



# Longboat Key News

June 16, 2023

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**InsideLook**



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*Extremism tanks markets & polls ...page 7*



## Reef sharks at a higher risk of extinction says latest study

*“These are some of the best estimates of population decline of widespread shark species because of the very large number of reefs and countries sampled,”*

Overfishing is driving reef sharks toward extinction, according to new study in the peer-reviewed journal, Science.

The five main shark species that live on coral reefs — grey reef, blacktip reef, whitetip reef, nurse and Caribbean reef sharks — have declined globally by an average of 63 percent, according to the scientists of Global FinPrint, a five-year international study supported by the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation.

“These are some of the best estimates of population decline of widespread shark species because of the very large number of reefs and countries sampled,” according to Colin Simpfendorfer, lead author of the study and adjunct professor of Marine and Aquaculture Science at James Cook University in Australia.

“This tells us the problem for



sharks on coral reefs is far worse and more widespread than anyone thought.”

Results from this latest research, which includes 22,000 hours of video footage from baited underwater video stations across 391

**See Sharks, page 2**

## Sarasota Classic Car Museum evicted by New College

New College of Florida leaders issue eviction notice to 70-year-old Sarasota Classic Car Museum

Built in March of 1953, the Sarasota Classic Car Museum celebrated 70 years of continuous operation. The museum was given notice by landlord New College Of Florida as to the lease cancellation notice on May 16, with a timeline of the end of June.

The museum’s owner said there are 150 classic cars and around 3,000 other historic items and memorabilia in the building. The museum sees around 30,000 car enthusiasts every year and is among the top-listed car museums in the state.

## Terrence Connor Named Superintendent of Sarasota County Schools

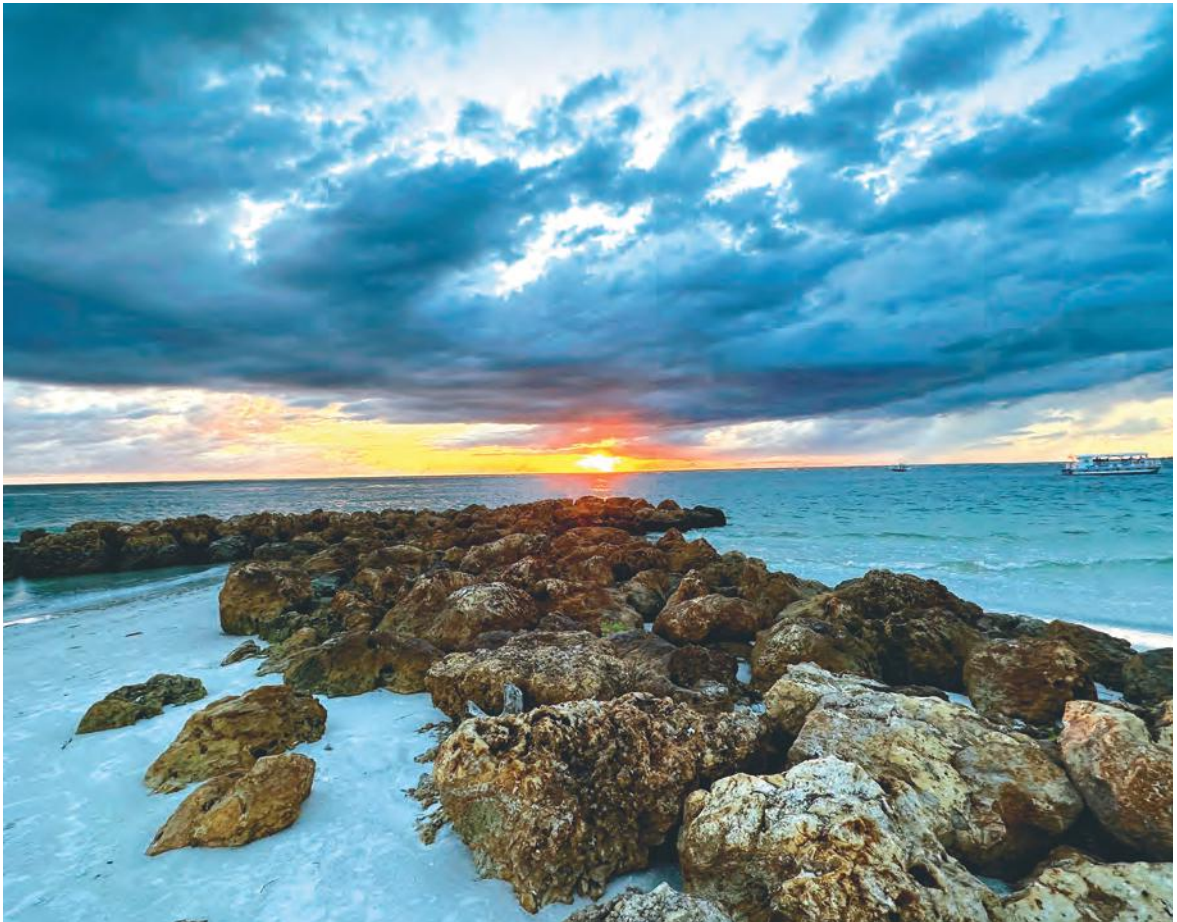
During its Special School Board Meeting on June 14, the Sarasota County School Board voted 3-2 to appoint Terrence Connor – the current Deputy Superintendent & Chief Academic Officer of Hillsborough County Public Schools – as Sarasota County’s new Superintendent of Schools. The School Board of Sarasota County also voted 5-0 to approve the School Board Chair and General Council to start contract negotiations with the newly appointed Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Connor holds a bachelor’s degree in Middle Grades Education from the University of North Florida and a Master of Administration & Management from Nova Southeastern University. He holds Florida Educator’s Certifications in Educational Leadership (All Levels); School Principal (All Levels); General Science (Grades 5-9); Mathematics (Grades 5-9); and Physical Education (Grade K-12). Mr. Connor completed the National Institute of School Leadership’s (NISL) Executive Development Program and holds an Instructional Coaching Certification from the University of Florida’s Laster Center for Learning. Before serving in his current role as the Deputy Superintendent & Chief Academic Officer of Hillsborough County Public Schools, Mr. Connor served as the Chief Academic Officer/ Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction for Clay

**See Schools, page 2**

## Take a walk on Longboat’s Wild Side

*We all know that Longboat Key is an absolutely beautiful island, however sometimes we forget to stop and smell the roses. Working about 80 hours a week, I am guilty of that myself.*




**TRYLA LARSON**  
Guest Writer  
realestate@lbknews.com

Sometimes, if I am stuck in traffic on the bridge, I must remind myself that people pay a lot of money for a view like the one I am looking at right now. Then I relax and take a deep breath, forget about the stoppage, and enjoy the gorgeous view before my eyes.


