



# Longboat Key News

April 28, 2023

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FREE

## InsideLook



*Órale: Authentic Mexican on LBK ...page 13*



*South LBK home leads the sales ...page 7*



*Enjoy your Dog Day Afternoons ...page 6*



*Man lurking in parking lot ...page 10*

## Opposition mounts against St. Regis parking garage

*“Do you really think they didn’t know, despite the meticulous planning that was required for every phase of the project? Have you considered the opposite, that perhaps they knew exactly what they needed and relied on an amateur Board to approve the parking garage after the fact?”*

**STEVE REID**  
Editor & Publisher  
sreid@lbknews.com

Controversy and wrangling in Town Hall is implicit in any discussion or approval of most any aspect of the St. Regis Resort & Condominiums currently under construction on South Longboat Key. Residents fought the plan in the voting booth and in the approval process, and now the St. Regis developer is back for more.

Last week, Unicorp President Chuck Whittall presented his amended plan for the 166-room hotel and 67 condominium units to now include a free-standing, two-story parking garage.

Town Staff supports the measure and the Planning Board voted 5-2 to pass the matter onto the Town Commission, but for some residents the expansion of the project is being referred to as a “bait and switch” in which all the parking requirements were met when the project was approved in 2021.

But for Whittall, the method that was approved utilizes elevated



car lifts to double stack vehicles and the efficiency during valet-intensive moments will be lacking.

One resident said the Town needs to put the aesthetics of the community and the interests of the residents above the convenience of event-goers at the future resort.

“The applicant demonstrated a significant concern over a timing

issue He said it takes a valet 7.5 minutes to retrieve a car from a lift and return it to the owner. Whereas, if a valet retrieves a car from the parking garage, it takes 4 minutes to return a car to the owner. My conclusion here is that the 3.5 minutes shaved off the time it takes a valet to retrieve a car is more important than the con-

cerns of the residents of Longboat Key and those who voiced their concerns at the meeting. This is very disappointing. I was under the impression that the Planning and Zoning Board looked out for the interests of the Town and its residents. It seems that I was sadly mistaken,” said Longboater Jackie

**See Garage, page 14**

## Sarasota Orchestra buys land for music center on Fruitville

*The 32-acre site will house an 1,800-seat concert hall and allow Orchestra to expand into future.*

**STEVE REID**  
Editor & Publisher  
sreid@lbknews.com

After years of soul searching and community dissonance in its search for a future home, the Sarasota Orchestra has reached a melodious conclusion.

The Orchestra announced the purchase of land for its proposed music center at 5701 Fruitville Road, near Interstate 75 on Friday.

The 32-acre parcel of land sold for \$14 million.

This will end the struggle that has beset the organization for years — operating out of six venues and a headquarters next to the Van Wezel.

Joe McKenna, CEO of the Sarasota Orchestra Music Center, led the search and is happy with the outcome. “There is great excitement amongst our musicians, staff board, and patrons.”

The 1,800-seat concert hall would be built for acoustic music and come with complementary music center facilities including a 700-seat flexible-use performance space and several rehearsal and mini-performance halls. The center would also serve as a resource to nearly 30 local music-related organizations.

This major milestone land purchase comes just one year after the organization identified a location. The organization first initiated its plans to expand the region’s existing arts and cultural infrastructure in 2014.

Leaders of the Sarasota Orchestra said the project’s timeline for completion could take at least five years.



## Mote boosts coral with \$7 million NOAA grant



Mote Marine Laboratory was awarded nearly \$7 million from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a four-year project focused on implementing a holistically transformative coral reef restoration initiative at 10 reef sites along Florida’s Coral Reef, just offshore of the Florida Keys Archipelago.

Led by Principal Investigator Dr.

**See Coral, page 14**



## Red tide out of picture for now...

While potential rain and thunderstorms could impact weekend beach activities, red tide should not be a factor. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said recent sampling indicates red tide is no longer a major impact for Manatee County’s inshore waters. Of the 76 samples taken from Florida’s Gulf Coast, the organism causing red tide blooms, *Karenia brevis*, was found in two samples — one in Lee County and one in Collier County.

FWC reported 17 samples were taken in Manatee County between Monday and Wednesday. Only five were found at background levels at inshore locations, while the rest were negative.

Sarasota County saw a dip in red tide activity, too. Twenty-six positive samples were only at low or very low levels off Siesta Beach, Lido Key, New Pass Dock in Sarasota Bay and further south in Venice.

Fish kills and respiratory irritation in people were reported for Sarasota County.

FWC monitors red tide through satellite imagery and the latest daily sampling report can be found at <https://myfwc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html> or Mote Marine Laboratory’s Beach Conditions Reporting System at <https://visitbeaches.org/map>.

## Parks & Rec.: Bayfront Park update

Last month, construction began on an all-new playground and splash pad combination, with plans including a shipwreck-themed playground, seating and shade structures, lighting, and a new splash pad built from the ground up. Demolition of the original structures is complete, and additional fill dirt was imported to raise the splash pad to the same grade as the playground to create one unified space.

Crews began pouring the concrete foundations for the shade structures and gazebo this week. Splash pad construction will come next. The project is on track to be completed this fall.

## Cinco de Mayo festivities

With three Cinco de Mayo special events scheduled for Friday May 5, downtown Sarasota is going to be the place to be!

The regular monthly Fresh Fridays event will take place near the Art Ovation Hotel at Palm and Cocoanut avenues, plus Circo will host a block party on 2nd Street and El Melvin is throwing one on lower Main Street.

Bay Runner: Due to street closures, the Bay Runner’s Main Street/Palm Avenue stop will temporarily be relocated to Pineapple Avenue/Ringling Boulevard on May 5 only from 8 a.m. to midnight.

## Project of the Year: Ringling Trail Complete Street

The Ringling Trail Complete Street was recognized as the Project of the Year by the American Public Works Association (APWA) Florida Chapter during its annual conference in Jacksonville last week. Assistant City Engineer Dan Ohrenstein, project team co-lead along with Capital Projects Manager Camden Mills, accepted the award on behalf of the City of

Sarasota.

The Ringling Trail Complete Street project transformed Ringling Boulevard into a complete street in December 2022 with enhanced bicycle safety and expanded multimodal and connectivity opportunities between The Legacy Trail, downtown Sarasota and the Bayfront. The Trail extends one mile between Lime and Pineapple avenues and features protected bike lanes for a safer road experience for recreational cyclists and commuters.

The Project of the Year award was given in the category “Transportation: \$2 million - \$5 million”.

“This is a significant recognition,” said City Engineer Nimesh Patel. “For the Ringling Trail Complete Street to rise to the top and be recognized as Project of the Year is an honor.

Congratulations to the entire project team and the community for this successful project.”

APWA judges considered many criteria for the Project of the Year, including community need, commitment to sustainability, accomplishments under adverse conditions, economic challenges and creative use of resources.

“This was the first protected bicycle lane project in the Sarasota-Manatee region, coupled with lane repurposing, and community conversations occurred during the pandemic,” said Assistant City Engineer Dan Ohrenstein.

Ringling Boulevard between US 41 and Lime Avenue was identified as a potential complete street in 2019 when the City Commission approved the Multi-Modal Connections Plan.

The \$2.7 million Ringling Trail Complete Street project was funded through the Sarasota County Penny Sales Tax, Economic Development Funds, multimodal impact fees and federal American Rescue Plan Act dollars.

Cost-saving and sustainability measures included conducting construction engineering and inspection services in-house and reallocating concrete parking wheel stops as bicycle lane dividers.

“More cyclists are traveling between The Legacy Trail and downtown core since the protected bike lanes were installed along the Ringling Trail and that’s translating into economic growth,” said City Manager Marlon Brown.

Additional information about the Ringling Trail Complete Street is available at [www.SarasotaFL.gov](http://www.SarasotaFL.gov)





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WEST OF TRAIL - HIGHLY DESIRABLE LOCATION \$6,999,000  
Waterfront location, this custom home is situated on a quiet cul-de-sac steps to Siesta Key. Offering 4,500 AC/SF, with an open concept floor plan, highly desirable finishes and touches, and 3-car garage, you will be impressed. Work with builder direct to create your dream home.



BIRD KEY • 217 BIRD KEY DRIVE \$1,999,000  
An ideal Bird Key lifestyle awaits at this updated, contemporary garden home. Renovated by Ampersana Construction in 2014, with designs by Sawa Design Studio, the 3BR layout encompasses nearly 2,500 SF of living space. Sleek, modern finishes throughout, and private backyard w/ heated pool.

