Montrachet, and Cassagne-Montrachet identify some of the iconic White Burgundy. The Meursault have subtle nutty and buttery tastes that soften the acidic edges of the Chardonnay grapes. The Montrachet have richer and more refined tastes that take on nuances with greater age. The Meursault and Montrachet improve with aging up to at least ten years.

The Mâconnais region in the far south of Burgundy, around, obviously, the city of Mâcon, has a decidedly warmer climate than Champagne and Chablis. White Burgundy from this region doesn't have the cult status of the famed Côtes de Nuits and Beaune. Even so, the Pouilly Fuissé, Saint Véran, Vire Clesse, Pouilly Loché and Pouilly Vinzelles names distinguish these wines from the more pedestrian White Burgundy.

It proves easy to follow simple rules when reading the labels of white wines from Burgundy: assume that the grape is Chardonnay unless otherwise stated; the more specific a geographical area name on the label, the higher the rating and cost, especially for Grand or Premier Cru (vineyards); and, the vintage on the label will affect the character and quality rating of the wine. The Cru tend to be very small, and each region of Burgundy has a wealth of information about each vintage.

The Chardonnay grape has during the last seventy decades become the most widely planted wine grape on the planet. Outside of Champagne, Chablis, and Burgundy proper, the varietal



made from Chardonnay grapes usually has the name “Chardonnay” on the label. It may have gone through secondary fermentation and exposure to oak, giving it a buttery, oaky taste, or fermented in a simpler way and left unoaked, giving it a clean and sharper acid edge. The greater Burgundy region, including Chablis, has examples of unoaked and oaked wines, but also something in between that prepares Chardonnay varietals for aging and imparts to vintage White Burgundy a different realm of tastes.

S. W. Hermansen has used his expertise in econometrics, data science and epidemiology to help develop research databases for the Pentagon, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Agriculture, and Health Resources and Services. He has visited premier vineyards and taste wines from major appellations in California, Oregon, New York State, and internationally from Tuscany and the Piedmont in Italy, the Ribera del Duero in Spain, the Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale in Australia, and the Otago Valley in New Zealand. Currently he splits time between residences in Chevy Chase, Maryland and St. Armand's Circle in Florida.

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

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 12

this project's 90% completion plans.

Public Meetings: 2 public meetings have been conducted, the first on February 17, 2022, and the most recent on October 26, 2023.

Design Considerations: The trail alignment was chosen to preserve the Grand trees at the park's southern end and to mitigate utility conflicts.

Tree Impact: Some tree removal is unavoidable but has been minimized. A total of 21 trees will be removed, while 65 new trees, among other vegetation, will be planted.

Next Steps: Our landscape architect is in the final stages of incorporating community feedback for the disc golf hole relocation expected to be completed by early 2024. The public comment period closes on November 6, 2023. Further details are available in the attached email.

Special Commission Meeting on November 13th: I have included the EDCM and Key Transportation Projects presentations and the agenda request. These will be uploaded to PEAK later today.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Nik Patel
City Engineer
City of Sarasota

Newtown Sidewalk Rehabilitation

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown

We just received an update from Michael Willis that the House passed their FY24

Transportation Appropriation bill, last night, which include the \$1 million appropriation for the Newtown Sidewalk Rehabilitation project, which is great news!

Per Michael, the Senate passed its version of this bill a few weeks ago, but because our Senators do not submit Community Project Funding requests this project is not included in the Senate bill. However, our Senators have both agreed to work with the Senate Appropriations Committee to ensure the City's project remains in the final version of the bill.

Michael and his team will continue to meet with our Congressional Delegation and the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to ensure the project receives full funding in the final spending measure, which will probably come in January. I will keep you updated.

Thank you!

Jennifer Jorgensen
Governmental Relations Manager

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Sherry 'Nef' Price is a USPTR certified professional. She played at IMG and Division 1 College.
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