If you are looking for a leisurely activity with great views on Longboat Key, there are several prime areas I’d like to recommend. Let’s start South and work our way North.

**See LBK Beauty, page 8**

*LBK sells for \$4.49 million ...page 9*



*Selecting through price ...page 13*



*What’s under the tarp? ...page 10*



Schools, from page 1

County District Schools as well as the Chief of Secondary Education for Clay County District Schools. He has also served as the Principal of Samuel W. Wolfson High School, the Principal of Oceanway School, the Assistant Principal of Curriculum at Oceanway School, and a 7th & 8th Grade Comprehensive Science Teacher at Oceanway School, all within Duval County Public Schools.

\$20 million for USF Sarasota-Manatee STEM Nursing facility is included on DeSantis’ veto list

Gov. Ron DeSantis signed the 2023-24 state budget on Thursday, but not before his veto pen nixed \$510 million in proposed funding.

Over \$34 million was sliced from the budget for projects in Sarasota County; that includes \$20 million that was proposed for a planned Academic STEM Nursing Facility on the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee campus.

It would be the third major building for the Sarasota-Manatee campus. Officials said the facility would double the nursing program, offer new healthcare-related majors, and address space demands in classrooms, labs, and research facilities. It would also act as a research hub for the chemistry and biology fields.

Architects and a general contractor for the proposed \$61.7 million, 75,000-square-foot building were chosen in April.

Sarasota Powerboat Grand Prix Returns to Lido June 30

The 38th annual P1 Offshore Sarasota Powerboat Grand Prix will be held from June 30-July 2 at Lido Beach, and residents and visitors can catch more than 60 powerboat racing teams from Europe, Australia, Canada and the U.S.

A pit party at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall will kick off the festivities at 6 p.m. on Friday evening, with live music from Andy Velo, a live remote radio broadcast, food trucks and local vendors. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet the race teams and view the boats.

The six-mile races will begin at Lido Beach at 1 p.m. on Saturday, with the qualifying session for the Class 1 powerboats at 2 p.m. On Sunday, the action will begin at 10 a.m. with the fleet of Class 1 boats on the water at 1 p.m. Races will be broadcast on CBS Sports Network and Bally Sports Regional Networks in the U.S., as well as on global sports channels.

Sharks, from page 1

reefs in 67 nations and territories, indicates widespread overfishing is the main culprit driving reef sharks toward extinction.

“While overfishing and poor governance is associated with the absence of these species, they are still common in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and places where shark fishing was banned or highly regulated,” said Demian Chapman, lead scientist of Global FinPrint and director of the Sharks and Rays Conservation Program at Mote Marine Laboratory. “Reef sharks can be important for human livelihoods through dive tourism and if very fished carefully. An investment in reef shark conservation can therefore be good for people, too”.

Sharks and rays are common in coral reef ecosystems, but as reefs are more heavily fished, they have become stripped of both shark and ray species or stripped of just shark species, leaving the ecosystem dominated by rays. The loss of sharks could have an impact on the overall health and function of the coral reef ecosystem.

“People need healthy coral reefs,” said Mike Heithaus, co-author of the study and executive dean of the College of Arts, Sciences & Education at Florida International University. “We are seeing that when sharks disappear, that causes other changes in these ecosystems. Keeping shark populations healthy, or rebuilding them, is important for maintaining their roles for healthy reefs.”

Early results from this study were previously used to update the status of four of these species to more threatened categories on the International Union for the Conservation of Natures (IUCN) Red List. They were also presented during the most recent Conference of the Parties of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), helping world governments to make the groundbreaking decision to better regulate trade in these and more than 50 additional species of sharks.

“This means no trade should come from nations where the take of the species will threaten its survival,” Simpfendorfer said. “This study can be used to help identify those nations where such catches would be detrimental. We need to act now to stop widespread extinction of shark species in many parts of the world.”

More than 150 researchers from more than 120 institutions across the world contributed to the research.

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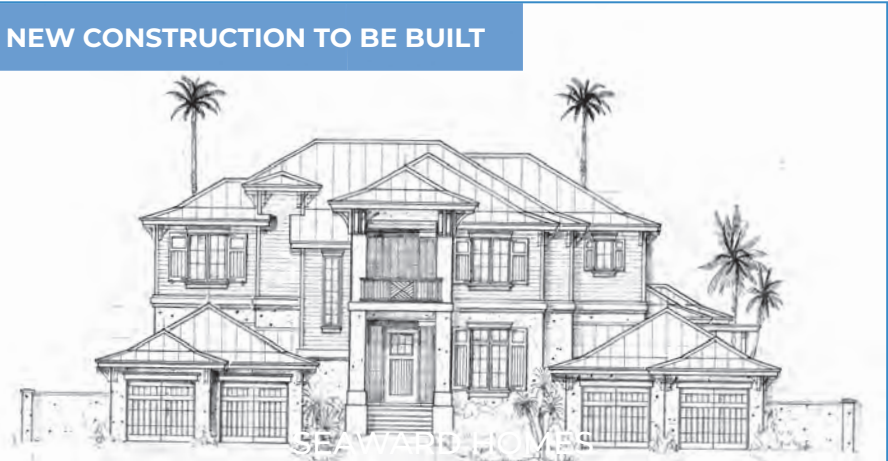
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# THE DIPINTO COLLECTION



**LIDO KEY • 159 TAFT DR., #206** **\$2,699,000**  
Just listed- This coastal contemporary home offers attractive one-level-living, an abundance of natural sunlight and boasts a full array of developer upgrades. Desirable end unit with 3 BR/ 3 BA. Only 18 unique owners, perfectly situated between Sarasota Bay and the Gulf of Mexico.



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**MOVE IN FALL 2023** **\$6,649,000**  
**LIDO SHORES • 1212 CENTER PLACE**  
Currently under construction. Spectacular location, steps to private beach and St. Armands Circle. This desirable, custom residence offers an open, bright, and airy floor plan with 5BR/5BA. Impressive 23-ft. ceiling in great room. Fantastic outdoor area w/custom pool, spa, kitchen and lanai. The residence boasts 4,750 sq. ft. of air-conditioned space with an additional 1,500 square feet of walkable terrace area, including a breathtaking SKY-TERRACE offering 360 degree panoramic views of Sarasota's magnificent city and water views.