GULF FRONT NEW CONSTRUCTION



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

MOVE IN FALL 2023



LIDO SHORES • 1212 CENTER PLACE \$5,699,000  
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.

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SIESTA KEY • HIGEL AVE. \$16,995,000  
Currently under construction and scheduled to be ready Fall 2023, this breathtaking 8,964 AC/SF residence is one of a kind, designed by DSDG. Gulf front property on one acre and offers a 2,000 SF roof terrace. Separate guest house and 8-car garage. No expense spared on this remarkable home.



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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](mailto: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 Proposed Parking Garage

To: Longboat Key Commission

My name is Jackie Michaelides. I am a 30-year condominium owner and 4-year resident on Longboat Key.

After spending the entire day at the Planning and Zoning Board meeting on April 18th regarding a proposed parking garage at the St. Regis property, I felt compelled to share my concerns. After processing the St. Regis applicant's presentation, I have two points to make.

First, the applicant shared that the existing plan allows for temporary overflow parking on the outdoor event area. This minimizes the need for the additional 50 new parking spaces proposed for the new parking garage.

Second, the applicant demonstrated a significant concern over a timing issue. He said it takes a valet 7.5 minutes to retrieve a car from a lift and return it to the owner. Whereas, if a valet retrieves a car from the parking garage, it takes 4 minutes to return a car to the owner. My conclusion here is that the 3.5 minutes shaved off the time it takes a valet to retrieve a car is more important than the concerns of the residents of Longboat Key and those who voiced their concerns at the meeting. This is very disappointing. I was under the impression that the Planning and Zoning Board looked out for the interests of the Town and its residents. It seems that I was sadly mistaken.

In addition, a parking structure is not consistent with the aesthetic standards I have observed on Longboat Key over the past 30 years. This also sets a precedent for future construction.

I would sincerely appreciate your thoughtful consideration regarding the construction of a parking garage in our beautiful town.

Sincerely,  
Jackie Michaelides  
Longboat Key

## Congratulations

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra Murphy

Congratulations on your election, Commissioner of District 5. My name is Marge Langteau and I have recently been elected Emerald Harbor (HOA) President. I understand you are our Commissioner. I am sure we share some things in common with our new responsibilities. I know my learning curve is quite large and I have been doing my best to learn all it need to do in this role. I love our neighborhood. It is friendly, conscientious and beautiful. I would be happy to give you a tour anytime. I was wondering if I could meet you in person sometime. It would be great to get to know you. I am sure our paths will cross on LBK issues and I would love it if we knew each other better. Let me know if you would like to meet for coffee at my place or anywhere else that is convenient for you.

Marge Langteau  
Longboat Key

## Congratulations

To: Marge Langteau

Thanks for your congratulatory email. Congratulations on your new role as President of Emerald Harbor. I just retired as President of Longbeach Condominiums in February. Thanks for the invite to meet. I am available next Wednesday, Thursday or Friday mornings. Would you like to meet for coffee at Sips in Whitney Plaza? If any of these days work for you, please let me know the day and time that works best for you.

Look forward to meeting you.  
Debbie Murphy  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

## Congratulations

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debbie Murphy

Thanks for getting back to me. You could teach me a thing or two about my job! I am really excited to get together. I have heard about Sips, but have not been there yet. Great suggestion! How about Thursday May 4th at 9 a.m. at Sips? Does this work for you?

I am excited to meet you.  
Marge Langteau  
Longboat Key

## LB 500 LLC Parcel 0007020001

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

You may recall the Mayor and I had a conversation about Longboat Key Club property values, as he was interested because that value gives LBK Club a certain percentage of the vote for the Bay Isles Association.

When looking up the property I noticed that values went down considerably on the building at a time when values have been increasing.

The reason is that Golf courses are valued based on revenue not the buildings that sit on them.

LBK Club statutorily is not required to disclose the amount of revenue they make to the appraiser office so they have to use an estimate based on the average of other golf courses they do have data for.

Wynta describes their process below. The Mayor may be still interested in the answer.

Let me know if you have any questions.  
Sue Smith  
Finance Director  
Longboat Key

## LB 500 LLC Parcel 0007020001


To: Longboat Key Finance Director Sue Smith

Thank you for speaking with me today. I've summarized our conversation below and have included my contact information. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

See Letters, page 5

### GULF VIEWS


JUST LISTED



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### LUXURY PENTHOUSE

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2101 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #2504  
LONGBOAT KEY, FL  
2BR/2BA | 1,358 SF | UPDATED  
\$1,599,900

### CASEY KEY WATERFRONT



105 CASEY KEY RD., #34  
NOKOMIS, FL  
3BR/2BA | 1,170 SF | ASSIGNED BOAT SLIP  
\$995,000

### DIRECT BAY FRONT




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# EditorLetters



**Letters, from page 4**

Each year consideration is given to revenues for golf course properties. A Gross Revenue Multiplier is then utilized to estimate value. The Property Appraiser utilizes revenue information received from annual income and expense surveys as well as gross rental receipt data from the Florida Department of Revenue. Unlike all the other golf courses in Sarasota County, the Harbourside and Islandside golf courses are part of the Resort at Longboat Key and the revenues for these courses are not reported separately. For the 2022 valuation, adjustments were made relative to the financial information we did have for other golf courses. Of prime concern to the Property Appraiser is equity in the valuations for comparable properties. For 2022, downward adjustments were made to these two courses. They continue to be the two highest valued golf courses in our jurisdiction. We understand their prime location, but we are required to value them as golf courses. For 2023, as is true for every year, we will revisit income trends for these properties and will make adjustments accordingly to arrive at our best estimates of value.

Wynta Loughrey  
Assistant Commercial Valuation Manager  
Sarasota County Property Appraiser's Office

**Whitney Plaza Opportunity**

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra Williams  
Below is communication from the last LBK North meeting about the Whitney Plaza opportunity with Manatee County. Howard Tipton has toured the building and can speak to the advantages it could provide to Longboat Key - especially while we contemplate a new Bayfront rec center and await the building of the future library (could be a wonderful interim step). During my last conversation with Commissioner Van Ostenbridge he stated he had “not forgotten about this” -- this was at Representative Buchanan’s Red Tide Round Table that you also attended, so it might be good timing for follow-up.  
As background, LBK North Represents over 27 HOAs/Condo associations on the north end of LBK encompassing much of the area in District 4&5. All reside in Manatee County.  
Thank you for all you and your fellow Commissioners do to make LBK such a wonderful place.  
Maureen Merrigan  
Longboat Key North

**Whitney Plaza Opportunity**

To: Longboat Key North Representatives  
Below is a list of some of the possibilities for a community center on the north end in the vacant Whitney Plaza space.  
In a perfect world, Manatee County would allow the Town of LBK to manage programming in partnership with other groups in the County, and the County would stick to their initial commitment to lease and support buildout of the space to create a more permanent presence on LBK (as Sarasota County invested in both Bayfront Park and the Town Center).  
At this point we want to gauge neighborhood interest to see how hard we want to push for this as County taxpayers.  
Let us know the general feeling from your HOA and if there are individuals in your community that want to help us lead the effort.  
Maureen Merrigan  
Longboat Key North

**Influence of sources outside of SB on regional water quality**

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission  
Thought it was important to point out that we continue to make progress in refining the Reasonable Assurance Plan (RAP) for Sarasota Bay. The RAP is meant to be a detailed plan for our local governments to identify and then implement projects and programs that reduce our watershed-wide nutrient loads by something close to 20 percent. That preliminary 20 percent target is intended to get us back to the healthier system we used to be about 10 to 15 years ago. The load reduction targets will vary depending on location, and some of the most important actions are already being implemented, such as Sarasota County’s improvements to the wastewater overflow issues that impacted the lower bay between about 2013 and 2018.  
These actions should help us to create a healthier bay, but they are not the only things we are pursuing. I know that the recently approved CCMP is a slog to read through, but it’s important to point out that there are four main Action Plans in it, not just a focus on pollution alone. For example, the SBEP has been involved with over 100 habitat restoration projects along our

shorelines and in our watershed – with most of the funding coming from local governments. Projects such as the Celery Fields stormwater retrofit and more recent projects in Hudson Bayou’s watershed, as well as all the neat rain gardens along that stretch of Ringling Boulevard from Orange Avenue down to the bay, and our current efforts at FISH Preserve (already underway). Then there are the multiple projects within the bay (our third Action Plan). There are about 20 acres of oyster reef restoration in the bay that the SBEP has worked to implement with our partners, and about 20-acres of the bay has benefited from the various artificial reef projects that are we and our partners are continuing to implement. We have also partnered with local NGOs to put clams out in the bay for many years now. Our fourth Action Plan in the CCMP is the one we spend more time on than any of the others – Community Engagement. Our staff are out in the community evenings and weekends interacting with the public to lay out the rationale for doing more for the bay’s health, along with providing them with guidance on how they can volunteer and/or self-implement more bay-friendly practices.

