





Longboat Key News

February 14, 2025 *Serving Longboat Key, St. Armands, Downtown Sarasota & Anna Maria Island* FREE


InsideLook




Election details for Longboat ...page 15



Gulf of Mexico Drive rename? ...page 4



Bird Key hits \$5.5 million ...page 12



Case of mystery golf cart on LBK ...page 10

Construction Noise Louder, Longer on Longboat Following Hurricanes

The hurricanes resulted in 60 demolition permits applications. In many cases, residents decided not to rebuild, which resulted in the sale of empty lots.

BLAKE FLEETWOOD
Contributing Writer
news@lbknews.com

After the two hurricanes wreaked havoc on Longboat Key, the Town extended heavy construction hours from 7 am to 7 pm Monday through Friday as an emergency measure to deal with repairs.

But the extended hours are often taken for all new construction, not just storm repairs. Saturday, the hours will be 8 to 5, which were the hours before the storms.

The longer hours were to expire January 31, 2025. But given the slow recovery rate, they have been extended to May 1st.

Before Helene and Milton construction hours were from 8 to 5, five days a week.

No construction noise is permitted on Sundays.

More than sixty residents discussed the new hours and the heavy construction noise at the “Let’s Talk Longboat” session held last Tuesday, February 11.

The hurricanes resulted in 60 demolition permits being applied for. In many cases, residents decided not to rebuild, which resulted in



the sale of empty lots and the rise of what some call McMansions in their place, blocking light and air from the Gulf.

These “Talk” sessions have become a popular, informative monthly series hosted by Town Manager Howard Tipton, Assistant Town Manager Isaac Brownman, and Planning, Zoning, and Building Director Allen Parsons.

Many residents of Buttonwood Lane were concerned about the commercial construction project at 3150 GMD, being marketed as Brista Commons. Residents of the Diplomat Resort across the street, have been driven crazy by the incessant backup beepers of the heavy construction equipment from early in the morning to past diner time.

Brista Commons is replacing

a lush decades-old green forest. Jim Charles, a resident of Buttonwood Lane, told Parsons, “I don’t see how we can keep issuing building permits.”

Charles referred to commercial buildings and said the town lacks the infrastructure to support unbridled commercial development.

The Brista project, with no natural green sward or trees and bushes dividing it from the highway like the Bay Isles Shoppes, will be a permanent wall of construction on Gulf of Mexico Drive. The new development will be a virtual Strip Mall that will break up the long scenic entrance to the town, which has been blessed by vistas of golf courses, ponds, dunes, mangroves, and trees.

These lots were approved as “office institutional,” with zoning unchanged from the 1960s when LBK was a far different community.

The two other major commercial plazas, Shoppes of Bay Isles and Centre Shops, are largely hidden behind trees and bushes from the highway.

“Too much commercial development”

See Construction, page 2

Longboat Library plan needs to be shelved

A library was never the dream. If I plan to put a fountain in the center of my hibiscus garden, I’m not going to settle for a barbecue grill from the County just because it is free, just because grills are useful and people like the smell of brisket. Not on Longboat. If you cannot embody the dream, if you cannot create specifically what the residents said they need, then why do it at all? Why should the Town exist if we simply go generic?

STEVE REID
Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

KeyOpinion

Do you sense the lack of enthusiasm? Do you hear the dull thud and the hollow support for those who want a library on Longboat Key?

This idea has grown so tiring, it has taken so long and a library makes so little sense I keep waiting for the intelligent arguments for a library other than, “It is free and you do not understand ‘today’s libraries’”.

I’m going to let you in on a little secret, but it’s really not a secret when you think about it - it’s the most obvious thought on Longboat Key: The library fantasy, financing and fundraising needs to stop.

I’m going to do a dive into the history of the concept of the Library on Longboat and why it represents the very opposite of what would enhance our island.

The reason is we are building it for all the wrong reasons. Let’s go back in time.



STEVE REID

The art of the idea...

The idea started as a need for a cultural community art center about 20 years ago. The plan was a somewhat nebulous, but not overly nebulous, idea to replace the vibrant art center that functioned for about 40 years on the north end of the Island in the Village.

