

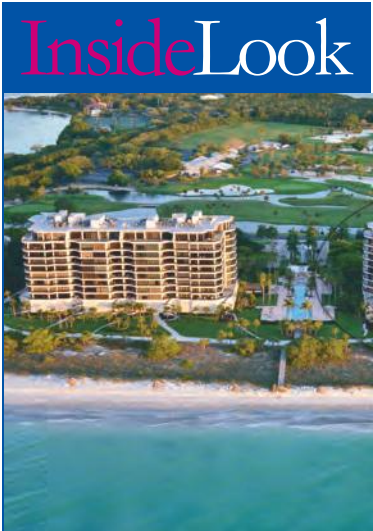


Longboat Key News

April 19, 2024

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InsideLook

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sipping selection
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Raccoon named
in investigation
...page 10

Whittall wants Fourth of July opening for Longboat St. Regis

Watching the St. Regis rise on Longboat Key beside the Gulf of Mexico over the past two years is like a symphony growing in both intensity and scale.

STEVE REID
Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

Watching the St. Regis rise on Longboat Key beside the Gulf of Mexico over the past two years is like a symphony growing in both intensity and scale.

It is monumental. It feels as if one is entering a place removed from ordinary life even in its unfinished form — still covered in construction dust and with 700 Moss construction workers swarming.

Unicorp President and the inimitable personage behind every aspect of the resort and condominium project, Chuck Whittall, spoke with Longboat Key News last Friday to give an update.

Summer completion...

The good news for Whittall and future owners of the 69 condos is the push is for a certificate of occupancy by June. 6 and for the entire property — including the 169 St. Regis hotel rooms — to open by July 3.

Whittall's enthusiasm is apparent. He spent a decade battling with former Colony unit owners, the ex-Colony President Murf Klauber and his interests and the Town of Longboat Key all to arrive at this summer of fruition.

A walk into the hotel lobby goes beyond the usual superlatives of travel and real estate brochures. A grand piano will play jazz, hand painted murals and elegance straight out of Gatsby is apparent as tile saws power through marble.

The focus on view and light and marriage of materials whisk you away into another world. The cost to be whisked starts at about \$1,100 per night and \$25,000 for the Presidential Suite.

When asked how the market has responded to the hotel, Whittall was happy to point out that November is almost completely sold out and nine weddings are booked for the ballroom in the Fall.

"St. Regis said it is the nicest luxury resort in their brand," Whittall said.

Public access...

The past two years brought a strong market response for the condos, with a penthouse selling for \$25 million. The lowest price paid for a unit was \$2.2 million.

The residences and the resort are connected through amenities and a series of pools, fountains, an aquatic tank, lazy river and of course restau-

See St, Regis, page 3



Unicorp President Chuck Whittall in the future St. Regis hotel lobby, above. Below is the Tiki Bar under construction.





Chuck Whittall in the future St. Regis ballroom. Above is the lazy river grotto waterfall.



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St. Regis, from page 1

rants and bars.

C.W Prime steakhouse is one of the restaurants on the property with a balcony looking out on the Gulf of Mexico.

Whittall explained that owners of condominiums have full access to everything — the spa, fitness center, all the pools and restaurants and beach area. Hotel guest will also have access to all the amenities.

Of interest to Longboaters and anyone wanting to visit the St. Regis, all of the restaurants are open to the public and beach walkers can stroll up and hang out at the Monkey Bar and eat at the beachside grill. The beachside grill is to be named “Aura” and Whittall describes it as “Latin-inspired with a Miami retro feel.”

The Tiki or “Monkey Bar” will be homage to Murf Klauber, the legendary owner of the former Colony Beach & Tennis Resort that operated on the site for more than four decades before collapsing under the burden of lawsuits and deferred maintenance.

Membership program

The St. Regis beach will be for the condo owners and hotel guest and owners of one of 400 memberships.

Whittall said 400 St. Regis memberships will be available for about \$125,000 and will allow full access to all including the spas, the tennis court and pickleball courts, bars, taverns and speakeasy, and the beach area.

A major part of the operation and appeal is the ballroom of almost 12,000 square feet. Whittall waves across the hall to the far wall where a \$500,000 LED screen can be implemented into events and conferences.

“The whole look of the ballroom and all of its colors can change through the LED lighting system,” Whittall says.

Like an endless brochure of amenities, the spa has a steam room, a snow room, a cold plunge pool, and every other feature one could find. But this spa also has waterfront views and a fireplace.

Walking outside the hotel, the space between it and the residences are filled with paths along a lazy river, a grotto that the lazy river flows through.

“I saw that in Mexico and thought we had to do it here,” says Whittall of the grotto.

Around a bend is the resorts \$10 million saltwater lagoon that is divable and has sting rays, coral and two, 600-pound gopher tortoises named Will and Astor. A marine biologist is on staff to supervise the care.

“We will be able to rehabilitate marine life here as well” Says Whittall.

Legacy continues...

Whittall plans to remain a presence at the hotel, which Unicorp owns. And similarly to his predecessor, Murf Klauber, he will maintain a residence on the property.

His plan in many ways would make Klauber proud. He wants to create memories, be part of the island and the community as time goes on, and strive to create memories and experiences for generations to come.

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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.

Water Taxi

To: Longboat Key Commission

This morning we had an LBK North call that was very well attended by Condo, HOA and community leaders on the northern end of LBK. Commissioner Karon was also present.

Wanted to make you aware of comments regarding the water taxi, which was not an agenda item for us, but it came up when discussing the draft agenda for your meeting with Manatee County Commissioners.