Overall, we’re in good shape for seeing some good results over the next few years. We are, however, also influenced by things that happen outside of our watershed. The graphic below shows that Sarasota Bay’s watershed-wide nitrogen load is much lower than what comes into Tampa Bay, what comes down the Peace River, and what comes down the Caloosahatchee River. Much of this is based on geography alone – Tampa Bay’s watershed is more than 10 times larger than ours, with more people. The Peace River watershed is not very urbanized, but it is more than 2,000 square miles in size, vs. our 150 square mile watershed.  
By far, the biggest regional nitrogen load to SW Florida’s coastal waters is what comes out of the Caloosahatchee River. And those loads – they’re not likely to be reduced an awful lot over the next few decades. There is a TMDL for the Caloosahatchee River, more than 10 years old, that calls for ca. a 20 percent load reduction – similar to our goal. But that watershed is huge and they do not have sufficient projects identified to fully implement that load reduction goal. We look to have the ability to reduce our nutrient loads by ca. 20 percent, but it will cost us several hundred million dollars to do so. Now extrapolate that to something like the Caloosahatchee River, whose watershed reaches all the way up to Orlando.  
Plans and projects on the horizon, such as the C-43 reservoir, will be some of the biggest environmental restoration efforts implemented in Florida. And while they are going to be huge projects, with substantial benefits, they are not going to likely be able to meet the TMDL goals for that massive watershed. For example, some of the preliminary estimates of the C-43 reservoir’s nutrient removal efficiency suggest that 500,000 to 700,000 pounds of nitrogen might be able to be removed after processing through potential designs. That is huge – as much as 1 ½ times as large as what came into Tampa Bay from the Piney Point discharges! But the Caloosahatchee River TMDL report concluded that about 12 million pounds of nitrogen comes out into SW Florida’s coastal waters, on average. Is a project that reduces nitrogen loads by perhaps 700,000 pounds a year a big deal? Of course! But it’s also about 6 percent of that regional nitrogen load.

Why does that matter to Sarasota Bay? Because the Caloosahatchee River consistently enhances the intensity of red tides in SW Florida, as shown by this paper (also read its included literature cited section) - Nitrogen-enriched discharges from a highly managed watershed intensify red tide (*Karenia brevis*) blooms in southwest Florida (sarasotabay.org).  
We can do a great job with managing Sarasota Bay, and for most days and most years, our public will notice and appreciate our actions. But when we have hurricanes come through, or if some catastrophe such as Piney Point occurs to our north, or as the Caloosahatchee continues to fuel red tide blooms with nitrogen, our local abilities will be offset to a degree by things outside of our control.

By the way, there are really smart and talented locals in our watershed who have looked into the relationship between these regional nutrient loads and the duration of red tides across SW Florida, and there might be something there. We are working to try and get the folks from UF involved, as they have the skill sets and academic reputation to see if there is in fact a management-relevant relationship between these regional (to SW Florida) nitrogen loads and the number of days that SW Florida experiences problematic levels of the red tide organism. I believe that IF we could come up with a relationship that suggests that cutting back on regional nitrogen loads by 10 percent (as an example) could reduce the number of days with nuisance levels of red tide by a month (also as an example) this could potentially lead us to having a state-wide investment on nutrient load reduction that would be of sufficient scale that it could have benefits that would also help us out.  
Basically, we’re doing an awful lot to get our pollutant loads under control here in Sarasota Bay, more so than any other part of Florida that I’m aware of. But until we see the same level of ecologically relevant pollutant load reductions state-wide, compared to what we are implementing locally, we’re not going to see the last of some pretty substantial red tide events over the next few decades.

Personally, I’d like to see UF researchers who figured out the Caloosahatchee discharge – red tide enhancement relationship take this work to the next level of management-relevant assessments. If you have ideas on how that could move forward, please let me know. Otherwise, we run the risk of continuing to think we’re doing all that we need to do to address our ongoing water quality issues in SW Florida, when we’re really not.  
Again, great projects lined up across our region! But put into a larger perspective, we need to do more, or live with the consequences of not doing enough.  
Dave Tomasko  
Executive Director  
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

**Exclusive to Bradenton Area EDC Investors**

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra Williams  
We are back with the Monthly Minute-ish! As a Bradenton Area EDC investor, enjoy your exclusive first look at the Monthly Minute-ish for April 2023. Now filming in our new location in the 26 West Center at State College of Florida, we’re talking aviation. Sharon and Max discuss the MROAmericas trade show in Atlanta, GA and the importance of the Aviation Sector in the Bradenton Area on Florida’s West Coast.  
Elizabeth Cordes  
Director of Investor Relations  
Bradenton Area Economic Development Corporation

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# Time for Dog Day Afternoon on Longboat Key

*Where to recreate, run and live with your pet on Longboat and the region.*

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

There is a large demographic of residents and visitors to Longboat Key who love their dogs. Their dogs are like one of their family members. I fall into that category myself. Although dogs are not allowed on the beaches of Longboat Key, except for service animals, there are still a lot of areas for us to take our fur babies.

**Bark at the park!**

To start, Longboat has a wonderful dog park at Bayfront Park, located mid-island. The dog park is sectioned off into two areas. One for bigger dogs and one for smaller dogs.

If you venture off of Longboat Key, you will also find a dog park on Holmes Beach. Located at 62nd Street 7 Flotilla. Another location is in Bradenton at the Laurie Crawford Dog Park, located at 2811 51st Street W, and at Arlington Park in Sarasota, located at 2650 Waldemere Street.

As a special treat for your dog you could take a short trip to Brohard Paw Park in Venice. This is the only dog friendly beach in Sarasota County. You have to check this beach out with your puppy at least once.

There are also dog friendly parks at Marina Jack and Bird Key.

With all the special dog amenities and features your friendly four legger will thank you. There are also several walking trails on Longboat Key, like Durante Park, several grassy areas, mangrove trails, and sidewalks to walk our dogs on.

Some of our wonderful Longboat restaurants have dog friendly sections. We even had a section of dogs in the Longboat Key Independence Day Parade.



LARSON



**Home sweet home...**

Several of the condominium complexes on Longboat Key allow pets and some do not. Here is a list of some of the ones that I believe do allow pets:

- Banyan Bay Club, owners can have 2 pets up to 30 lbs.
- Bayport Beach & Tennis, owners can have 1 pet up to 35 lbs.
- Buttonwood Cove, owners can have 1 pet up to 20 lbs.
- Castillian, owners can have 1 pet up to 20 lbs.
- Cedars East, owners can have 1 pet up to 20 lbs. C
- Cedars West, Owners can have 1 pet up to 101 lbs.
- Club Longboat, owners can have 2 large pets up to 130 lbs.
- Fairway Bay 1, varies upon building.
- Grand Bay, owners can have 2 pets no weight restriction.
- Harbour Court Villas, owners can have 2 pets up to 100 lbs. each. Islands West, owners can

- have 2 pets up to 35 lbs. each.
- L'Ambiance, owners can have 1 pet up to 30 lbs.
- LaFirenza, owners can have 2 pets. Longboat Beach House, owners can have 1 pet up to 15 lbs. La Playa, with approval.
- Marina Bay, Owners can have 1 pet up to 25 lbs.
- Pelican Harbour and Beach Club, owner can have 2 pets up to 101 lbs. each.
- Pierre, owners can have 1 pet up to 25 lbs.
- Positano, owners can have 2 pets up to 101 lbs. each.
- Regent Place, owners can have 2 pets up to 20lbs. each.
- Sanctuary, owners can have 1 pet up to 30 lbs.
- Sands Point, owners can have 1 pet up to 15 lbs.
- Sea Pines, owners can have 2 pets up to 101 lbs. each.
- Spanish Main Yacht Club, owners can have 1 pet up to 25 lbs.
- Sutton Place, owners can have 2 pets up to 25 lbs. each.
- Tangerine Bay Club, owners can have 1 pet up to 22 lbs.
- Villa Di Lancia, owners can have 1 pet up to 15 lbs.
- Vizcaya, owners can have 2 pets up to 101 lbs. each.
- Water Club, owners can have 2 pets.
- Whitney Beach Association, Whitney Beach III, with approval.
- Winding Oaks, with approval,
- Windward Bay, owners can have 2 pets.
- Harbour Villa Club, owners can have 2 pets up to 35 lbs each.
- Grand Mariner, owners can have 2 pets up to 60 lbs. each.