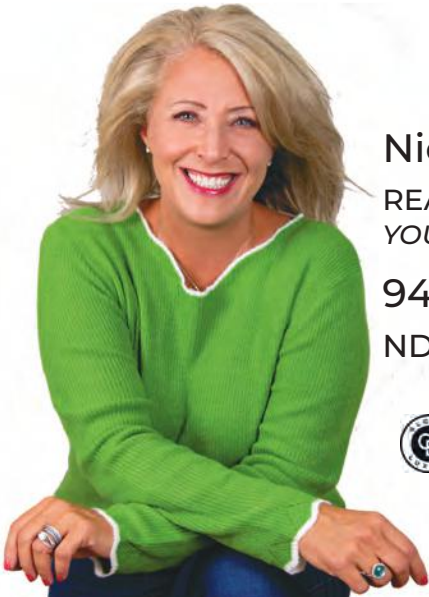
**GULF FRONT NEW CONSTRUCTION** **\$16,900,000**  
**LONGBOAT KEY • 6489 GULFSIDE DRIVE**  
Fabulous Gulf front lot offering nearly 100 ft. of sandy beach, this gorgeous DSDG Architect designed home is a rare find. Boasting almost 6,000 AC/SF, this spectacular home is custom built with the finest details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

I am looking for properties on Longboat and Lido for my buyers.

If you are thinking about making a move, let's chat.



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Editor
Letters

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.

St. Regis Parking Garage

To: Longboat Key Commission  
You made the right call at the last Commission meeting, please stand firm.  
The “Plan B” the developer will propose to remove one of the parking garage floors does not remove the primary objections to this multi-level garage structure.  
It is a football field in length, two level concrete structure right on Gulf of Mexico Drive and another huge project departure. It is strategic incremental project departure plan creep and an ongoing negotiation with the Town, enough!  
Apparently the developer has not figured out how to efficiently use the electric parking lifts they asked for in the already approved project.  
That is not the Town’s problem. Incidentally it is not a problem that cannot be solved with proper valet staffing allocation, communication and other operating procedures. Valet wait times certainly should not be considered by you as an argument for this important and unneeded amended application before you.  
Common sense dictates that if you approve this application amendment you will be opening the door to a revisit from this developer down the road for more garage levels to be added, larger events to be approved etc. etc. This and other proposed developments will be knocking at your and other Commission doors. What about the residents?  
Longboat Key doesn’t need to over react to developer concerns but historically heeds and honors resident concerns as well as the Town Comprehensive Plan.  
On June 20 please continue to stop this project’s dysfunctional incremental departure process. Again, it is about permanent concrete building mass in very close proximity to Gulf of Mexico Drive and is precedent setting for this development and others to follow. Most important, this project needs more trees, less concrete! Thank You for your hard work and service

to Longboat Key.  
Bob Gault  
Longboat Key

EDC of Sarasota County - Liliana Zindler

To: Longboat Key Commission  
Today is my last day at the Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County. I would like to thank all of you for a wonderful experience as the EDC’s Board Liaison for the past five years working with outstanding Board Chairs (Rae Dowling, Larry Fineberg, Art Lambert, Charlie Murphy, Joe C. Hembree, and Mark Irwin) – we navigated through a lot together!  
All who know me will remember that any time I have the opportunity I have made sure to say that the EDC has an amazing Board of Directors made up by some of the most successful and thoughtful leaders of our community. I really cannot say enough good things about all of you. Thank you for the way you always made my work meaningful and pleasant.  
I am excited and confident for Erin Silk to continue to lead the way in the business community. She is the one for the job! Congratulations.  
Finally, I am leaving the Board Liaison responsibilities into Mary Bamer’s mbamer@edcsarasotacounty.com capable hands. Mary and Erin will continue to work with you and show you the utmost appreciation for your dedication to our vision and mission. Looking forward to seeing the continued success of the Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County.  
Liliana Zindler  
Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County

“Back To The Future”

To: Longboat Key Commission  
Ladies and Gentlemen, in your deliberations next Tuesday on an amended application for a multi- level garage to be constructed almost up against and along GMD, please give heavy weight to the future of LBK development. Please do not allow the St. Regis brand “halo effect” to sway your critical thinking and consideration of this garage addition.  
I have been on Unicorn’s side of the table in major theme park, resort and attractions development planning and approval hearings. Mr. Whittall is a very good and tenacious developer, as evidenced by the large condos and resort you already have approved and have risen out of the ground.  
My considered opinion is that if you approve this garage, Unicorn will be “Back to the Future” soon after the successful resort opening and ask for probably two additional levels of parking and you will compromise, (sounds nice and logical), and approve one additional level.

See Letters, page 6

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**5910 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY**

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**793 JUNGLE QUEEN WAY | LONGBOAT KEY**

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**1211 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #601 | LONGBOAT KEY**

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**830 TARAWITT DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY**

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Front View







# KeyOpinion

## Kowtowing to extremist groups a frequent path to failure

*There are certain simple tenets and core values embraced by most Americans, and trampling on those principles is ill-advised.*

GREGORY RUSOVICH  
Guest Writer  
rusovich@lbknews.com

Common sense. Merriam-Webster defines it as “sound and prudent judgment based on a simple perception of the situation or facts.” Some of our nation’s sports, corporate and political leaders sure need a dose of that good ole wisdom. Why do certain organizations succumb to irrational, radical decisions and ludicrous actions?

Kowtowing to small, extremist groups at the expense of a larger main-stream populace is frequently a path to failure. There are certain simple tenets and core values embraced by most Americans, and trampling on those principles is ill-advised. Consider the Los Angeles Dodgers, who invited the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence to join the on-field celebration of Pride Month on June 16.

This “Sisters” fringe group self describes as “queer and trans nuns” (no members are actual nuns) as it openly mocks Christian beliefs via annual “Foxy Mary” and “Hunky Jesus” contests, pole dancing on crosses and sayings such as “Go forth and sin some more.” These bigoted fanatics don nuns’ habits and ridicule Catholics in the vilest ways possible.

Following significant objection to the Dodgers’ initial invite, the team pulled back its offer, only to subsequently re-invite the hate group to the festivities in a nod to woke extremists. This prompted Washington Nationals Pitcher Trevor Williams to tweet, “Why are they having a group of men that are literally mocking nuns, the Christian religion and women? I’m confused...” So is the larger, sensible and caring public, Trevor.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops addressed the Dodgers’ invitation with a statement of condemnation this week: “This year, on June 16 — the day of the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus — a professional baseball team has shockingly chosen to honor a group whose lewdness and vulgarity in mocking our Lord, His Mother, and consecrated women cannot be overstated. This is not just offensive and painful to Catholics everywhere; it is blasphemy.”

Unable to steer clear of advocating for extremist groups, the California Legislature has invited “Sisters” member Michael Williams (who goes by the stage name “Sister Roma”) to appear at a ceremony honoring members of the LGBTQ community. Does the Dodgers organization or the California Legislature have any moral compass or common sense? Is placating a sect of anti-Catholic loons at the expense of respect for religious beliefs now the new norm of Major League Baseball and the California Legislature?