Manatee County Water Taxi and Landing:

Contrary to some early encouragement, there does not appear to be strong support for a water taxi landing at the Town dock located in the Village neighborhood. To the contrary, today we heard much more opposition than support.

Several Reps asked “have we even surveyed the residents of LBK if we want a water taxi to begin with? If so, do we want the landing on the north end of LBK vs. south end of Coquina?”

While there was a comment that the water taxi may help some residents address traffic, another commented, “wouldn’t we want to see the traffic study first - and if Coquina parking and some of the traffic bottle necks can be addressed - would any of us really take the water taxi (to AMI or Bradenton)?” We understood a new traffic study is to be completed over the next few months.

Of course, practical considerations were brought up about parking, who would shuttle people to/from the dock and where would people be going? Are we ultimately just supporting two, already very busy restaurants?

There were some comments that this would bring more AMI tourists to LBK and our beaches - ultimately changing the residential balance and character the Key has worked so hard to maintain.

Several suggested a south end Coquina beach landing would make more sense for LBK (as LBK residents could drive or bike there). Some added that visitors coming in on water taxi could frequent the Coquina beaches with restrooms, restaurants, Coquina market, etc.

Bottom line, as people are really starting to think through the reality (and potential unintended consequences) of a LBK water taxi landing on the North end, it appears this initiative would benefit from more discussion, education, information and community input. We will make it an agenda topic for one of our upcoming LBK North Meetings.

Know it is early in the process and multiple items are potentially being considered (employee ferry, links to water taxi in sarasota, etc). In your process, please direct Town Staff to really vet out the pros and cons of a water taxi landing on the northern end of LBK (obviously with

resident/ community input) so we can go forward with solid support and no surprises.

As always, thank you for all you do to make LBK a great place to call home.

Maureen Merrigan
Longboat Key

Water Taxi

To: Maureen Merrigan

Maureen, thank you for your feedback. I really expected nothing more from them, or any neighborhood for that matter, after they gave it some thought. Might they be more cooperative with an employment taxi only for our workforce? As always thank you for all you do.

Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Water taxi

To: Maureen Merrigan

Thanks for this thoughtful feedback on a potential water taxi to LBK. Paul mentioned this briefly at the town Goals & Objectives meeting - it’s useful to have some feedback after a more considered discussion took place. I agree that Coquina Beach would be a better location for a water taxi stop, and that more research needs to be done to see how we can implement a water taxi that truly benefits the residents and employees who live and work in Longboat Key.

Debra Williams
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Your response

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Since we had our email exchange I have received three unsolicited emails from your supporters. It’s always good to have friends but in no way does that give them the freedom to email me on your behalf. While I chose to copy Matt Wash which was appropriate I did not broadcast my email to others for the purpose of inundating you with my supporters. Please request your friends to cease contact with me. I do not know them and do not wish to be contacted.

Elaine Dabney
Longboat Key

Your response

To: Elaine Dabney

When you emailed me at my Town address, your note became a public record accessible to all. Like yourself, people who have a view are free to express that view. I’m sorry of you find it inconvenient when you are the target. By the way, I have no “supporters”, only wise and thoughtful constituents.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Your response

To: Elaine Dabney

See Letters, page 6

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370 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #432 | LONGBOAT KEY

Delight in scenic views of Sarasota Bay in this custom-designed 4-bedroom, 4.5-bathroom PENTHOUSE. The spacious condominium features soaring ceilings, great room with gas fireplace, and private gated courtyard. All bedrooms are ensuite. Sliding glass doors in the primary suite and great room open to a terrace. An additional west-facing terrace boasts stunning sunset views.





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2185 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #212 | LONGBOAT KEY

Villa Di Lancia, one of Longboat Key's premier communities. This corner residence boasts 3 bathrooms, and epitomizes tropical Gulf-front living. The covered terrace, connected to the living room provides a spacious year-round haven to immerse yourself in the stunning surroundings. A spiral staircase offers easy access to resort amenities and the beach just outside. Includes 2 parking spaces.





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1211 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #805 | LONGBOAT KEY

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2110 HARBOURSIDE DR., #547 | LONGBOAT KEY

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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 4

The feedback we have received from the public regarding the County building a library on LBK has been quite positive. I am not certain where your information came from. Our last charette provided very enthusiastic feedback on this project.

BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Your response

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

My exchange was with the Mayor. I find it a bit presumptuous of you, an individual I have never met send me an unsolicited email and state “I am not certain where your information came from.” I am gobsmacked.

When an individual resorts to a tone unbecoming of a gentleman I find that it is because their position is weak. The mayor had an excellent opportunity to express his passion to deliver a library to the town. Instead, his message was clouded in vitriol.

Elaine Dabney
Longboat Key

Your response

To: Elaine Dabney

I am not an individual. I am the at-large member of the

Town Commission who you communicated with, as you did with each member of the Commission when you wrote to Ken Schneier. Letters to one Commissioner come to all of us. My earlier note referenced the Sunshine Laws of the State of FL - when you write to the Commission you become part of the public process.

BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Traffic

To: Jim Haft

I am Longboat Key’s person who attends the Manatee Tourist Development Council meetings. The Town has a non-voting seat, which means we attend and can question/comment but we do not participate in any votes or decision making. The Council’s focus is to enhance and expand tourism in the area, the traffic that we deal with as residents is not in their purview. As you can see from their meeting minutes, they receive a bi-monthly report on the state of tourism, and their latest tourist initiatives are the expanded convention center in Bradenton and the water taxi, which primarily serves tourists. Please feel free to call if you’d like to discuss further.