Please keep in mind that this is not an all-inclusive list. Also, please remember that even though a complex may allow pets, there could still be some additional restrictions. Some complexes also might allow the condo owner to have a pet but not a renter. Please always read the rules and regulations documents for the complex that you are interested in as they sometimes change.

I can't wait to meet you are your furry four-legged family members out and about here on the island.

*Growing in Jesus' Name*

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

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Sunday Service 10:00 AM

**The Rev. Dr. Norman Pritchard**

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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
4360 CHATHAM DR Unit#308	1,316	\$565,000	2	2	0	4	\$555,000
703 SPANISH DR S	1,322	\$599,000	2	2	0	64	\$572,000
4310 FALMOUTH DR Unit#101	1,092	\$709,000	2	2	0	48	\$705,000
2301 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#55N	1,235	\$759,900	2	2	0	22	\$749,000
7125 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#23	1,170	\$950,000	2	2	0	97	\$900,000
5757 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#307	1,561	\$1,250,000	2	2	0	16	\$1,200,000
5135 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#202	1,502	\$1,175,000	3	2	0	80	\$1,250,000
3637 FAIR OAKS PL Unit#1	2,724	\$1,495,000	3	3	0	31	\$1,350,000
2425 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#11E	1,470	\$1,678,900	2	2	0	0	\$1,635,000
455 LONGBOAT CLUB RD Unit#603	2,470	\$2,295,000	3	3	0	70	\$2,200,000
3482 MISTLETOE LN	3,323	\$3,150,000	3	4	0	10	\$3,050,000
1241 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#PH08	2,965	\$4,995,000	4	4	1	32	\$4,600,000
596 OUTRIGGER LN	5,892	\$7,495,000	6	6	1	186	\$6,995,000



596 OUTRIGGER LN



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BIRD KEY  
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ACTIVE LISTING \$2,595,000



SIESTA KEY  
651 AVENIDA DEL NORTE  
ACTIVE LISTING \$2,595,000



LAKEWOOD RANCH  
5527 PALMER CIRCLE, #206  
ACITVE LISTING \$515,000



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



BAY POINT DRIVE  
1507 BAY POINT DRIVE  
SOLD \$6,350,000



LONGBOAT KEY  
2525 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #4E  
SOLD \$1,600,000



FOX TRACE  
2547 FIREFLAG LANE  
PENDING \$520,000



BIRD KEY  
314 BIRD KEY DRIVE  
SOLD \$4,600,000



# EditorLetters



Letters, from page 6

May Regular Meeting Agenda

To: Longboat Key Assistant Town Clerk Savannah Cobb  
Since pickleball is the only item on the agenda likely to draw some public comment, can we move it up the agenda, say right after Consent, rather than having it as the last item. Thanks.  
Ken Schneier  
Mayor  
Longboat Key

May Regular Meeting Agenda

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier  
Thank you Mayor. At this point with the agenda published, it will probably work better if you ask your colleagues at the start of the meeting if it would be ok to move the item up as you’ve suggested. Staff certainly has no problem with the suggestion and I apologize for not catching that as it will be the item with the greatest interest/discussion.  
Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

May Regular Meeting Agenda

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
Will do.  
Ken Schneier  
Mayor  
Longboat Key

St. Regis parking garage

To: Longboat Key Town Commission  
I understand on Monday May 1st you will consider a special meeting for May 18, 2023 to hear our case for a parking structure at The St. Regis Hotel.  
I respectfully ask if you can have it on the 18th and not on the regular June agenda. We have a family trip that has been planned for over six months to Europe and I cannot attend in June. I would also imagine the hearing could be lengthy and it would benefit to stand on its own. I sincerely appreciate your consideration on this date request.  
Chuck Whittall  
President  
Unicorp Companies

St. Regis parking garage

To: Unicorp President Chuck Whittall  
We, by law, must hear this twice so we will have to do at least one meeting in June.  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

St. Regis parking garage

To: Longboat Key Commission  
Just as the hellacious winter of roundabout construction and major traffic backups for LBK residents comes to a pause, now the St Regis is requiring approval for a 3-story parking garage on Gulf of Mexico Dr.  
Why wasn't this plan proposed and debated during the earlier pre-construction period? It seem as though the management is taking advantage of agreement for the resort and is now trying to push through a very bad idea: unsightly, who cares about “valet wait time” and an open invitation for even more cars invading Longboat Key! Please do not pass this bad proposal!  
Melanie DeCarlo  
Longboat Key

St. Regis Parking Garage

To: Jim Fanto  
Thanks for your input regarding the St. Regis parking deck application. This item will be heard before the town commission for a first and second reading (some time in May/June, dates TBD). Public input at this and all town meetings is welcome and encouraged, please consider attending if you are able. The meeting dates should be posted shortly on the town website.  
Debra Williams  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

St. Regis Parking Structure

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra Williams  
Thank you for your prompt response, although my email pretty well states my position.  
Jim Fanto  
Longboat Key

St. Regis Parking Garage

To: Longboat Key Town Commission  
•I understand it will be very close to Gulf of Mexico Dr.

•How ugly will that look?  
•Will traffic be backed up when making a left turn and even a right turn into the garage located so close to Gulf of Mexico Drive?  
• Why was this not considered in the original plans?  
Joyce Welch  
Longboat Key

St. Regis Garage

To: Longboat Key Commission  
I am writing to object to the multilevel garage proposed to be built at the St Regis. I understand it was not in the original application.  
Why create a visual eyesore on Longboat Key?  
I guess it is about how money talks and can take over the residents wishes. I hope I am wrong.  
Cheryl A. Nelson  
Longboat Key

St. Regis Parking Structure

To: Longboat Key Commission  
We have been full time residents of LBK for about 4 years; having selected Longboat in large part due to its lovely residential feeling and cared for appearance. To disturb that ambiance would be a terrible thing, and likely detrimental to all of our property values.  
With specific regard to the St. Regis, I was, and still am, in favor of the originally approved project, with some minor concerns about traffic. But the proposed parking structure abutting Gulf of Mexico Dr, is not ok, being completely contrary to the beautiful scenic drive we currently have and sets the stage for future commercial buildings along GMD.  
What I find particularly disturbing is that some of you must believe the developer had no idea of how long it would take to retrieve a valet parked car, or how many parking spaces were needed, when they filed the originally approved plan. Do you really think they didn't know, despite the meticulous planning that was required for every phase of the project? Have you considered the opposite, that perhaps they knew exactly what they needed and relied on an amateur Board to approve the parking garage after the fact?  
I certainly hope it's not too late to reverse the Board's decision and reject the plan to build a parking garage right next to Gulf of Mexico Drive.  
Jim Fanto  
Longboat Key

The 2023 FL Plans Examiner of the Year

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Department  
Congratulations to Patti Fige (who’s now the Town’s Building Official) on being recognized by Building Officials Association of Florida (BOAF) Board of Directors and Membership, as the recipient of the 2023 Plans Examiner of the Year Award!! This is an incredible professional achievement and recognition of the outstanding work Patti has done. The BOAF organization has over 2,500 members representing Building Officials, Code Compliance Professionals and Building Industry, with representatives from most, if not all, 477 cities and counties in the state. In other words, this is a big deal!  
Special thanks to the Town’s Plans Examiner (and current BOAF Manasota Chapter President), Neal Mazzei, for nominating Patti and putting together such a persuasive case!  
Patti’s Award will include VIP treatment at the upcoming BOAF annual conference, including having all conference expenses paid for by BOAF! If Patti begins referring to herself in the 3rd-Person you’ll know that she’s earned it.  
Allen Parsons  
Director Planning, Zoning & Building Department  
Town of Longboat Key

The 2023 FL Plans Examiner of the Year

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons  
Great recognition for Patti and the career that she has had. It really is a big deal to receive this statewide recognition! We’ll be putting out a press release to recognize this achievement.  
Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

The 2023 FL Plans Examiner of the Year

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
So great! Thank you for sharing this.  
Penny Gold  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