For decades, Longboaters and visitors could take photography, drawing, sculpting, kiln and painting classes and there would be wonderful openings

of the artists’ work with wine and cheese and a jazz band and then the community would congregate and there were lectures and events that were always fine arts-oriented. The level was what you would find at a small college arts program.

The art center was engaging and opened up new life for people who may have been in a corporate environment or busy raising kids and didn’t have a time to truly tap into a creative part of themselves. Socially it was invaluable. It became part of the very fabric of Longboat Key.

Artistic gentrification

The Ringling took this thriving operation over because like many community-run organizations it needed a rehab. The facility had grown old, the facilities needed an influx of money and there was no organizational wherewithal or entity to make that happen.

But the Ringling, after rehabbing the facility, almost used it cynically like a fundraising outpost rather than a vibrant community enhancement. It became clear they were trying to cross-pollinate with their main operation and I think they thought, “Well, look at the Zip code where many of our best patrons come from; why not create engagement?” But the Ringling-run art center truly was not serving the community in the same way the historical and original art center did for decades.

The Ringling left and unfortunately residential development took over

See Opinion, page 12

Construction, from page 1

ment will turn Longboat Key into Siesta Key, an overdeveloped community where I wouldn't want to live," said Jim Charles.

One resident said that increased development on Longboat Key may be killing the goose that lays the golden eggs if the building department continues to allow strip malls and Mac Mansions along Gulf of Mexico Drive. Reddit called strip malls the first circle of hell. Scott Beyer in Forbes notes that ugly strip malls with fronted parking lots are entirely the creatures of government regulations.

According to Jack E. Davis, who authored a 2018 Pulitzer Prize-winning book about the Gulf, the history of Gulf communities is being destroyed by the "insatiability of human greed."

John D. MacDonald, perhaps Sarasota's most famous citizen, wrote in his last detective novel, that our great-grandchildren will live in a land "that is drab, dirty, ugly, and dangerous .. sick and sinking."

The Strangling of a Resort

In 1983, Paul Goldberger, America's preeminent architectural critic, wrote a seminal article in the New York Times about how gracious, sought-after resort towns are always in danger of strangulation by greedy developers and shortsighted government leaders drooling over the promise of increased tax revenues. Although he wrote mainly about the resorts of East Hampton, Southampton, Aspen, Carmel, and Nantucket, his warning applies equally to LBK.

"For what is at issue is the question of how a resort town should determine whether it is to be large or small, bust or tranquil, open to all or the province of a few -- or even whether it is possible for such a community to determine its destiny at all."

The resort town of East Hampton responded to this danger by enacting a Community Preservation Fund, which bought up significant tracts of land so that the town would not be surrounded by suburban commercial sprawl. The fund was financed by a two percent tax on real estate sales. At first the real estate industry howled at the idea. But now, decades later, all agree that it saved the town, preserving its essential charm and which has ensured its long-term success as a place to live and to visit.

The town also discouraged the building of more condominiums, upzoned many vacant parcels of land, and forbade chain stores. The same kind of zoning preservation measures were taken in Nantucket and other unique resorts to great success.

It was not easy for EH town leaders to forgo the short-term benefits of real-estate develop-



ment for the long-term future, but they did it with political courage. Once land is built on, it is gone forever and can never be brought back.

Other news from the "Talk" session with town leaders was that LBK beaches will not be restored for years, certainly not before the coming hurricane season this Fall or next Fall. The Town has applied for 20 million dollars in beach funds from FEMA but doesn't expect to get any relief at least until 2027.

This is a serious issue for beachfront property owners. The latest tremendous loss of dunes, sea grapes, and beachgrass makes LBK beaches and homes vulnerable to future storms. Individual Gulf side owners can, of course, remediate dunes and beachgrass themselves as long as they get the necessary permits.

Contrary to what has been reported, Allen Parsons said the coming of Starbucks to a site adjoining Brista is not a done deal and may not be approved for some time. Any application will have to undergo extensive review and a public hearing and would need to go through a special exemption approved by the Planning and Zoning Board.