Debra Williams
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Traffic

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra Williams

Thank you for the explanation. I’m surprised that we have only non-voting seat given that our LBK name is on their banner! Anyway, my only thought was that the more organizations and stakeholders that focus on barrier island traffic, the better. But it would seem that we don’t have much sway over the TDC. Thanks for all you do and keep up the good work!

Jim Haft
Longboat Key

Manatee TDC

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Who is LBK’s representative on this board? Seems to me that traffic should be a regular item on their agenda as it directly affects tourism.

James G. Haft
Longboat Key

Manatee TDC

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Who is LBK’s representative on this board? Seems to me that traffic should be a regular item on their agenda as it directly affects tourism.

James G. Haft
Longboat Key

Mangrove enforcement delegation

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

I forgot to add additional contacts

- 1. Sarasota County Director of Environmental Protection Rachel Herman - rherman@scgov.net
- 2. Sanibel Island - tracking down contact
- 3. Pinellas County - tracking down contact

I will be in contact soon with the missing information.

Abbey Tryna
Executive Director
Suncoast Waterkeeper

Mangrove enforcement delegation

To: Suncoast Waterkeeper Executive Director Abbey Tryna

Thanks for your presentation today. It prompted some interesting ideas on collaboration for enforcement.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Mangrove enforcement delegation

To: Suncoast Waterkeeper Executive Director Abbey Tryna

I don’t think they should be mutually exclusive, and it would probably be best to have both to be thorough. I don’t know if a waterside mangrove survey is currently in the works, but it might be done in conjunction with our upcoming canal dredging project.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Mangrove enforcement delegation

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

I hope I am not out of order here and that you don’t mind me chiming in to suggest you conduct a water-side survey of mangroves over an aerial survey. A water-side survey will enable you to gauge and record current tree height and note where there are tree height violations. It will also help you ground truth existing aerial maps (whether they be Google Earth images or the National Wetland Inventory) with actual observations of mangrove extent while also making note of invasive species or other types of shoreline trees/shrubs.

See Letters, page 7



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EditorLetters

Letters, from page 6

Sarasota County Government does a very similar survey every two years. It uses ArcGIS Survey 123, creating a seamless inventory of existing mangrove conditions. I am happy to help you with your survey efforts however you see fit.

Abbey Tryna
Executive Director
Suncoast Waterkeeper

Existing Mangrove/Wetland Mapping Data

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

I spoke to Tip about maybe working with SCWK. We have the drone, software and GPS technology. This a good idea but I don't think it will replace the enforcement aspect.

Rusty Chinnis
Longboat Key

Existing Mangrove/Wetland Mapping Data

To: Rusty Chinnis

You may have heard we are planning to do a drone survey of mangroves on the island so that we have a base case.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Existing Mangrove/Wetland Mapping Data

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

I reached out to Damon Moore and wanted to share what he found about existing resources that are available for mapping mangroves and wetlands. I don't think this has the details we need but I thought you might find it useful.

Rusty Chinnis
Longboat Key

Existing Mangrove/Wetland Mapping Data

To: Rusty Chinnis

I looked at State and Federal GIS data on habitats & mangrove mapping. The best one looks to be the national wetland inventory. It's not super fine scale stuff, as it won't show mangroves growing along a canal but it does pick up larger areas of contiguous mangroves along shorelines pretty well. There are still some misses even with that. Long story short, the GIS data on mangroves that's out there look to be more regional scale, and not fine-scale mapping to identify locations on a parcel-by-parcel basis.

Here is a link to NWI mapping.
<https://fwsprimary.wim.usgs.gov/wetlands/apps/wetlands-mapper/>

Damon Moore
Executive Director
Oyster River Ecology, Inc.

To: Terry Gans

Thanks, Terry. I always appreciated the way you kept it together as Mayor and got us to the right spot. I'm afraid we are not at a point of dialogue and understanding here yet and fear that the dissension that has infected our country and surrounding communities is beginning to creep across our bridges. I hope not. But then, you're in California where everything makes sense.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

The beauty of democracy

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

The beauty of democracy Is that all members of a community have the right to form their own opinion and to express it. Some are wise, some are misinformed and some are bound by viewing their world through a fairly rigid philosophy. All have equal voice and are heard. But being heard is not a veto power over years and hours of consideration by the Commission, Mayor, Town Manager and Staff on issues routine and far reaching. In the case of the Town Center, which I remember being a key part of my campaign in 2013, you have worked diligently to determine through much public participation what is the best use of the property for today's and future Longboat Key citizens and visitors and then marrying that to feasibility.

It would be difficult for anyone to arrive at a best approach after so much work to calmly entertain the voices of those who urgently declare their own true vision for reaching the promised land. I speak from experience.

Your leadership has been exemplary particularly because of your adherence to a process where all have a chance to be considered. Ultimately, choices need to be made and the Commission is making those choices.