The 2023 FL Plans Examiner of the Year

To: Longboat Key Building Official Patti Fige  
Congratulations on bringing this positive attention to yourself and the Town. We’re very proud of you!  
Ken Schneier  
Mayor  
Longboat Key

See Letters, page 9

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# EditorLetters



Letters, from page 8

The 2023 FL Plans Examiner of the Year

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier  
Thank you Ken! I am still in shock but now know hard work does pay off! Sure appreciate your support!  
Patti Fige  
Building Official  
Town of Longboat Key

Follow up

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown  
I appreciate you facilitating the discussion. However, again it appears as one step forward two steps back. We, as a community, continue to jump through hoop after hoop only to be told there is nothing the City can do to slow speeding cars or cut down on cut through traffic. It is very frustrating and to our homeowners, it feels like the City does not care about the safety of their kids. I personally know this is not the case, especially with you and Pat but that is the way they feel and they tell me every chance they get.  
Please let me know what the plan is regarding the reevaluation of the warrants for traffic calming. Both you and

Commissioner Ahern-Koch had mentioned it needed to be done.  
All the best and again thanks for your help.  
Andrew Mitchell  
President  
South Poinsettia Park Neighborhood Association

Follow up

To: Andrew Mitchell  
I understand the frustration. Commissioner Ahearn-Koch and I just had a discussion about this issue. She is going to look at a possibility of having a City Commission discussion of lowering the threshold for the warrants for neighborhoods given the unique (residential) character of those roadways and make up (families with children)/vs. that of a collector/arterial roadway. Staff will be meeting with her to further discuss before possibly scheduling. I am also going to see what options I may have under my authority. We will be in touch.  
Marlon Brown  
City Manager  
City of Sarasota

Orange Avenue Roadwork

To: Ricki Lindsay

Good morning. Indeed, the signs on Bay Point Dr. are overdue for removal. I've reached back out to Willis Smith regarding their removal.  
Regarding the variable message board, this signifies that there will be work on Mound St. However, no work on South Orange Avenue is proposed.  
Daniel Ohrenstein  
Assistant City Engineer Public Works  
City of Sarasota

Fruitville roundabout

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown  
Today I attended an event at Holley Hall. I had not been that way in a couple of months. Made it through the Gulfstream roundabout ok. The Fruitville one not so well. Why? Because they had one of the lanes interior lanes closed but the overhead signs did not match. Thought I was in the continuation of the U.S. 41 northbound lane, found out not so. Was in the lane going to I-75. Was able to get over as wanted to turn left at Blvd. of the Arts.  
Also, the future construction going south on U.S. 41 past Ringling Blvd., the road signs are not clear. Then the blinking sign on Orange Avenue going north, before the new Selby parking garage, just before the median "orange" is spelled wrong. Will there be a detour at Mound and U.S. 41? Noticed going south on Orange before Mound there is a detour sign.  
Will those who use that intersection be told this will be closed what time and how long.  
Mary Ciner  
Sarasota

Fruitville roundabout

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown  
This is all part of the FDOT construction zone on US 41 at Gulfstream. I will share information to the FDOT team. Currently, they are working on finishing the project end of May 2023.  
The MOT are causing some of the issues. Also, I will work with FDOT to ensure the signage is clear and spelled correctly as construction wraps up on the project.  
Nik Patel  
City Engineer  
City of Sarasota  
Requested modification to the ordinance for purple ribbon  
To: Sarasota City Commission  
I was pleased to see the draft ordinance for the purple ribbon committee, which I do support seating at this stage to undo the damage to the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall's reputation from SPAC Inc.'s expensive and prolonged marketing campaign.  
I believe the seven roles are the right ones to explore these issues, and will encourage those I know with expertise in each category to consider applying.  
However, I believe it is essential that you use this ordinance to clarify that continued use of the top-rated iconic Van Wezel as the touring presenting hall it is (and was designed to be) is one of the options that this panel will be evaluating.  
It looks like this can be achieved by merely inserting the phrase "continued use or" before "future reuse" in the "Duties" section of the ordinance.  
Kelly Franklin  
Sarasota

Requested modification to the ordinance for purple ribbon

To: Sarasota City Commission  
By way of explanation, the recommendations required of the Committee were derived from the April 2022 Agreement between the City and the SPAC Foundation. However, if the City Commission satisfies its contractual obligation under this Agreement to establish the Committee and assign to it those tasks set out in the Agreement, I see no reason why the City  
See Letters, page 11

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# OnPatrol

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

## April 21

## Citizen assist

8:48 a.m.

Officer Nazareno was dispatched to the 1400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a citizen assist for a possible vehicle accident. The caller stated that the vehicle parked on the grass area of the 1400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive has damage to the right front fender and the driver appeared to be slumped over the steering wheel. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno made contact with the driver of a black Kia SUV. The driver advised that she was waiting for a tow truck and her vehicle was not involved in an accident. She further advised that the damage on the right front fender of her vehicle from a previous accident. The vehicle was not impeding traffic. Case clear.



## Cushion in roadway

10:20 p.m.

Officer Martinson while on patrol traveling northbound in the 6700 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive when he observed a large couch cushion laying in the middle of the road. Officer Martinson removed the cushion from the roadway and threw it away. Case clear.

## April 23

## Citizen assist

1:30 a.m.

Officer Martinson was dispatched to Putter Lane on a citizen assist. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson met with the homeowner inside her residence. She stated she thought she was reading a book when she was reading a book when she heard a loud bang come from the back bedroom of the house. She said she thought something must have fallen down but after checking around the house and not finding anything she noticed that some of the lights were not working in different rooms. The homeowner showed Officer Martinson that some lights were not turning on and other lights would turn on but were very dim. Officer Martinson assumed there must be some type of electrical problem so he checked the breaker box in the garage. All the breakers were in the on position and did Officer Martinson didn't smell any smoke or see anything electrical sparking. Officer Martinson advised the homeowner that she should call an electrician tomorrow morning. Case clear.

## Suspicious incident

8:02 p.m.

Officer Martinson responded to Marbury Lane on a suspicious incident. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson found one of the garage doors to the residence open. Sgt. Puccio and Officer Martinson walked around the outside of the house and every door and window appeared to be secure with no signs of forced entry. It appeared that the garage/downstairs area was under a remodel or construction and that the garage door must have been accidentally been left open. The interior door leading from the garage into the main house and was found to also be unlocked but Officer Martinson did not feel that there was enough of a reason to search inside. Officer Martinson was able to close the garage door and secure the residence. Officer Martinson then spoke with the caller who stated he had seen people at the residence for Easter but for the past two days he had noticed the garage door open and no one seemed to be around. He was advised that he was able to close the door and that everything was okay. Case clear.

**April 24**

## Suspicious person

12:00 p.m.

Officer Montfort responded to the Police Department to report a suspicious person. The original complaint being at the pharmacy. Officer Montfort was greeted by the complainant who stated around noon, a man approached her and requested to see inside of her vehicle she further stated that the man complimented her on the vehicle and was being intrusive. The complainant stated that the man was well groomed, wearing fitted clothing and possibly eastern European. The complainant stated she identified herself and shook his hand to which the man identified himself as Mike from Maine. The woman stated she then left the area without incident. Then, the complainant stated she spoke with a friend later that day who also met Mike and that Mike stated to her friend that he knew the complainant and the complainant's

vehicle. The friend also happens to have a similar Porsche. The woman said she wanted to file a police report and make it known a man was contacting women in the CVS parking lot. No crime committed at this time. Officer Montfort then patrolled to the pharmacy store and checked the area. Officer Montfort did not locate any men fitting the description and returned to service. Case clear.

**April 25**

## Suspicious vehicle

11:30 a.m.

Officer Montfort responded to the 3700 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of a suspicious vehicle. It was reported a vehicle was parked in the area of condominiums taking photographs of the area. Officer Montfort arrived in the area and observed Florida Department of Transportation with yellow and white lights activated on his vehicle. The FDOT worker was awaiting the arrival of a contractor for underground utility work. Case clear.

## Citizen assist

2:25 p.m.

Officer Montfort responded to the 4000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of a stolen vehicle. It was further reported that a 2021 BMW was missing from the parking lot. Officer Montfort arrived on scene and located the vehicle and all parties involved in front of the dog park area. The vehicle owner advised that her husband's caregiver forgot where she parked the vehicle and when she could not locate it and panicked. Officer Montfort then spoke with the caregiver who apologized and stated she forgot where she had parked the vehicle. Officer Montfort advised the police department and reclassified the call as a citizen assist. Case clear.