As National Review points out, at any point during the year, the Dodgers could have honored the more than 1,000 real nuns of Little Sisters of the Poor in Greater Los Angeles who shelter, feed, minister to and care for the elderly and poor. Or they could have raised awareness of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, founded in 1641 to help prostituted women and who shelter and school female victims of domestic abuse and their children.

Now let’s turn attention to the executive decision-makers at Target. The company has had June Pride displays with rainbow and LGBTQ+ messaging for years. No one has objected. But this year it has offered female-style swimsuits that enable wearers to, um, “tuck” male genitalia. The company’s decision to stock these swimsuits shows incredibly poor judgment.

Adding to the charade, Target had contracted with Abprallen, a clothing designer whose brands include Satanist-inspired merchandise. Here again, corporate leaders lacked common sense, demonstrated a preference to serve a tiny group of militants rather than its customary client base, and practiced business buffoonery.

Not surprisingly, Target’s market cap has fallen over \$15.7 billion. And shareholders also are feeling the pain as the stock price has fallen from \$161 just one month ago to a 52-week low of \$125.08 this past week.

And then there is the issue of reparations. As usual, California has paved the way for more divisiveness and absurdity. The California Reparations Task Force has issued its report, and the cost to the state’s already beleaguered taxpayers is bad news. The task force estimates that the state is responsible for more than \$500 billion to address various underlying historic issues. Cash payments could reach as high as \$1.2 million for a single recipient. New York also has

launched a reparations task force. But wait; California was never a slave state and New York outlawed slavery in 1827.



Slavery was truly horrific. But slaveholders and those enslaved are long gone, and the majority of Caucasians alive today are descendants of people who came to the U.S. after the Civil War. As Jason Riley states in the Wall Street Journal, “Proponents of reparations want people who aren’t even descendants of slaveowners to compensate black people who were never slaves.”

Most Americans are open-minded, tolerant and generous. Mainstream America embodies common sense while rejecting fringe ideologies and actions which threaten core beliefs deeply woven into our societal fabric. Thankfully, common sense is winning the day. Extremists beware.



RUSOVICH

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# Exploring Longboat’s natural beauty

LBK Beauty, from page 1

“Any walk on our gorgeous beaches, especially at sunset, is genuine Utopia.”

At the very South end of the island, in the Quick Point Nature Preserve, is a walking trail that will take you out to a breathtaking view. There is parking on the West side of Gulf of Mexico Drive between the bridge and the first stoplight that you come to on the island. If you park in the parking lot and then walk under the bridge you will see a path. Stay on the path. When it forks, take the path closest to the water and it will lead you to some wonderful lagoons with jaw-dropping views that I always think would be perfect for a small pop-up wedding or engagement pictures. Finally, the trail leads you out to a deck with great views of the bay and the Sarasota skyline. The water is usually exceptionally clear there and you might see sheepshead, redfish, snook, or many of our other native species in the water below. If you are there at the right time you might even get lucky enough to watch a group of kite surfers doing their thing in the Bay.

About halfway up the Island there is Joan M. Durante Community Park. It is a beautiful park with a pond, playground, and large pavilion. It is, once again, a great place for a wedding, family reunion, or party. Before doing a function, check with the Town of Longboat Key in case there are reservations or permits required. Behind the pavilion is a walking trail that winds its way through the Mangroves. Much of the trail is shaded, which is nice. Occasionally there are spots that open to Sarasota Bay and allow you to catch a wonderful view. Some even have park benches for you to sit a ponder the beauty for a while. If someone was looking for a private and romantic place to propose, this would be perfect. The wonderous mangroves are not only works of art, they also have a purpose in our overall environment.



If you go all the way up to the North end of the island and make your way over to the beach, you will not only experience an expansive white sandy beach, you can also take in breathtaking sunsets that look like they set the sky on fire. If you continue walking around the tip of the island you will run into what is actually damage from a previous storm/hurricane, but I have to say, they way the tree trunks and roots lay there on the beach they look like works of art, especially when the setting sun peaks through them. Above are some pictures that I took while my husband and I watched the sunset over the Gulf.

I will conclude by stating the obvious: Any walk on our gorgeous beaches, especially at sunset, is genuine Utopia. I know that sometimes when we live on this paradise, we forget to take time to catch the sunsets, feel the sand on our toes and the salty waves on our skin, but it is so important to take that tranquil and healing time for ourselves and just enjoy the beauty that surrounds us.



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# KeyRealEstate

## Bird Key, Lido Key, Longboat Key latest sales

Address	Sq. Ft.	List Price	Bed/Bath/Half Bath			Days On Market	Sale Price
4651 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#102	4,000	\$4,490,000	4	4	1	61	\$4,490,000
572 HALYARD LN	4,257	\$4,800,000	4	5	1	236	\$4,085,000
535 SANCTUARY DR Unit#A601	3,115	\$3,399,000	3	3	1	62	\$3,150,000
3030 GRAND BAY BLVD Unit#321	2,925	\$2,750,000	3	3	1	45	\$2,600,000
585 SANCTUARY DR Unit#B-202	1,823	\$1,899,000	3	2	1	4	\$1,952,000
575 SANCTUARY DR Unit#A103	1,823	\$2,150,000	3	2	1	144	\$1,800,000
3312 BAYOU RD	3,372	\$1,995,000	3	3	0	93	\$1,600,000
450 FIREHOUSE CT	1,390	\$1,595,000	2	2	1	26	\$1,550,000
2020 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#423	1,905	\$1,400,000	3	2	0	78	\$1,225,000
210 SANDS POINT RD Unit#2302	657	\$975,000	1	1	0	5	\$987,000
4725 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#202	1,071	\$925,000	2	2	0	63	\$910,000
4401 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#503	896	\$749,900	1	1	0	114	\$730,000
781 SAINT JUDES DR N Unit#B	882	\$512,000	2	1	1	2	\$515,000
4310 FALMOUTH DR Unit#A105	837	\$429,500	1	1	0	167	\$408,000
2600 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#B-8		\$475,000				76	\$369,000
3806 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#C308	712	\$299,000	1	1	0	3	\$294,000
1300 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#602	3,964	\$3,900,000	3	3	1	12	\$4,015,000
1102 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#611	1,213	\$899,000	2	2	0	39	\$885,000



4651 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#102



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WATER CLUB  
1241 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #808  
ACTIVE LISTING \$3,395,000



LAKEWOOD RANCH  
5527 PALMER CIRCLE, #206  
ACTIVE LISTING \$485,000



BIRD KEY  
410 MEADOWLARK DRIVE  
PENDING \$3,795,000



BIRD KEY  
526 BIRD KEY DRIVE  
SOLD \$2,225,000



BIRD KEY  
449 E ROYAL FLAMINGO DRIVE  
SOLD \$5,600,000



# OnPatrol

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

## June 9 Dog on the beach

5:40 p.m.  
Officer Connors responded to Broadway for a report of dogs on the beach. A woman was observed walking two dogs on the beach just north of the beach access. Officer Connors advised her of the ordinance pertaining to dogs and she removed the dogs without incident. Case clear.