Finally, as an elected official your voice is not muzzled. You expressed yourself well in your recent letter to Mr. Walsh and the Observer. In a perfect world this would lead to a new dialogue and understanding. I don't know if we are there yet. You're doing a fine job for Longboat

Terry Gans
San Carlos, CA

Library

To: Longboat Key Commission

Country Club Shores is the largest residential community on Longboat with approximately 400 property owners. As president of Country Club Shores Unit 3 for the last six years, I have fielded questions and heard comments from many residents. No one has complained about a lack of a public library on Longboat. They have complained about the traffic congestion, the previous lack of a crosswalk, the lack of a turn lane, speeding boat traffic, beach

See Letters, page 11



Cindy Fischer

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KEY WEST-INSPIRED BEACH BUNGALOW W/GUEST COTTAGE, LONGBOAT KEY | \$1,995,000

SCAN FOR MORE





LONGBEACH OASIS, LONGBOAT KEY | \$1,299,000

SOLD



MAGNIFICENT BAYFRONT SANCTUARY, SIESTA KEY | \$9,330,000

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COASTAL SOPHISTICATION, LONGBOAT KEY | \$2,575,000



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KeyArchitecture



Country Club Shores
551 Putter Lane
Sarasota, FL 34236
4BR+Den+Office/5.5BA | 5,300 SF



Discover a realm of unparalleled luxury at this majestic 4 Bedroom +Office, Den, and Fitness Room, 5.5 Bath property, enhanced by the soaring 2-story wall of glass that showcases a spectacular water view, and flanked by double garages that accommodate up to 6 cars. The floor plan is designed for entertaining, with a large circular bar connecting the living area to the kitchen, featuring stone countertops, wood cabinetry, two wine fridges, top-of-the-line stainless-steel appliances, and an adjacent dining area with panoramic water views. Two primary suites, one on each floor, offer luxurious retreats with walk-in closets and spa-like bathrooms featuring dual vanities, spa tubs and separate showers. This direct bayfront residence includes a dock with lift, floating kayak launch, and access to the Gulf of Mexico. The expansive, elevated pool area offers plenty of space for lounging or entertaining, all while enjoying the breathtaking water views. Offered for sale by Bruce Myer, Realtor, Coldwell Banker Realty, Longboat Key, Florida, for \$6,199,500.

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Bird Key, Lido Key, Longboat Key latest sales

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556 N WASHINGTON DR	1,799	\$2,800,000	3	3	0	15	\$2,750,000
1800 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#B208	1,023	\$1,300,000	1	1	1	0	\$1,300,000
500 S WASHINGTON DR Unit#16B	770	\$524,900	1	1	0	4	\$510,000
435 L AMBIANCE DR Unit#M908	3,220	\$5,700,000	3	4	1	5	\$5,700,000
2333 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#1A1	3,349	\$4,999,000	3	2	1	5	\$4,999,000
1241 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#707	2,965	\$3,650,000	2	4	1	18	\$3,400,000
3575 MISTLETOE LN	3,436	\$2,099,000	4	3	1	5	\$2,100,000
3010 GRAND BAY BLVD Unit#435	2,143	\$1,999,985	3	3	1	126	\$1,950,000
2525 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#7A	1,460	\$1,799,000	2	2	0	0	\$1,810,000
601 NORTON ST	2,560	\$1,645,000	3	3	0	38	\$1,575,000
4234 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#N1	1,636	\$1,150,000	3	2	0	2	\$1,075,000
1000 LONGBOAT CLUB RD Unit#302	1,290	\$918,000	2	2	0	117	\$750,000
540 NEPTUNE AVE Unit#4	1,044	\$519,900	2	2	0	209	\$494,166
3710 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#E23	693	\$345,000	2	1	0	62	\$300,000



435 L AMBIANCE DR Unit#M908



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BIRD KEY • 328 BOB WHITE WAY | SARASOTA, FL • \$2,295,000

Absolutely stunning renovated 3BR/2BA home that’s completely move-in ready. Fresh paint and designer wall treatments, and stunning new lighting enhance this flowing 1,983 sq. ft. floor plan, where natural light cascades over spacious rooms. A defining focal point, the dreamy white kitchen features quartz countertops, and an island configured beautifully to connect with the tile-accented family room. This home is truly like new, and presents a lifestyle without compare just moments from downtown Sarasota and St. Armands.



COUNTRY CLUB SHORES • 585 GUNWALE LANE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$6,490,000

This exceptional end-lot property boasts panoramic open water views of the Bay, the city skyline, and the Ringling Bridge. With 243 ft. of water frontage, 118 on the open Bay, and 125 on the canal, the boat mooring, lift, and dock are on the canal side, which is weather-protected and deep sailboat water, keeping your total bay views unobstructed. B Don’t miss the opportunity to call this Longboat Key gem your own—where every day feels like a vacation.

OnPatrol

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

April 12 Patrol request

2:14 a.m.
Officer Miklos conducted a patrol request of a restaurant on the south end of Longboat. While conducting the check, Officer Miklos observed a red Chevrolet parked in a nearby private parking lot with its headlights on. Officer Miklos made contact with the owner who stated he recently moved down to the area and was a carpenter for nearby job site and was waiting to go to work. Officer Miklos conducted a check on the man for wants and warrants which returned with negative results. Officer Miklos' investigation into the matter resulted in no criminal activity. Case clear.

Boat

1:35 p.m.
Officer Barrett and Officer Connors observed a man operating the listed pontoon boat inside of the clearly posted vessel exclusionary zone on the east side of Greer Island and appeared to be dropping off a passenger. Upon approaching the man he advised that he had knowledge of the exclusionary zone but was dropping off a passenger. The man was cited under Longboat Key Town Ordinance and issued civil citation. Case clear.

Citizen assist

4:34 p.m.
Officer Mathis was dispatched to the area of 6600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a citizen assist. A caller had contacted 911 in reference to running out of gas. Upon his arrival to the incident location, Sgt. Montfort was already on scene speaking with the driver of a white Mercedes two door convertible. The driver was unfamiliar with the vehicle and had inadvertently ran out of gas. Officer Ferrigine arrived on scene and provided the man with a courtesy ride to the Mobile for gas and then back to the incident location. After emptying the gas can contents into the vehicle, the man was able to get the vehicle started and continue on his way. Case clear.