**April 27**

## Dog on the beach

7:38 p.m.

Officer Miklos responded to the 2800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a dog on the beach. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos came into contact with the dog's owner who was holding a small dog in his hands while his friends had their engagement photographs taken. Officer Miklos advised the man that no dogs are allowed on the beach and the man left the beach without incident. Officer Miklos attempted to make contact with the complainant and left a voicemail. Nothing further.

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# Editor Letters



**Letters, from page 9**

Commission may not assign additional functions to the Committee, if desired by a majority of the Commissioners.  
Robert M. Fournier  
City Attorney  
City of Sarasota

**RLTCC - Pool**

To: Sarasota City Parks and Recreation Director Jerry Fogle  
Due to a lifeguard shortage, the pool is currently closed and is expected to reopen in June.  
Is this true? Was Pat or I briefed? I may be incorrect but I thought the pool only opened from May to September/October? Is there truly a lifeguard shortage? Did we put out a press release indicating this statement on the website that was brought to my attention by the Mayor through a resident? Thank you.  
Marlon Brown  
City Manager, City of Sarasota

**RLTCC - Pool**

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown  
The City of Sarasota is currently looking to fill the following lifeguard positions:  
One full-time permanent position (There will be two FT Permanent Lifeguard positions open as of 5/3/23).  
One full-time temporary position  
Up to 20 part-time positions  
Lifeguard shortage impacts:  
Lido Beach Pool has remained closed on Tuesdays since June 2022. Occasionally, Lido Pool has closed early or incurred additional closed days due to lifeguard shortages.  
Arlington Park and Aquatic Complex has occasionally closed a secondary family pool due to the lifeguard shortage. The number of participants in our youth swim lesson program was reduced to meet instructors-to-participants safety ratios. During the summer of 2022, use of the diving board, pool party rentals, and the number of visiting larger summer camp groups were also reduced.  
Opening and closing dates at the Robert L. Taylor Community Complex pool were adjusted and overall hours of operation were reduced during the summer of 2022. Most likely the schedule will be similar this summer.

**Regarding lifeguard recruitment:**

The City of Sarasota is offering discounted American Red Cross lifeguard classes at Arlington Park & Aquatic Complex. Classes are scheduled for March, April, and May. Class dates have been specifically scheduled around when school is not in session, during spring break, and during the day to attract as many candidates as possible.  
We are offering an American Red Cross shallow water lifeguard class specifically for our shallow water pool at the Robert L. Taylor Complex seeking lifeguard staff who may be intimidated by the larger, deeper pools.  
Work shifts are very flexible. Lifeguards are asked when they are available to work rather than dictating their schedule. Scheduling around other jobs or social/school calendars is not an issue. While this additional flexibility is beneficial for lifeguard staff, it necessitates hiring more lifeguards to ensure all shifts are covered.  
Jerry Fogle  
Parks and Recreation Director, City of Sarasota

**RLTCC - Pool**

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown  
I hope your day is going well. There has been a national lifeguard shortage for several years. Jan shared the below information with media on March 3, 2023 (email attached). Emily developed an excellent recruitment plan (see below) that has assisted with the lifeguard shortage; however, we continue to struggle with the rest of the nation with recruiting and retaining lifeguards.  
I apologize for not catching the incorrect statement on the RLTCC website. The RLTCC seasonal pool will open in June – September. The pool is not currently closed due to lifeguard shortage. The pool has opened from June – September for several years. For the first couple of years the pool was open from May – October. Due to lifeguard shortage, we adjusted the seasonal pool schedule years ago (June – September). We revised the RLTCC website statement (see attachment). The pool will open in June for the summer campers, which include free swim lessons, along with the public. The RLTCC seasonal pool hours will be determined by the number of lifeguards we are able to hire throughout the summer. We may need to close the Lido pool to ensure adequate number of lifeguards for the RLTCC seasonal pool. I would prefer the community have access to the RLTCC seasonal pool during June – September and close the year-round Lido pool, if necessary. We will ensure you, Mr. Robinson, Jan and Ciera are updated on any pool closures. Please let me know if you have any questions.  
Jerry Fogle  
Parks and Recreation Director, City of Sarasota

See Letters, page 12



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# Editor Letters

Letters, from page 11

Sarasota Police Department

To: Sarasota City Commission

Something needs to be done to address the fact that it is nigh on impossible to reach a human being on the Sarasota police non-emergency/front desk phone line. After spending 23 minutes listening to the phone ring, during which time I called the City Manager’s office and spoke with a rather unhelpful Alexia, who insisted that I call the Sarasota Police Department dispatch number because she claimed it was just the same as calling the front desk, which of course it isn’t and Amanda in dispatch was very apologetic when she had to - you guessed it - transfer me to the front desk where nobody answered, again. I gave up. Afterwards, I did call and speak with the lovely, friendly and very efficient Brianna in records, who provided me with a copy of the incident documentation. However, I have yet to reach someone at the front desk.

The reason I needed to speak with an officer was because of a neighbor who likes to host late night firepit parties in his back yard, which is 10 feet from the properly line of the 78-unit apartment complex where I live with some 80 other seniors. Last week, for example, he and his buddies were still laughing and having a high old time at 3 a.m. After being requested to quieten down, which fell on deaf ears, I called the SPD dispatch number and they sent an officer out, and blissful peace descended upon us at approximately 3:20 a.m. It occurred to me that it would make sense to call the SPD during daylight hours, to see if there is such a thing as a community police officer who could pay a visit to this ‘gentleman’ and remind him that he lives in a city with neighbors on all sides, and not only playing his drums extremely loudly at

least a couple of days per week and his little noisy nighttime gatherings are not very neighborly, and several of us have had cause to call the SPD for this reason. However, I have been unable to reach anyone other than in dispatch (obviously not something that is relevant to a casual, friendly visit) to inquire as to whether there is anyone doing community policing. Is there?

It appears that the SPD is very short staffed, and as this is your purview, I would like you to please do something about it. I was told that volunteers are being recruited, which is a good thing. I seem to remember that the front desk always used to have at least 2-3 people staffing it during work hours, but paid personnel should be there too. Expecting a single officer to cope with foot traffic as well as answer the phone is ridiculous!

On behalf of the neighborhood, I would really appreciate some guidance as to what we can do with our nuisance neighbor, and a resolution to the lack of available personnel to not only answer the phones at the SPD, but to also answer the needs of the tax-paying citizens of the city of Sarasota.

Tina Steele  
Sarasota

Sarasota Police Department

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Liz Alpert

Hi Liz, thanks for checking in on this. Yes, Diane in Code Enforcement has been on it, but we haven’t addressed the elephant in the room: the guy making too much noise and the dearth of front desk personnel at SPD. Hope there is something that can be done about both. Hope this finds you well.

See Letters, page 14

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# La Villa: Authentic Mexican Dining and More

*Estele Villegas and her son, behind the bar, are doing what they can to establish an authentic Mexican restaurant on Longboat Key.*

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

Residents of the north Longboat Key vicinity already know about the little gem of a restaurant called La Villa. When we arrived a few minutes past 7PM on a Wednesday night, a bar that would seat a maximum of twelve held perhaps nine people spread out in small groups. The thirty-table main dining area had diners at about half of the tables. Though not easy to see from the main throughfare Gulf of Mexico Drive on Longboat Key, directions to La Villa cite Harry's Continental Kitchen, a Longboat Key landmark and destination in its own right, and instruct us to look behind Harry's. The first road east, just north of Harry's, leads straight to La Villa and parking. It would be easy to miss unless a person has heard about it. That will change, we think, the more people learn about this unique restaurant.

La Villa opened its Longboat Key store during the end of summer 2022 and has survived red tide, Hurricane Ian, and more red tide. A review of the restaurant at this time might put undue emphasis on its growing pains. Instead, we'll focus on its potential.