CREATIVE KITCHENS & BATHS

YOU CREATE THE DREAM — WE CREATE THE REALITY

LEADING CONDO AND HOME REMODELING SPECIALIST LOCATED ON LONGBOAT KEY!



941-925-3723

Longboat Key Showroom

By Appointment Only
5610 Gulf of Mexico Drive | Longboat Key, FL 34228
State Certified General Contractor CG-C-1531837

Serving Longboat Key, Lido Key, Bird Key and St. Armands

Transform Your Space, Upgrade Your Life – Expert Bathroom and Kitchen Remodeling!

CKB has a team comprised of general contractors, designers, expert carpenters, project management and more. We will bring your vision to life from first conversation to job completion.

Full Condo & Home Remodeling

Custom & Semi-Custom Cabinetry | Custom Tile Work
Hardwood & LVP Floors | Solid Core Doors
Baseboards & Ceiling Molding/Trim



www.CreativeKitchenAndBaths.com



SECUR-ALL INSURANCE AGENCY



| 941.383.3388

NEW LOCATION! VISIT US BEHIND THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - 5390 GULF OF MEXICO DR., STE. 105!
CHUBB, AIG, UNIVERSAL, UNITED, SAFECO, PROGRESSIVE, FRONTLINE, VAULT, FLOOD, WE HAVE YOU COVERED!

THE DIPINTO GROUP



Jules Mackie Tracey Stetler Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan Patrick DiPinto Rene DiPinto Steven Moore Janet Coughlin

OVER \$150,000,000 VOLUME IN THE PAST 18 MONTHS

We are a collaboration of savvy real estate professionals with decades of local experience. We focus on selling exceptional properties located in downtown and on our local islands. We represent buyers and sellers in our marketplace with a unique viewpoint, as we live in the communities that we sell. This local perspective makes us experts in our field, allowing us to provide you all the information for you and your family to make the best decision in your real estate endeavor.



100' PRIVATE BEACHFRONT | LONGBOAT KEY
\$16,995,000 - Under Construction
4 Beds 5 Baths 6,614 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Patrick DiPinto 941-323-0033



120' OPEN BAY FRONT | BIRD KEY
\$10,995,000 - Under Construction
4 Beds 5 Baths 5,292 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Patrick DiPinto 941-323-0033



WEST OF TRAIL BAYFRONT | SARAOSTA
\$9,750,000 - Under Construction
5 Beds 7 Baths 5,328 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Patrick DiPinto 941-323-0033



STEPS TO SANDY BEACH | LIDO SHORES
\$6,995,000 - Immediate Occupancy
5 Beds 6 Baths 4,750 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Patrick DiPinto 941-323-0033



5444 GULF OF MEXICO DR | LONGBOAT KEY
\$5,750,000 - Bayfront 1.06 Acres
5 Beds, 5 Baths, 6,000 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Tracey Stetler 941-266.9001



3480 BAYOU SOUND | LONGBOAT KEY
\$4,499,999 - Newly Built Construction
5 Beds 4 Baths 4,000 Sq. Ft., Deeded Beach Rights
Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922



549 SLOOP LANE | LONGBOAT KEY
\$3,900,000- Country Club Shores
4 Beds 5 Baths 4,127 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Tracey Stetler 941-266-9001



109 GARFIELD DRIVE UNIT 201 | LIDO BEACH
\$1,999,999 - Walk to Lido Beach
3 Beds 2 Baths 1,993 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922



3408 FAIR OAKS LANE | LONGBOAT KEY
\$2,999,999 - Bay Isles
5 Beds 5 Baths 4,510 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922



3927 SOMERSET DRIVE | SIESTA KEY
\$2,325,000
3 Beds 3 Baths 2,758 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Jules Mackie 773-704-14383



3131 BAYOU SOUND | LONGBOAT KEY
\$2,299,999 - Bay Isles
3 Beds 3 Baths 3,023 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922



3318 BAYOU SOUND | LONGBOAT KEY
\$1,699,999 - Bay Isles
Bay Isles 3 Beds 2 Baths 2,675 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922