## Trespassing

8:38 p.m.  
Officer Tillman responded to the 7200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of people fishing from the bridge in between posted signs. Upon arrival, Officer Tillman spoke with two fisherman who were in the process of moving their fishing gear outside of the posted 'No Fishing' area. A verbal warning was given to the fisherman. Case clear.

## June 10 Suspicious vehicle

2:25 a.m.  
Officer Butler while on patrol during a routine business check, observed a car outside of a closed commercial establishment that was unoccupied. An FCIC/NCIC search was conducted and the car was not reported stolen. This vehicle was on private property and not subject to state or local law. Case clear.

## Boat

5:15 p.m.  
Officer Montfort and Officer Connors were dispatched to the 4100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of a water emergency. It was reported that a woman in a blue kayak was in distress. Longboat Key Fire Rescue deployed fire boat 9 and made contact with the woman in the kayak. The woman told the fireman that she was in good health and that there was no emergency. Case clear.

## Animal in the house

8:05 p.m.  
Officer Tillman responded to the 3400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of a snake in a closet. Upon arrival, Officer Tillman arrived along with Sarasota Animal Services Deputy Matthews who located the three-foot brown corn snake from the premises and released it. Case clear.

## June 11 Civil citation

1:00 p.m.  
Officer Ferrigine responded to the 3400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive and observed a man on the beach with an open alcoholic container. Officer Ferrigine made contact with the man and advised him there was no alcoholic beverages on the beach. The man was issued one citation and he left the area. Case clear.

## Suspicious vessel

1:39 p.m.  
Officer Montfort was dispatched to the 5900 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of



two suspicious boats. It was further reported that the boats were anchored near the shore and the caller believed they were watching her. Officer Ferrigine who is assigned to a beach patrol detail advised him he was in the area on several occasions. Officer Ferrigine observed the vessels in the area recreating, not in violation of criminal law or local ordinances. Case clear.

## June 12 Suspicious incident

11:00 a.m.  
Officer Ramaiser responded to Fair Oaks Lane for a suspicious phone call received by the complainant last week. Complainant stated that unknown man was going to stop by her home between home between 1100 and 1200 on June 13. The complainant stated that she did not give personal information about herself over the phone. Complainant followed up with her insurance company and was told no one from their office reached out to her. Complainant stated that a friend will be with her during the hours on June 13 and was advised to call police if a person showed up at her home during those hours. Case clear.

## Agency assistance

3:02 p.m.  
Officer Nazareno responded to the 300 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive as a backup officer to the 300 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive to assist Sarasota Police Department Zone 10. The motorcycle involved was reportedly traveling westbound at a high rate of speed at the Ringling Bridge. Case clear.

## June 13 Alarm

2:35 a.m.  
Officer Miklos was dispatched to Harbourside Drive in reference to an audible alarm. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos. Upon arrival, Officer Niklos came into contact with the complainant. Officer Miklos could hear an unknown loud alarm coming from near the garage of one of the units. Officer Miklos attempted to make contact with the resident via knocking at the front door with negative results. The complainant was able to make contact with the resident via telephone who advised she was out of the country. The complainant and Officer Miklos was given permission to enter the residence by the owner and had a spare key in the security office. The complainant and Officer Miklos made entry into the residence and did not observe any smoke, fire or forced entry. The complainant and Officer Miklos could not discover the source of the alarm inside the garage. The complainant secured the entry door and was advised to have the maintenance department look at it when they arrive at work. Case clear.

## June 14 Suspicious person

2:11 p.m.  
Officer Martinez responded to the 4200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a suspicious person. The complainant advised dispatch that there was a woman walking on the beach who is possibly impaired, dancing and asking odd questions. Upon arrival, Officer Martinez made contact with the complainant who advised that the woman asked her, "Can you help me with my phone, I need to pick up my grandson?" the complainant also advised that she observed the woman acting weird. While on scene, Officer Martinez observed the woman leaving the beach and made contact with the described person who advised that her phone stopped working and needed to pick up her grandson. The woman said she was not in immediate danger and did not require medical assistance. The woman stated she was going home to charge her phone. No criminal nature involved, nothing further. Case clear.

## Citizen assist

2:48 p.m.  
Officer Martinez responded to Poinsetta Drive in regards to a citizen assist. Upon arrival, Officer Martinez met with the complainant who advised he found "boxes and personal items on his property, tarp covering it all." Complainant stated that the items did not belong to him. Officer Martinez observed two plastic containers and a cardboard box all filled with what appeared to be trash. Officer Martinez advised the complainant to notify public works. Case clear.

## Suspicious incident

4:00 p.m.  
Officer Connors while on patrol, was dispatched to Bay Isles Road for a report of a passerby advising a nude man, pouring water on his head, and standing outside his parked semi truck. The caller, who did not want to meet, later advised that no lewd acts or gestures were made and wanted the incident documented. Officer Connors made contact with the man who was sitting inside his truck upon arrival, He advised that he did pour water on his head while shirtless, outside his truck and in doing so, changed his shorts, but was wearing boxer shorts the whole time. Officer Connors advised him of the complaint and that the incident would be documented and no further action was needed. Case clear.

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# Editor Letters



Letters, from page 6

Rumor Control

To: Longboat Key Commission

The article by Steve Reid last Friday (June 9) in the Longboat Key News relating to the parking garage was the first time staff had heard about any alternate plans by the applicant. No alternate plans were discussed or presented at the public hearing as you know.

Yesterday June 12, the applicant’s attorney did make contact with staff working to set up a time to, we believe, go over their alternate approach. There has not been a discussion yet as Planning, Zoning and Building and Legal are working on trying to get ready for the 20th and meeting the agenda deadline. Staff will be available Wednesday June 14 or later this week if the applicant would like to discuss anything further.

Just want to make sure you’re up to speed related to the comments attributed in the article to Mr. Whittall. As always, if you have any questions please don’t hesitate to call Maggie, Allen, or myself.

Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

Rumor Control

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Thank you for that clarification as I have heard some rumors to that effect as well. Thanks for clearing that up.