We jumped from the start into a few tests of authenticity. The Mexican Street Corn and Fresh Guacamole and Chips appetizers have, in the first case, the true taste of street food in Mexico City and, in the second, a tomato, onion, and cilantro enhanced version of the healthy "green butter" dip for corn chips. The Street Corn has a tender ear of corn roasted with the green husk stripped back and tied in a knot to hold while eating it as corn on the cob. Its mayo, grated white cheese, and chilis coating goes well with a Margarita or a Dos Equis lager draft beer. Good guacamole has enough flavors added to keep it from being bland but no fillers that would distract from the fresh and ripe fruit of what some call an "alligator pear". The generous serving of guacamole passes this test with flying colors. From the appetizers during this first visit, we moved directly to two classic dishes in the Mexican cookbook: Enchiladas Mole, filled with chicken, and Chile Rellenos. Mole means "sauce" in areas where the Aztec influence endures; a Mole on the menu usually means Mole Poblano, also known as Mole Negro, a magical mixture of dark chilies, black fruit, spices, and bitter chocolate powder, said to have originated during pre-Columbian times in Oaxaca. Each kitchen simmers its own rich brew of Mole in a large pot. We always order a Mole dish when we see it on the menu. Mole defines the dish: the tortilla and strips pulled from a roasted chicken serve merely as a backdrop for the Mole. We found the Enchiladas Mole authentic and tasty. The pepper in the Chile Rellenos main dish came stuffed with crumbles of Oaxacan white or a similar cheese and topped with a spicy tomato salsa. The kitchen serves rice Mexican style and Mexican black beans or frijoles refritos (refried beans) as sides. La Villa prices main dishes under \$20 and serve portions almost large enough to satisfy adolescents coming ashore from a day in the surf.

As a default, the Mole, salsa, and other seasonings would rate as quite mild on a spiciness index. We did not during this first visit ask for more heat in the dishes or hot sauces to add. We're sure that the kitchen would crank up the heat if desired.

The menu includes items that we plan to sample during return visits: tamales, tacos, flautas, carnitas, tostados compuestos (Haurache), Panuchos, and tortas. The lunch specials look tempting and a good way to try new dishes. The Kids' Menu has more basic versions of classic Mexican dishes and a few more familiar selections for picky eaters. The dessert menu has only two daily selections: flan and churros. The flan has an intense caramel taste with whipped cream.

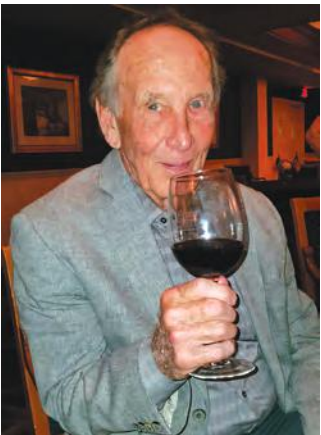
### And more...

We happened to visit La Villa on a Wednesday evening: Mariachi night! Fortune smiled on us. The Mariachi Contemporaneo USA out of Tampa strolled into the dining room to serenade diners, including a table with children wearing sombreros and enjoying a fiesta. The band had a lead singer with a small guitar, two trumpets, two violins, and a bass guitar. All wore the same Charro attire: cream pantaloones with gold braid down each leg to boots with the same color as the pantaloones; wide belts, matching jackets and white shirts with puffy bow ties. The band launched immediately into the classic La Paloma song, replete with sounds of doves cooing plaintively under the melody. They quickly segued into a much more diverse playlist of signature hits by Johnny Cash (Folsom Prison), the Beach Boys, Charlie Daniel's dueling fiddles, Herb Alpert, the Beatles, and more, all in Mariachi style. The trumpets and violins played precisely on cue, the bass guitar kept the bass line, and the singers shared the stage in harmony. If judged by the standards of a Las Vegas lounge act, a beach resort stage show, or a dance club band, these guys rate far above average. They excel as musicians and as performers in a stage show. Very few restaurants offering music have anything comparable. Do yourselves a favor and catch their act when the opportunity arises.

### La Cuenta

The owner of La Villa, Estele Villegas, tells us that she has transitioned from driving trucks down I59 in Texas from Houston to McAllen on the border to the restaurant business in Florida. She and her son, behind the bar, are doing what they can to establish an authentic Mexican restaurant on Longboat Key.

We need to appreciate these authentic restaurants and the cuisines that they seek to preserve. We have experienced a disturbing trend in Mexican restaurants that slaver toppings of thick



processed cheese on dishes such as enchiladas and chiles rellenos. These blobs of cheese amount to unhealthy dietary choices and bland semblances of the intended dish. We think that La Villa, though not yet up to San Antonio standards, has the best Mexican dishes that we have found so far in the Sarasota Florida area.

See <https://lavillamexfoodlbk.com/> for the menu, directions, and hours of operation.  
*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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Coral, from page 1

Spadaro, this four-year initiative seeks to substantially expand Mote’s capacity to conduct groundbreaking restoration of coral reef habitats.

“Coral reef restoration is still essentially in its infancy, but we believe that this project and the ambitious objectives we have set, represent a science-based and scalable pathway to transformative and, more importantly, lasting landscape scale functional restoration of the most biodiverse and socio-economically valuable habitat and natural resource in Florida,” Dr. Spadaro said.

Global, regional, and local stressors have significantly contributed to the decline of our coral reef ecosystems, most notably in Florida and the Wider Caribbean Region. Living coral cover (the proportion of the reef covered in living coral) on Florida’s Coral Reef is currently between 1 and 5 percent, dramatically less than just 40 years ago when it was more than 30%. Many factors make a natural recovery of Florida’s Coral Reef unlikely and nearly impossible on a timescale relevant to humans. The recovery of function on Florida’s Coral Reef is likely now entirely dependent upon adaptive management and pro-active science-based restoration.

As part of its \$7 million NOAA Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience award, Mote is committed to immediately commence its holistic coral reef community restoration efforts at ten coral reef sites throughout the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Seven of these sites comprise the seven iconic reefs of NOAA’s M:IR program, while the remaining three sites are outside the M:IR, in order to further strengthen and broaden the resulting scientific insights and impacts of the Mote-led initiative.

Mote scientists have set four major objectives for the project:

- 1. Commence or expand restoration efforts at all 10 reef sites

This effort includes the production and outplanting of 242,000 coral fragments and 34,000 Caribbean king crabs over the four-year project duration. Caribbean king crabs, a large native herbivore, aid in the restoration of coral reefs by consuming algae and improving habitat conditions for corals and fishes to grow, reproduce, and thrive. The crabs consume the algae that plague corals and restrict their ability to settle, grow, and reproduce.

- 2. Scale Mote’s restoration efforts, and effect, by iteratively increasing cost efficiency in production and outplanting operations

This includes developing and using new science-based methods, materials, and workflows to inform, guide, and enhance our efforts in the production, outplanting, and monitoring of corals, including expanding the use of Structure from Motion 3D photogrammetry technology for restoration planning and monitoring.

- 3. Increase production and implementation of Caribbean king crabs to facilitate restoration success

Caribbean king crabs are large native reef herbivores but aren’t currently present on our reefs in large enough numbers to keep algae under control. Mote will immediately expand

the production of Caribbean king crabs at its newly constructed grazers production facility at Mote Aquaculture Research Park just outside of Sarasota. A major objective is the development and implementation of a State- approved Veterinarian health certification protocol, a necessary regulatory authorization for releasing the cultured crabs onto Florida’s Coral Reef. After this critical regulatory framework is executed, Mote will be the first institution to release cultured Caribbean king crabs on Florida’s Coral Reef to support and facilitate coral reef restoration efforts.

- 4. Apply science-based methods to ensure a genetically diverse and resilient restored coral reef community

Mote will apply its genetic management, sexual reproduction, and resilience screening workflows to guide the production and outplanting of corals that have demonstrated resilience to known stressors such as disease and climate change. The active screening of coral genotypes to known stressors allows Mote scientists to identify and thoughtfully incorporate these resilient and resistant genotypes into our restored coral populations.

BE SEEN!

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Garage, from page 1

Michaelides.  
The request is to add a two-story parking garage at the northeast corner of the 17.2-acre site. The request will increase by more than 15,000 square feet, the building coverage of the site. It will decrease the open space by the same amount.

The only items being removed from the site are the beach shelters that were approved as well as a tiki hut. The plan still includes, in addition to the hotel and condominiums, three bars, spa and fitness center, three restaurants, four swimming pools and 17,654 square feet of meeting space.

Resident Jim Fanto expressed even deeper frustration toward the Town for its premature approval.

“What I find particularly disturbing is that some of you must believe the developer had no idea of how long it would take to retrieve a valet parked car, or how many parking spaces were needed, when they filed the originally approved plan. Do you really think they didn’t know, despite the meticulous planning that was required for every phase of the project? Have you considered the opposite, that perhaps they knew exactly what they needed and relied on an amateur Board to approve the parking garage after the fact?” said Fanto.