941-388-2021

53 S PALM AVENUE, SARASOTA, FL 34236

WWW.THEDIPINTOGROUP.COM | @THEDIPINTOGROUP

The property information herein is derived from various sources that may include, but not be limited to, country records and the Multiple Listing Service, and it may include approximations. Although the information is believed to be accurate, it is not warranted and you should not rely upon without personal verification. Affiliated real estate agents are independent contractor sales associates, not employees. Coldwell Banker. All rights reserved. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker logo are trademarks of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. The Coldwell Banker System is comprised of company owned offices which are owned by a subsidiary of Anywhere Advisors LLC and franchised offices which are independently owned and operated. The Coldwell Banker system fully supports the principals of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act.



**COLDWELL
BANKER**

Editor
Letters

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

FEMA Flood Standards

To: Longboat Key Commission
The link to the article FEMA review may jeopardize flood insurance, buildings - AMI Sun regarding the challenges that Bradenton Beach is facing is provided FYI. I am not sharing it to cast a shadow on Bradenton Beach as they are not the first and won't be the last to be in this situation, but rather as a cautionary tale of what can happen when the FEMA standards are not followed.
Our Planning, Zoning, Building (PZB) Department has been very responsible about making sure the standards of FEMA and the national flood insurance program are followed to the letter. Our team recently had a similar audit by FEMA and the outcome was very positive, to the point where FEMA is directing other cities to Longboat to see how we are making it work.
Great appreciation for the standard of excellence we have achieved is due to the leadership of Patti Fige (Building Official) and Neal Mazzei (Plans Examiner). It is no doubt a team

effort by all in PZB, but these two are dogged in their determination to ensure our buildings are as safe as they can be for our residents and businesses and that they can participate with confidence in the community insurance discount that this program affords.
Congrats to Patti and Neal for helping Longboat to achieve this record of achievement with FEMA!
Howard Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Is Gulf of Mexico Drive going to renamed?

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
I apologize in advance for asking you a question you've probably been asked many times before, but I haven't heard any news one way or the other, and I just have to know: Is the City of Longboat Key going to change the name of Gulf of Mexico Drive to Gulf of America Drive? If so, I suppose all of the street signs the length of the key will have to be changed, correct? I thank you in advance for your response.
Mark Ratliff
Longboat Key

Longboat Key traffic

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon, Commissioner Debra Williams
I know you both serve on various Manatee County Committees, so wanted to bring to your attention LBK North Board's communication with our Manatee County Commissioner, Tal Saddique (District 3), regarding traffic delays exacerbated by the parking lot designs at Coquina and Cortez Beach.

See Letters, page 8

Live Lobster, Seafood & Smiles
Longboat's Local Tradition Since 2009

LAZY LOBSTER
LONGBOAT KEY

FEATURING:
• Live Maine Lobster
• Fresh Fish • Gulf Shrimp
• Salads • Seafood Favorites
• Ribs, Burgers & More!
• Early Dining & Happy Hour
Mon -Sat 3:30 - 5:00

Open for In-House Dining & Take Out
Lunch: Mon - Sat 11:30AM - 2:30 PM
Dinner: Mon - Sat 3:30 - 9:00 PM
Reservations now accepted online! Book a dining room table directly from our website or try our convenient online ordering for easy pick up.

5350 Gulf of Mexico Dr.
(in the Centre Shops)
www.lazylobsteroflongboat.com
(941) 383-0440

Tripadvisor
Travelers' Choice Awards
2024

BREAKFAST • BRUNCH • LUNCH • DINNER • CATERING • GOURMET DELI & BAKERY • CORNER STORE

HARRY'S
Continental Kitchens
EST. 1979
LONGBOAT KEY

WEEKLY SPECIALS
BEST BRUNCH
ON LONGBOAT KEY
20% OFF BOTTLES OF WINE DAILY
RESTAURANT & DELI
HAPPY HOUR 3-6
NIGHTLY DINNER SPECIALS