Gary Coffin  
Longboat Key

IEMO Graduates

To: Longboat Key Commission

Congratulations to Commissioners Coffin and Murphy for completing IEMO I which is provided to newly elected officials through the Florida League of Cities. Wonderful to see that level of commitment to better understand the role and responsibilities of elected office (a.k.a., the things they didn’t tell you about before). Well done!

Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

St Regis mausoleum

To: Longboat Key Commission

It appears I may have jumped the gun a bit. I am now being told the developer has not yet filed for the revised garage variance. Let’s hope they do not file at all, but just in case, you know how we, the residents of Longboat Key, feel about the concrete garage.

Jim Fanto  
Longboat Key

St. Regis application

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra Williams

Thanks for your follow-up questions. The associated parameters for accessory structures (such as decks) are fairly general in the Zoning Code (i.e., there are not hyper-specific size limitations for these features). The other associated Code provisions would include:

The Definition of an Accessory Structure (Sec. 158.006(B) in the 2018 Zoning Code): “Accessory structure. A structure detached from a principal building located on the same lot and customarily incidental and subordinate to the principal building or use. In no instance shall an accessory structure exceed 25 percent of the floor area of the principal use or building, or contain dwelling units.”

The closest a structure can get to the ECL (50 ft.) is found in the Required Waterfront Yard Requirements (Sec. 158.150(D)(1)(e)): “...This provision shall not be construed to preclude decreases from the required gulf waterfront yard through the planned unit development (PUD) process, if applicable, but the setback shall never be less than 50 feet from the mean high-water line or erosion control line, whichever is more landward.”

Lot coverage requirements & setbacks are based on those allowed in the particular Zoning District. If you have any additional questions about this, please feel free to give me a call.

Allen Parsons  
Planning and Zoning Director  
Town of LongboatKey

St. Regis application

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons

Thank you for your response. The code is still unclear to me. Can you tell me the section of the code that defines the parameters (i.e., size, coverage, setbacks, etc.) of accessory decks that can be built within the 150-foot waterfront setback?

Debra Williams  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

St. Regis application

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

See Letters, page 12



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# Editor Letters



Letters, from page 11

I received the follow-up inquiry from Commissioner Debra Williams below. The follow-up question is regarding two low-scale deck features located around two Patio Heater structures, which have received Departures for their setback from the Erosion Control Line (ECL). The current application is revising the location approximately 6 ft. further away from the ECL.

The Town’s required Waterfront Yard Requirements (Sec. 158.150(D)(1)(b)) (cited in the email below) provides an exception for accessory decks to be within the 150 ft. waterfront setback. I’ve highlighted the applicable exception, in the citation, below.

Allen Parsons  
Planning and Zoning Director  
Town of Longboat Key

St. Regis application

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Alan Parsons

I’m still unclear about a question that was asked in the Monday 6/5/2023 hearing, regarding the wooden decks that will be constructed where the patio heaters are located. The 2021 Planning Staff report and the 2023 Planning Staff report make no verbal mention of the proposed wooden decks, the applicant’s 2023 materials do.

Can you clarify the code that permits wooden decks to be constructed in the 150’ setback from the ECL? Both the staff analysis, and the applicant’s materials, reference chapter 151, Shoreline Construction:

“No structures, buildings, swimming pools (except as provided in section 158.127), drives, vehicular parking, walls and fences may be built within the required gulfside waterfront yard except for shelters, beach access parking on land owned or controlled by the public, pool fences and windwalls, as defined in section 158.006, and dune walkover structures, sand fences, accessory decks or marine structures as authorized in chapter 151.” I see where chapter 151 references seawall and revetments, but not decks.

Debra Williams  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

Winter Spectacular on St Armands Circle

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch

Thank You for sharing the information.

Casey Gonzmart  
Sarasota

Winter Spectacular on St Armands Circle

To: Sarasota City Commission

Our first priority when proposing the Winter Spectacular 2022 was to create a memorable, unifying and joyous experience for all of Sarasota during the holiday season. We had over 20,000 happy residents and visitors that greatly enjoyed the festival.

We are disappointed that, as a result of the loud voices of a minority of citizens, the potential and purpose of Winter Spectacular 2023 will not be realized and is still mired in contentiousness. It seems that our efforts to continue down the path of bringing back the Winter Spectacular for this coming holiday season will only be divisive by these same loud minority voices and thus negate the true meaning of the holiday season and the purpose of the festival.

With deep disappointment, we are letting you know that we will not be pursuing approval of Winter Spectacular on St Armands Circle 2023. We thank you for creating the opportunity that allowed us to bring the Winter Spectacular experience to all residents.

Jeff Koffman and David Koffman  
Ride Entertainment of Sarasota

Needles and trash

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle

I was out for my morning walk at public beach access marker 3175. There is trash everywhere including droves of liquor bottles and plastic bags from the weekend.

I also found a capped needle on the beach at the shoreline which I scooped up with my morning coffee cup. Thanks!

Angie Lewis  
Longboat Key

Needles and trash

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle

All overflow trash was picked up by Public Works staff this morning. Waste management will empty all additional trash cans throughout the day.

Mark Kerr  
Crew leader  
Public Works Department

Karen Steidinger

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

One of my favorite bosses of all time was Dr. Karen Steidinger, who was – at the time – the Director of the Florida Marine Research Institute (FMRI) in St. Pete. I interviewed with her while I was in grad school, and although she was way more accomplished than myself, she never allowed me or others who worked with her to feel anything other than gratitude.

Karen was a long-time local researcher, with BS, MS and PhD degrees from the University of South Florida. She studied red tide with so much intensity and for so long that the species was later renamed to honor her life’s work (Karenia brevis). She died over the weekend.

Karen was selected to head a research institute that was dominated by men, and her calm personality, great interpersonal skills and budgetary and scientific expertise allowed FMRI to expand to become the internationally known research institute it eventually became.

All of the work that we do to try and mitigate the impacts of red tides – all of it – is related in some way to the pioneering work Karen devoted her life to. A sad day for marine researchers in Florida, but she’d be the first person in the room to tell all of us to get back to work.

Dave Tomasko  
Executive Director  
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

Mangroves

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle

Does the Key Club have a permit for the amount of Mangroves they are removing along the Blue course?

Terry Gans  
Longboat Key

Mangroves

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

The one I noticed was to the right of the green where vegetation was totally removed from the green to the water line. I did receive a response from the Town that they had permission, but since I can’t find the communication it may have been a phone call.

Terry Gans  
Longboat Key

Mangroves

To: Terry Gans

We have been alerted to the Mangrove problem at hole 4 on the Bayou side and are looking into it. Thanks.