Since the Planning Board recommended approval, the Town Commission is due to bring the matter up in the coming weeks.

# KeyCrossword

## Color Captions

Edited by Linda and Charles Preston

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ACROSS

- 1 Fragrance base
- 6 Aegean isle
- 11 “Shane” star
- 15 Benevolent brother
- 18 Insect stage
- 19 Actress Leachman
- 21 Israeli port
- 22 Easy as \_\_\_\_
- 23 Aristocratic intellectual
- 27 Inflames
- 28 Green
- 29 Jalopies
- 30 Kindled
- 31 Mister, in Mainz
- 32 “The \_\_\_\_ Love”
- 33 Office worker’s wear
- 39 Mil. school
- 41 Gallant musketeer
- 45 Assistant
- 46 Bahrain export
- 47 Family outcast
- 49 Slammin’ Sam
- 51 \_\_\_\_ Pasha: Egyptian viceroy 1863-79
- 53 Frenzy
- 54 “Do \_\_\_\_ say...”
- 55 Kite’s org.
- 56 \_\_\_\_-Tin-Tin
- 58 European capital
- 59 Ind. mediator
- 60 Kill or joy lead-in
- 61 Anti-union canine?
- 64 James \_\_\_\_: philanthropist
- 66 Fred’s dancing sister
- 67 Billed and cooed
- 69 Sugar pill
- 72 Paisley people
- 75 Sailing
- 77 Goof off
- 81 Cronos
- 82 Tom Hanks film
- 84 \_\_\_\_ Rabbit
- 86 Confusion
- 87 Demure
- 88 Augment
- 89 Auction
- 90 Public house
- 92 Castor and Pollux
- 94 Tenderfeet
- 97 Environment: comb. form
- 98 Pot starter
- 99 Intuit
- 100 Brandy gr.
- 101 Lunch toter
- 105 Singer from Nigeria
- 107 Nashville music hall
- 109 Wilder’s “ \_\_\_\_ Town”
- 110 Singer Neil

DOWN

- 1 Between B.C. and Sask.
- 2 Soft mineral
- 3 \_\_\_\_-blue: faithful
- 4 State
- 5 Hoi polloi
- 6 Diva Renata
- 7 Healing plant
- 8 London teenagers
- 9 Sphere
- 10 Scout’s stablemate
- 11 Bringing up the rear
- 12 Perform
- 13 Overwhelm
- 14 Take away
- 15 Majestic
- 16 Cuff connection
- 17 Hogsheads
- 20 Litigant
- 24 Secular
- 25 Flynn, of films
- 26 Actor Brian or David
- 31 Legendary Bears’ coach
- 32 Statuette for Streep
- 33 Short-tempered
- 34 Depend on
- 35 Perfect
- 36 Kind of party
- 37 \_\_\_\_ Gatos: health resort
- 38 French porcelain
- 40 Water buffalo
- 42 Toss
- 43 Estonian island, German style
- 44 Steeple
- 47 Short single
- 48 Soviet police
- 50 Fumbles
- 51 \_\_\_\_-Chinese
- 52 Feeling poorly
- 57 \_\_\_\_ Jima
- 60 Repute
- 62 WWII vessels
- 63 Wild asses
- 65 “Toledo” painter
- 66 Head monk
- 68 Notes outstanding
- 70 Scots’ family group
- 71 Teacher’s deg.
- 72 Fetches
- 73 Core group
- 74 Poet Nash
- 76 Macaw
- 78 Baker’s topping
- 79 French tale
- 80 Bandleader Kay
- 82 Humbug!
- 83 “ \_\_\_\_ a Parade”
- 85 Each and \_\_\_\_: all
- 89 Court wear
- 91 Hassle
- 93 Droll one
- 95 Attempt
- 96 “Marriage is a \_\_\_\_”: Cervantes
- 101 Stiff drink
- 102 Public officer
- 103 Totally defeat
- 104 Semetic language
- 106 Pythias’s pal
- 108 1/8th gallon
- 110 NCOs
- 111 Part of QED
- 112 Defy danger
- 113 Over again
- 114 Indian tourist town
- 115 Walked on
- 116 Last Supper depiction
- 117 Little ones
- 118 Buffalo’s waterfront
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# REAL ESTATE BY A REAL EXPERT

NO REALTOR HAS EVER LISTED OR SOLD MORE LONGBOAT KEY PROPERTIES



**JUST LISTED • BIRD KEY**  
**618 OWL WAY • SARASOTA, FL • \$2,295,000**  
Remarkably maintained 3BR+DEN/3BA garden home, which presents one of the best values to come available for this sought-after location. Expansive paved pool area, with oversized covered sitting area.



**SANCTUARY**  
**545 SANCTUARY DR., #A402 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$3,100,000**  
Spacious 3BR/2.5BA residence sprawling the full building offering Gulf, Bay, and golf course views from two terraces, plus the convenience of 2 under building parking spaces.



**GRAND BAY III**  
**3030 GRAND BAY BLVD., #316 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$2,495,000**  
Panoramic golf, city, bay and marina views from this 3BR/3BA residence in one of the best locations in Grand Bay. Popular Antigua floor plan, featuring an expansive, extended terrace.



**NEW PRICE • PRIVATEER SOUTH**  
**1000 LONGBOAT CLUB RD., #301 • \$1,495,000**  
Rarely available 3BR/3BA corner residence offering over 1,700 sq. ft. of living space, with direct Gulf front views from multiple terraces.



**CONDO ON THE BAY**  
**988 BLVD. OF THE ARTS #1114 • SARASOTA, FL • \$1,750,000**  
Recently renovated and spacious 2BR/2BA residence with world-class bay views. From the Chef's kitchen to the two terraces, the attention to detail is evident at every turn.



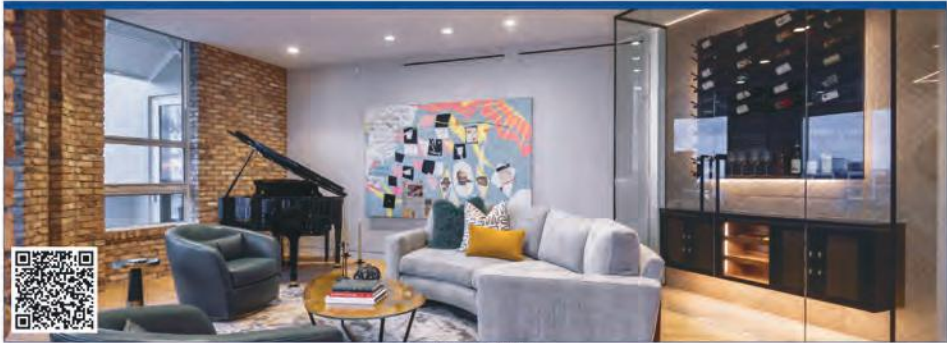
**L'AMBIANCE**  
**435 L'AMBIANCE DR., #K905 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$4,200,000**  
Sprawling penthouse Sabal floor plan, offering over 2,800 SF, and views spanning the Gulf of Mexico, Sarasota Bay and Links golf course. Soaring 12' ceilings, high-impact glass, and 2 covered parking spaces.



**GRAND BAY V**  
**3080 GRAND BAY BLVD., #532 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$925,000**  
Savor afternoon sun exposure and unobstructed views of the golf course, and sparkling Sarasota Bay. This 2BR/2BA residence presents an opportunity for your distinct touches and style.



**THE HARBOR**  
**541 HARBOR POINT ROAD • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$7,950,000**  
Completely remodeled 5BR/6.5BA waterfront residence. From coffered walls in the striking dining room, to the clever master suite positioning, this residence from top to bottom is extraordinary.



**1350 MAIN**  
**1350 MAIN ST., PENTHOUSE 1704 • SARASOTA, FL • \$7,500,000**  
**THE ONE** - Redesigned 3,208 SF entertainers penthouse offering jet liner views of the city, Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. Completely remodeled by one of the region's finest builders.



**UNDER CONSTRUCTION**  
**2945 PYRULA DRIVE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$3,345,000**  
Exceptional quality, untouched refinement, 2-story, 5BR/5BA, 3,815 sq. ft. residence. Features abound, including a separate in-law suite and large 3-car garage. Expansive outdoor area with heated pool and spa.

OVER \$60 MILLION PENDING AND SOLD 2023  
OVER \$97 MILLION SOLD IN 2022 • OVER \$134 MILLION SOLD IN 2021

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