April 13 Citizen assist

9:09 p.m.
Officer Pescuma was dispatched to the area of North Shore Road and Longboat Pass Bridge in reference to a possible person in distress flashing a white light 300 yards from Greer Island. Upon arriving on scene, Officer Pescuma observed the white light and identified it to be the safe water navigational marker, that flashes one short followed by one prolonged every five seconds. This call was deemed a false alarm. Case clear.

April 14 Boater

4:16 p.m.
Officer Pescuma while on a marine patrol in the vicinity of Jewfish Key, was waved down by a boater who could not break free their anchor and needed assistance. Upon coming alongside, the operator mentioned it was a rental boat from Marina Jacks. Officer Pescuma instructed the operator to drive forward slightly to break free the anchor off the sea floor. The operator was able to bring in the anchor without incident. Officer Pescuma conducted a safety inspection, in which the vessel was in compliance. Case clear.

Raccoons

5:58 p.m.
Officer Pescuma was dispatched to Sands Point Road in reference an adult racoon and two babies in the pool area of the Club. Animal Services advised and en route. Upon arriving on scene, Officer Pescuma located the raccoons that were taking shelter in a large planter. Once Animal Services arrived they were able to retrieve the baby raccoons without incident and will set a trap for the adult raccoon. No further police assistance needed. Case clear.

April 15 Driver's license

9:09 a.m.
Officer Martinson was alerted by the south end license plate camera that a red Ford convertible was traveling northbound on Gulf of Mexico Drive with an expired tag. However, the vehicle displaying the tag was attached to a silver Honda Element. Officer Martinson located the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop on Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Martinson made contact with the driver who was later identified via his U.S. Immigration paperwork. Officer Martinson explained to him why he had been pulled over. The man said he did not have a valid Florida Driver's License nor has he ever been issued one. The man then stated he had just purchased the vehicle and had taken the license plate off his old red Ford convertible and put it one the Honda Element. The man also said that the Honda Element is not registered nor does he have vehicle insurance. The man was given three criminal citations with court dates for no driver's license. Officer Martinson conducted an inventory of the vehicle and it was towed away from the scene. Case clear.

Found wallet

11:59 a.m.
Officer Zunz was at the Police Department front desk when a resident entered to turn in a found wallet he discovered at the 7000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. The wallet contains various credit cards and a New Jersey driver's license but no cash. Officer Zunz was able to procure a telephone number for the owner of the wallet. She came right in to sign the property



receipt and take possession of her wallet. Case clear.

Dogs on the beach

6:54 p.m.
Officer Miklos was dispatched to Broadway Street in reference to a dog on the beach. Sarasota Sheriff's Office dispatch advised via CAD notes that the complainant did not wish to meet and stated there were five subjects with two dogs on the beach. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos observed a group of three women and two men on the beach with two small dogs. Officer Miklos made contact with the group and attempted to explain the town ordinance. The group was highly uncooperative and one of the women took both dogs and started to walk south on the beach. Officer Miklos caught up with the woman and again advised her that dogs were not allowed on the beach. The woman became argumentative and started to walk north on the beach towards the exit. Sgt. Puccio arrived on scene and the group continued to refuse to cooperate. The group was escorted off the beach where they walked to a nearby AirB&B. Case clear.

April 16 Noise

12:06 a.m.
Officer Miklos, Officer Nazareno and Sgt. Puccio were dispatched to Lyons Lane in reference to loud music from a possible party. While on Lyons Lane, Officer Miklos was unable to hear any loud music, however did observe a group of men pushing embers with a broom from the street into the grassy area across from a residence. Officer Miklos came into contact with the man who advised he lived at the residence and was having a party. The man said they were listening to country music and decided to have a bonfire in the street. All the party members were over the age of 18. Sgt. Puccio advised the Sheriff's Office Dispatch to have the Fire Department enroute to put out the embers to prevent any fire from starting. The fire was put out and the group of men were advised to end the party for the night. Case clear.

Raccoon

8:08 a.m.
Officer Mathis was dispatched to Bogey Lane in reference to a suspicious incident. Upon the officer's arrival to the incident location, Officer Mathis met with the homeowner and listed complainant. Officer Mathis introduced himself and began speaking with the complainant who was concerned someone was putting dog fecal matter in her pool and on the pool deck. The pool is located behind the residence secured by a fence and a locked gate. Officer Mathis accompanied the complainant to the pool area so she could further explain her concerns. The complainant proceeded to show the fecal matter on the pool deck and pool steps. After seeing the fecal matter, it was obvious that the excrement was from a raccoon and not a dog. The residence is surrounded by a dense shrub border and more raccoon excrement is located in and around the area. Officer Mathis explained his observations to the complainant and recommended that she contact her pest control company to mitigate the raccoon problem. Case clear.

Suspicious incident

6:28 p.m.
Officer Mathis was dispatched to Fair Oaks Place in reference to a suspicious incident. Upon Officer Mathis' arrival to the location, he was met with the complainant. The complainant advised that the residence has been vacant and some suspicious individuals showed up and walked around the residence. The complainant explained that he heard a loud bang and then saw the man exit the home from the garage. Officer Mathis then made contact with a man at the residence who identified himself as the homeowner and provided him with his driver's license. The complainant explained that he had purchased the home and is having some renovations completed. Though embarrassed, the complainant was understanding and grateful for the police response. Officer Mathis then welcomed the man to Longboat Key and provided him with his business card and told him to contact the police department if they needed further assistance. Case clear.