Ken Schneier  
Mayor  
Longboat Key

Mangroves

To: Rusty Chinnis

The mangrove problem area indicated is on the pond on the Club’s Blue golf course, bordered on the south by the Bayou and on the north by our Sabal Cove, both in Bay Isles. You may want to involve David Novack who manages both Bayou and Sabal Cove and has had numerous contacts with the Club and the Town about the border waters. Please keep me in the loop.

Ken Schneier  
Mayor  
Town of Longboat Key

Islandside Comprehensive Plan Amendment

To: Longboat Key Town Attorney Maggie Mooney, Planning and Zoning Department Office Manager Donna Chipman

The applicant has requested to postpone their Comprehensive Plan Amendment application and not have it proceed to the June 27th P&Z Board meeting.

Donna- Can you please let the P&Z Board members know that the meeting will therefore be canceled. Thanks.

Allen Parsons  
Planning and Zoning Director  
Town of Longboat Key

Islandside Comprehensive Plan Amendment

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons

We would like to postpone the above item from the June 27, 2023 Planning and Zoning Board agenda. We will contact you as to our thoughts going forward. Thank you to you and your staff for your efforts.

Bruce E. Franklin, President  
Land Resource Strategies, LLC  
Sarasota

Gulf of Mexico Drive Crosswalk/Neptune

To: Lawrence Brown

Thank you for reaching out. As I understand it, the RRFB decision was neither local nor regional, but rather was a determination from the Federal Highway Administration (“FHWA”), and the FDOT cannot install more of these on roadways posted above 35-mph. The FDOT can improve existing ones on state roads and work to enhance safety, such as with more nighttime lighting, which is an undertaking FDOT is in progress now with most of the current mid-block crossings. FDOT is copied in case there is additional information they

See Letters, page 14

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# WineTimes

## Wines by Price...

*Prices of premier California Cab and Bordeaux wines have skyrocketed in recent years, prompting Cab aficionados to ask about bargain wines having some of the tastes and aging potential of expensive Cab and Bordeaux.*

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

Ordering award-winning wines by price reveals interesting aspects of the market for wine. In an earlier column we looked at gold, double gold, and Best of Class awardees with prices under \$20 in different tiers of the San Francisco Chronicle's 2023 North American wine competition. When we order all awardees by price from lowest to highest across all the tiers of the competition, the bargains show up clearly as top award winners with prices at the lower ends of their tiers.

Here we take a closer look at the Cabernet Sauvignon and Cab blends category. Prices of premier California Cab and Bordeaux wines have skyrocketed in recent years, prompting Cab aficionados to ask about bargain wines having some of the tastes and aging potential of expensive Cab and Bordeaux. Since the 1980's winemakers have called a California Cab blend of wines in the Bordeaux tradition a Meritage (pronounced like "heritage"). A Meritage includes only red wines found in French red blends that carry the label Bordeaux: Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec, and sometimes small proportions of Petite Verdot or Carménère. Some Cab blends, especially from West Coast vineyards, blend Cabs with Petite Sirah, Syrah, Zinfandel, and other grapes not part of a red Bordeaux blend, simply labelled "Red Blends". In these price comparisons, we combine Cab Meritage blends and other Cab blends with Cab-labelled wines. Note that in the USA, regulatory requirements for labelling wine allow putting the name of a varietal on the label if it contains 75% or more of that varietal. The Cab Red Blends have substantial proportions of other wines.

Cab awardee prices range from \$4.99 to \$300. Prices either repeat or go up a dollar at a time up to the \$100 level. Wine buyers have many choices of award-winning wines at any of the lower price levels.

For Cabs under \$12.99 and Cab blends under \$24.99, lowest tier price levels for Cab and Cab blend wines respectively, the top awards come as a surprise. The Collection Cab, Best of Class at \$9.99, rates only a notch higher than the mass-market Double-Gold 2021 Barefoot Cellars Cab at \$6.99. In the red blend under \$24.99 category, the Barefoot Cellars' NV (non-vintage) Rich Red Blend at \$6.99 earns Best of Class honors.

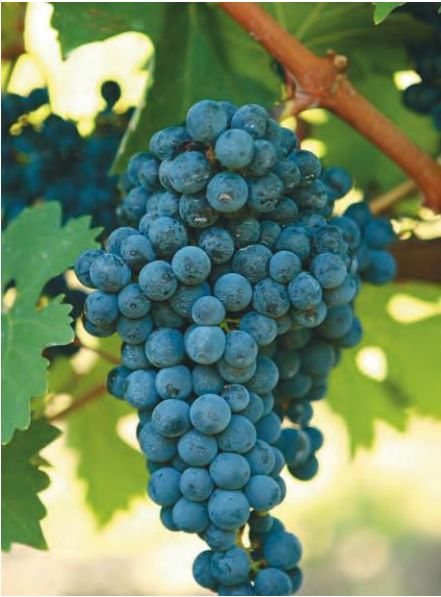
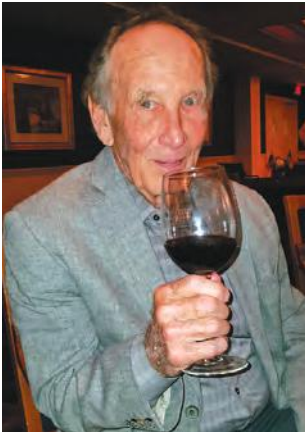
As an aside, these highly rated (compared to others at the same price level) mass-market wines would make excellent reference wines for blind tasting comparisons with more expensive Cab varietals and blends. Why pay more if we can't tell the difference? Of course, blind tastings must set up ideal conditions for any two wines. Because premier Cabs may improve much more with age in the bottle than mass-market Cabs, one must take ageing from the time of the vintage year into account. Big Cabs may also need to be allowed to breathe after opening before tasting. For purchases of a case or more of a Cab, you may wish to ask your wine shop to let you compare the more expensive Cab or red blend to a mass-market wine or another cheaper alternative.

In the Cab \$16 - \$18.99 category, it's no surprise to see a Paso Robles Cab, the 2020 Maddalena, as Best of Class. The Paso Robles region is gaining on Napa as a top producing area. A surprise Gold awardee at about the same price level: the 2019 Becker Vineyards Cab from the Hill Country of Texas.

The awardees include brands mainly from California, but also from Baja California, Mexico; British Columbia, Canada; and, twenty-four other states in the USA. Double-Gold awardee from outside the West Coast states include the 2021 Robert Mondavi Private Selection Cab from New York State (\$10.99), the 2018 Cellardoor Red Blend (\$27) from Maine, the Vale Wine Co. Cab (\$32) from Snake River, Idaho, the 2020 7 vines Vineyard Cab (\$75) from Minnesota, and the 2016 Yonah Mountain Vineyards Cab (\$125) from Georgia. (We note that some of the highly rated wines produced outside California actually source grapes from vineyards within California).

West Coast states dominate the SF Chronicle awards. Most of the more costly Cabs and Cab blends come from the now famous and growing famous regions of California. Or is it that only in California would a producer presume to put a price greater than \$100 on a bottle of wine?

This review of some interesting aspects of the SF Chronicle 2023 wine competition brings



the names of some of the top award winners to the fore. Wine shops will help find better Cabs for the money at every price preference between \$5 and \$300.

We'll have more to say about the Pinot Noir awardees in the competition. At this time, tasting the Best of Class Pinot Noir under \$12.99, the 2020 vintage from Forever Vineyards, and the Gold 2020 Bar Dog awardee in the same class, both bought for \$10.99, have an acidic bite of tannins that ageing in the bottle for a couple of years will soften. They both drink well now with food but will taste even better in 2025. Neither has the luscious fruit sweetness of good California Pinot Noir. The competition judges may, as is the case with many wine judges, prefer the acidic dark plum tastes of a young Burgundy Pinot Noir. All things in their own time....

PS. Bar Dog supports animal rescue centers across the country in partnership with the

Petfinder Foundation. Good wine in this case serves a good cause.

*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**

would like to share.  
Isaac Brownman  
Director Public Works Department  
Town of Longboat Key =

**St. Regis garage**

To: Longboat Key Town Commission  
I know it is common for all of us to write you notes about what we want, frequently ripping the commission. Having been a commissioner myself in the 1980s, when were fraught with lawsuits, angst, and argument, I can appreciate your position. The purpose of this note is to thank you for the vote on the St. Regis parking garage. This town has given them enough, and enough is enough. On behalf of the citizens of Longboat who are by far opposed to this special exception, thank you, thank you, and thank you.  
George Rauch  
Longboat Key

**Proposed St. Regis parking garage**

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider  
I was very pleased the entire Board stood up against the huge block of concrete proposed right on Gulf of Mexico Drive in front of the St. Regis. It is nice to know you and the Board truly represent the feelings of the vast majority of Longboat Key residents.  
I don't know which of the Board members stated the proposed rendering quite obviously did not include any sidewalk thereby significantly reducing the landscape cover,

but good job.  
The next time a developer attempts to put one over on our Board, you now have precedence to say no way.  
Quite disappointing to hear the developers attorney, Brenda Patten, state the residents are not experts on their own neighborhood. Great response from Debra Williams as reported in the paper. Thank you Debra! Keep up the good work. Let's not let this developer, nor any developer, run roughshod over our beautiful Island.  
Jim Fanto  
Longboat Key

**Proposed St. Regis parking garage**

To: Jim Fanto  
Thanks for your note. If it is possible for you to attend our June 5 hearing on this matter, it would be helpful, but know that your letter will be read and considered by the Commission.  
Ken Schneider  
Mayor, Town of Longboat Key, City of Sarasota

**Quay Blocks Development Agreement Amendment Planning Board Public Hearing**

To: Bill Merrill and Robert Lincoln  
Based on my e-mail below and the City's deadline to advertise the continued public hearing on the Development Agreement Amendment for Quay Blocks 1 and 9 for July 12, 2023, and with even providing additional time (today Wednesday June 14, 2023) for the City to hear from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), which has not occurred, the hearing on the Quay Blocks 1 and 9 Development Agreement Amendment has been postponed until further notice. I will be in touch with further information about the continued public hearing once the City has information from FDLE on the outcome of the re-opened case. Thank you.  
Marlon Brown  
City Manager, City of Sarasota

**Quay Blocks Development Agreement Amendment Planning Board Public Hearing**

To: Bill Merrill and Robert Lincoln  
As you are both aware, the Planning Board and staff were prepared to schedule the continued public hearing on the Development Agreement Amendment for Quay Blocks 1 and 9 on July 12. The deadline for preparation of the advertisement is Friday June 9, 2023. As you are also both aware, after the decision was made at the May 10, 2023 Planning Board meeting to schedule the subject hearing, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) re-opened the case related to the previous allegations. The City does not have any further information from FDLE as to the parameters of the re-opened case as that entity has not shared information with us. To that effect, if the City of Sarasota does not hear from FDLE about the outcome of their re-opened investigation by the June 9, 2023 deadline for advertising the subject public hearing, the City will have no choice but to postpone the hearing on the Quay Blocks 1 and 9 Development Agreement Amendment until further notice. The City will then use the opportunity to advertise other items that need to come before the Planning Board for their decision

at the July 12, 2023 meeting. Thank you.  
Marlon Brown  
City Manager  
City of Sarasota

**Lighting in Sarasota**

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown  
Apologies I was not more clear in my request.  
Here is what I was referencing:  
"Decorative lighting. FPL suggests 14 poles per street. Way more than what we think we need. We need to have commissioner's, commission a study to determine how many lights we need. Drew spoke with Doug Jeffcoat and he stated his team tested the lighting on two streets one being Oleander and the other he could not recall (he did not have access to his file at the time of our conversation). The study revealed that the current LED lights are providing more light to the streets than previous lights. Drew & Doug will meet on June 14 or 15 to view the lights at night."  
"Speeding/traffic study"  
"Many streets need to be resurfaced"  
4. "Curbs"  
5. "Decorative lighting - suggestion to bring commissioners to meetings"  
Jen Ahearn-Koch  
City Commissioner  
City of Sarasota

**Vehicle Speeds Along Hyde Park Street**

To: Sarasota City Vice Mayor Liz Alpert  
Reaching out to you about concerns regarding speed of vehicles traveling along Hyde Park Street from Tuttle to Clematis Place and from Clematis to Shade. I frequently dog walk along this stretch (I live on Hyde Park Circle) and am dismayed at how extraordinarily fast many drivers go, despite the traffic calming island positioned at Jefferson. Unfortunately, Hyde Park Street is a "cut through" route from Tuttle to Shade or Tamiami, with many commuters rushing through the neighborhood to get to other parts of town. This topic came up recently in the Arlington Park Neighborhood Association.  
What is the process for the city to consider installing additional traffic calming along this stretch of Hyde Park Street? I would like to see two raised pavement humps installed, one between Shade and Jefferson, the other between Jefferson and Clematis.  
Thanks for your consideration. Please contact me if you would like to discuss in more detail.  
Christopher Naese  
Sarasota

**Vehicle Speeds Along Hyde Park Street**

To: Christopher Naese  
I am copying city management so that the appropriate staff can respond regarding our procedure for traffic calming. I could be wrong, but I believe this street was evaluated a few years ago.  
Liz Alpert  
Vice Mayor  
City of Sarasota

## Longboat Key News

## Sarasota City News

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