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 7

erosion, red tide, homeowners/flood insurance costs, canal dredging, seawall conditions, canal navigation, repaving and off-loading trucks in the turn lanes. In fact, our recent Annual Citizen Satisfaction Survey only cites four major issues facing LBK over the last three years; Traffic Congestion, Property Insurance Costs, Beach Erosion and Red Tide. But no one has expressed a need for an island library.

Are residents “unsatisfied” with town amenities? Not according to that Satisfaction Survey that listed Beaches, Bayfront Park, Durante Park, Quick Point Nature Preserve, Tennis Center, Town Center or Way-Finding Signage. I do find the “Fiscal Sustainability” listed as very important, however, on the same survey under policy priorities. How many employees will be needed for a public library on the island? Who will pay them? Will they need health insurance benefits? Pensions? Will locals be hired? Won’t inlanders add to the traffic? Who will pay the utility bills? Property taxes? Property insurance? Liability insurance? Landscaping and facility maintenance? Security services? Will a police presence be necessary to deal with the homelessness problem as seen at Selby Library? Will beach parking creep into its parking area?

Who “goes to the library” in this digital age? The biggest brouhaha in town’s email feed about a potential Sarasota County library has been that Manatee County residents would not have access to the digital matters! For those living in the Manatee County north end, there is that county’s free digital library app Libby (libbyapp.com) for mobile phones or OverDrive Read for computers (download from A-Z Databases). All mobile digit apps are available for IOS, Android and Windows 10. The computer apps are available for Mac and Windows PCs. I read or listen to several hundred books a year. I use the free digital library app Cloud Library available to Sarasota County Library Card holders to save time and money.

Do island children need a library? According to recent responses by both counties, there are only a total of 59 students (both public and charter) on the island, 38 in Sarasota County and 21 in Manatee County. A count of school children within a five-mile radius around any inland public library would dwarf that low total. So, again, I ask, “Do we need a public library building?” My brothers and I lived on the island in the 1950s and 1960s, taking the public school bus first into Sarasota County Public Schools and then, after 1958 when the Longboat Pass bridge was built, into Manatee County Public Schools. We brought books home from school. It wasn’t a problem. I don’t see the need for a large, looming library built at FEMA heights. Give me green fields forever and my mobile phone.

Lynn Cook
Longboat Key

Library

To: Lynn Cook
Thanks for your note. As I have fielded a few of these recently, and I’m sure at least Steve Reid will print all my

replies, I will try not to repeat myself more than necessary.
What possibly bothers me most about the more recent letters such as yours is the lack of familiarity displayed with the history of the Town Center development and the details of the pending arrangement with Sarasota County. Just a few thoughts: 1. There is no clamor for a library at the Town Center because it has been understood for at least 10 years that some form of community center would be built on that exact site. In fact, earlier plans contemplated a structure more than twice the size of the current proposal, but we agreed it would be too large for the site and would interfere with our oaks.

2. Today’s library is not the book vault we grew up with in the 50’s and 60’s. It is a place of convening, learning and doing. Each of the ten libraries operated throughout Sarasota County is designed and operated with an eye to the local demographics, and ours will be no different. Those who attend the second charette on March 18 heard the detailed plans that are being made to provide the kinds of services and offerings our community has said it wants.

3. Critically, and this seems to be missed or ignored by many of the commentators, the Town has committed from the outset that this project would not be built at the expense of LBK taxpayers. As a result, the Pavilion was constructed with seed money from the Karons along with substantial contributions from others of us when costs escalated dramatically during Covid. The Community Center/Library will be built with at least \$8mm of County funds and will be operated at the County’s expense, for which they have budgeted at least \$800k per year. The portion of the building that will represent the over-sized component of the multi-purpose space the Town has required will be funded by donors, some of whom have been identified.

Finally, your letter seems to suggest that we may not be paying sufficient attention to what really matters to Longboat residents, such as traffic, flooding, safety and the like. Nothing

could be further from the truth. The Commission’s last month involved a review of all 1400 responses to the Citizens’ Survey, a hearing for Goals and Objectives to be presented by any citizens group who wished to participate, and a 5-hour planning retreat yesterday which addressed the need for, and the way to pay for, every single item listed in your letter as important to our residents.

Please stay tuned.
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

New Library location objection

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
We would like to voice our objection to locating the new library on the green space.

Please keep the green space intact! Find another location, the current library, or the Paradise Center are a more sensible location.

Barbara Bird
Longboat Key

Library

To: Barbara Bird
Thanks for your note. The small piece of green space next to the Chase bank (1/4 acre out of the nearly 5-acre park) designated for the Community Center/Library has been planned for an indoor facility of this nature for over 10 years. It will not encroach on the oval or any area of the park now used for farmers’ markets, art fairs or entertainment and will not disturb the oaks we light for Christmas. The current library space is too small for the project contemplated, and the Paradise Center is privately owned. However, we are committed to a plan to review all available and potentially available sites in town in order to try and accommodate as many com-

See Letters, page 15

Longboat Key News

Sarasota City News

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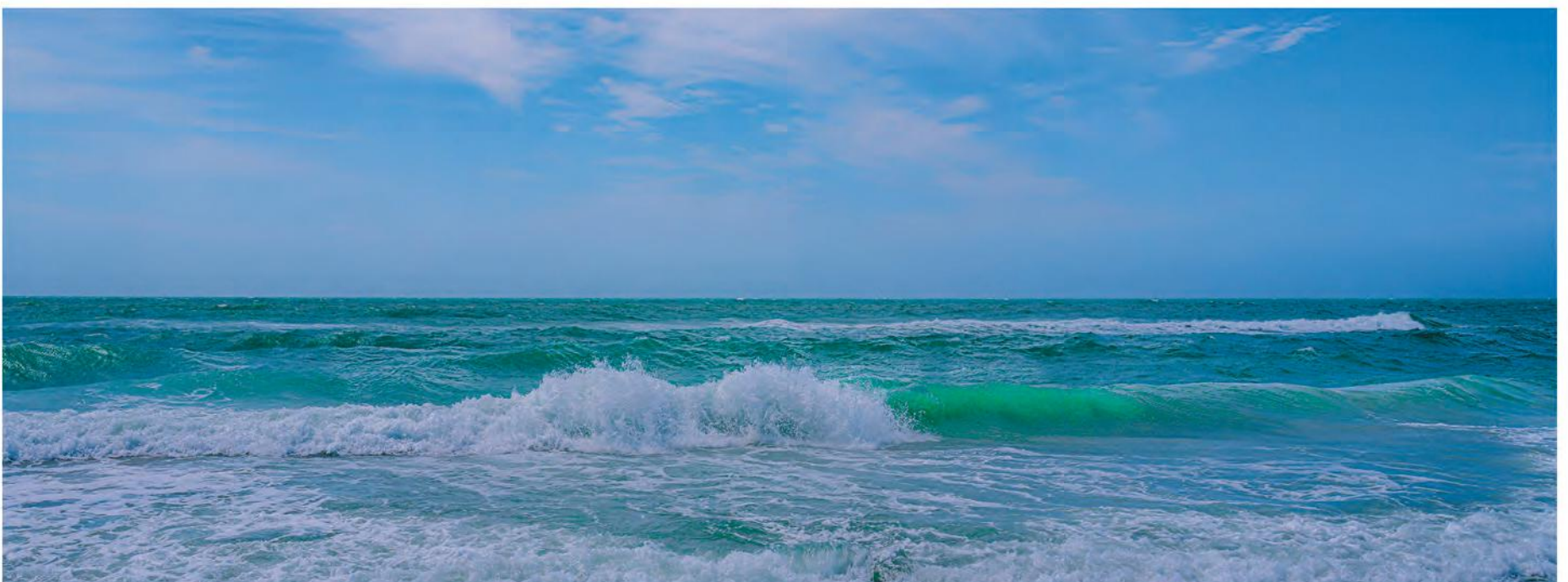
Tax Ideas

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WineTimes

Undervalued White Wines: Part 3

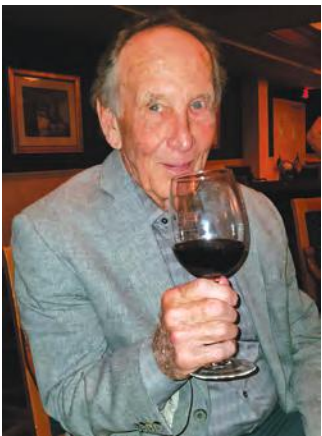
Sales of white wines continue to increase while sales of red wines continue to decrease. Despite these trends, many white wines remain bargains.

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

Sales of white wines continue to increase while sales of red wines continue to decrease. Despite these trends, many white wines remain bargains. Parts 1 and 2 of this series explored two of the more prestigious yet undervalued French whites, Chenin Blanc and Sauvignon Blanc, both originally from the Loire Valley.

Part 3 lists in alphabetic order, with annotations, less well known and undervalued white wines from various regions worldwide. These wines have emerged to pair with regional food favorites.

Albariño [Al vah rein yo - Spain] /Albarinho (Portugal): Similar to Sauvignon Blanc but without grapefruit rind and vegetal aftertastes. Straw hue, floral aromas, crisp and clean, citric zest finish, ideal for seafood. 2022 Bodegas Martín Códax Rías Baixas Albariño (\$17). Compare with Sancerre or top New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc.



Aligoté: The other white wine from Burgundy. Light and fresh, it pairs well with salad greens, oysters and other shellfish, and grilled fish. 2021 Domaine Saint Germain Aligoté (\$19) has a Burgundian style and high ratings at half the price of a premier Chardonnay. More, an authentic Kir aperitif mixes Aligoté and Crème de Cassis de Dijon.

Arneis [Ahr naze] (Italian Piedmont): Revived from near extinction as a varietal during the 1970's, Arneis has on the nose aromas of pear, apricot, and almond. It appeals to those who favor crisp Chardonnay and Pinot Gris. The 2023 Vietti Roero Arneis (\$20) comes from the vineyard that led the revival of the Arneis grape.

Garnacha Blanca (Spain) / Grenache Blanc (France): White Grenache grapes find their way into relatively high alcohol blends of white wines from Spain, where the variety originated, and from the Rhône Valley. The varietal 2021 Edetària Viatera "Terra Alta" Garnacha Blanca (\$12) has citrus and apricot flavors in first tastes, and progresses to a firm texture in the back of the mouth.

Gewurztraminer (Alsace France) / Gewürztraminer (Germany): This grape variety combines floral and fruit fragrances and sweet tastes in a dry wine. The 2021 Willm Gewurztraminer Reserve (\$16) from the Alsace pairs surprisingly well with foods as diverse as stinky cheeses and spicy South Asian dishes.

Godella and Verdejo (Spain): These genetic cousins flourish in the Northwestern Spanish regions of Galicia and Rueda. Godella grapes make a complex wine comparable to Burgundian Chardonnay. Verdejo invites parallels with Sauvignon Blanc from France and New Zealand. The 2021 Bodegas Avancia Godello Cuvee de O Valdeorras (\$20) has gained favorable comparisons with fine Burgundian Chardonnay. Compare the 2021 Menade 'Nosso' Verdejo Natural Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y Leon with a Sancerre (Sauvignon Blanc) from the Loire Valley of France.

Grüner Veltliner [Gruner welt lean er] (Austria): This wine has become a cult favorite. It has a clean taste as if infused slightly with starfruit, lime, and white pepper (rotundone). The 2021 Lenz Moser Gruner Veltliner (\$12, 1 liter) works well as a substitute for a vodka or white rum cocktail.

Pecorino (Italy): Much more widely know as the name of a popular cheese, "Pecorino" also refers to grapes originally from the Abruzzo region of Italy and the white wine made from them. Like Arneis, Pecorino fell in popularity to an extent that a new generation of winemakers had to revive it. The new generation of the wine now competes with Chardonnay due to its high acidity and subtle aromas and tastes. The 2022 Barba Pecorino (\$13) seems a bargain for a wine of its quality.

Rhône Valley blends: Winemakers in the Rhône Valley have mastered the art of blending the diverse wines that thrive in their region. Cotes du Rhone Blanc includes Grenache Blanc, Clairette, Bourboulenc and to a lesser extent, Marsanne, Roussanne and Viognier. The 2022 Guigal Cotes du Rhone Blanc (\$14) makes a good starting point.

Torrontés (Argentina): This semi-indigenous grape developed from a cross between a European grape (Muscat of Alexandria) and a local grape (Pais). It has a unique floral aroma and a sweet taste for a dry wine. The Susana Balbo Crios Torrontés (\$12) comes from high altitude vineyards in Argentina. It matches up to the spicy and herbal foods served in South America.

Vermintino (Sardinia. Corsica. Liguria Italy): The island and coastal growing regions of the Vermintino grape have shaped the seafood-friendly Vermintino wine. The 2020 Argiolas Costamolino Vermentino (\$14)

Vinho Verde Viho Branco (Portugal): This bargain wine contains residual sugar that givs



it a sweet taste. The NV (non-vintage) Casal Garciaa Vinho Verde (\$8) ABV 9.5% has a 90 point rating by the James Suckling group.

This list of bargain white wines excludes distinctive wines such a Riesling or fortified wines that do not compete with Chardonnay or Sauvignon Blanc. We are saving these wines for another day.

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 Orego Valley in New Zealand. Currently he splits time between residences in Chevy Chase, Maryland and St. Armand's Circle in Florida.

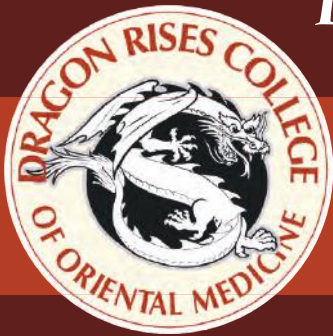
Rich Hermansen selected has first wine list for a restaurant shortly after graduating from college with a degree in Mathematics. He has extensive service and management experience in the food and wine industry. Family and friends rate him as their favorite chef, bartender, and wine steward. He lives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

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community programs as we can.
Ken Schneier
Mayor, Town of Longboat Key

To: James Haft

I am Longboat Key's person who attends the Manatee Tourist Development Council meetings. The Town has a non-voting seat, which means we attend and can question/comment but we do not participate in any votes or decision making. The Council's focus is to enhance and expand tourism in the area, the traffic that we deal with as residents is not in their purview. As you can see from their meeting minutes, they receive a bi-monthly report on the state of tourism, and their latest tourist initiatives are the expanded convention center in Bradenton and the water taxi, which primarily serves tourists. Please feel free to call if you'd like to discuss further.

Debra Williams
Commissioner, Town of Longboat Key

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To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons
Wanted to follow up with you regarding the inspection question that was raised. Please see our Building Officials response below.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

The Inspectors inspect according to the jobsite plans and manufacturers installation specifications they submit to us and the Inspectors acted in accordance with their plans. I have attached the specifications that were submitted with the jobsite plans. Here is the inspectors note:

“This was a pool safety inspection for 569 Roundtree Lane - PSPS23-0063. Doug’s remark was... “ could not confirm that sleeves in paver deck extend 18” below the surface. sleeves were full of dirt could only measure 5” depth.

I have attached two pages from the permit paperwork from Fox Pools Inc. & Alligator Pool Products Inc. Both call out that the vertical posts of the Baby Barrier extend a minimum 18” below paver decking. “ Michele

Let me know if more information is needed or clarification.

Patti Fige
Building Official
Town of Longboat Key

To: Dain Anderson

Thank you for reaching out and sharing your concerns. The initial step in the traffic calming process is to meet on-site with you and your neighbors to discuss your concerns and for us to share more details about the process.

The earliest available date we can meet onsite is April 30 at 10 a.m. Please let us know if this time works for you and we will go ahead and place it on our schedule. We look forward to working with you and your neighbors!

Corinne Arriaga
Senior Transportation Planner
City of Sarasota

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3520 FAIR OAKS LANE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$1,799,000
3BR+DEN/3BA • 2,902 SF • Separate casita for guests



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700 HIDEAWAY BAY LANE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$2,995,000
3BR/3.5BA • 3,306 SF • Waterfront • Easy access to bay



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3221 BAYOU WAY • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$1,650,000
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518 BAYPORT WAY • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$799,000
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