525 ST. JUDES DRIVE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL 34228 • HARRYSKITCHEN.COM • (941) 383-0777

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS
CHRIST CHURCH
OF LONGBOAT KEY
PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)
Growing in Jesus' Name

Worship With Us at Our Church
Sunday Service 10:00 AM
Dr. Julia Wharff Piermont, Pastor
Men's Bible Study: Monday @ 9:00
Women's Bible Study: Wednesday @ 10:00
Visitors & Residents Welcome
Watch Our 10:00 AM Service Live:
www.bit.ly/ccblksermons or
www.christchurchoflbk.org (follow YouTube link)

THE 11TH ANNUAL
KIRKIN' O' THE TARTANS
SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 23, 2025
10:00AM Sunday Service
Featuring Bagpipes, Tartan Banners, Procession & Drums

Featuring The Lion Rampant Pipe Band
VISITORS & RESIDENTS WELCOME • EVENT & PARKING ARE FREE

6400 Gulf of Mexico Dr. • 941.383.8833 (office) • www.christchurchoflbk.org

Blinds & Designs
of Florida

SAVE Up to 35% Off
Plantation Shutters!

SHUTTERS • ROLLER & SOLAR SHADES
BLINDS • CUSTOM DRAPERIES & CORNICES

Visit our Showroom
4201 N. Washington Blvd. Sarasota
Mon-Fri 9 am to 5 pm & Sat 10 am to 2 pm
www.blindsanddesignsofflora.com

941-360-9200

BEYOND FIRST CLASS™



PRIVATE BUSINESS AND LEISURE TRAVEL



SEAMLESS
Luxury Ground Transportation



EXTRAORDINARY
Personal Concierge



EFFICIENCY
Spend Time Where it Matters

Connecting you to Premier Global Destinations Worldwide including:
SARASOTA | TAMPA | NAPLES | PALM BEACH | MIAMI

Offering an Extensive fleet of Light to Super Mid-Size Jets. Turbo Props and Helicopters.
Pilot Owned. Empty leg flights with flexible schedules available.

ORION
SKY CHARTERS



The World’s only 100% Carbon Neutral charter company.
All pilots and aircrafts adhere to ARGUs safety standards, and FAA regulations



WineTimes

Frauds in Wine Marketing, Blockchains, and Bitcoin

The source of Bitcoin, for example, and even more for the more recent meme coins introduced by Elon Musk and Donald Trump, does not trace back to an actual producer of prestigious wine or to anything comparable.

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

During October of 2024, news broke about arrests by Europol of a syndicate of wine fraudsters who had sold millions of Euros of wine in bottle with counterfeit labels. The fraudsters counterfeited labels on bottles and distributed them through wine merchants.

We wrote in 2023 about blockchain tags on bottles of wine from the vineyards producing exceptionally expensive wines. These tags would in a wine future market allow buyers to authenticate a bottle of wine against the records of the vineyard. A wine bottle ID would appear in a continuous trace of the movement of the bottle from the vineyard to each subsequent holder of the bottle. The sequence of transfers of the ID from one holder to another represents a blockchain that traces the wine bottle back to its source in the vineyard.

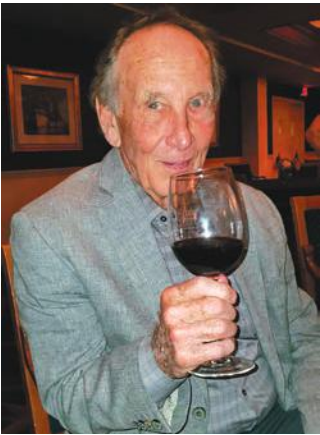
The content of the bottle as opposed to the bottle itself or the label on the bottle requires special attention. We think that a counterfeiter of a label does not have access to the content of an authentic bottle of a prestigious wine. Instead, he or she is hoping to perpetuate the contents of a bottle with a fake label and inferior contents, and will expect that the bottle will rest unopened in a collectors' cellar until the fraudster has covered his or her tracks. Simply knowing that a bottle traces back to one containing the prestigious wine may be enough to authenticate it. We see no evidence in secondary markets of a wine bought and later removed from an authentic bottle and rebottled.

In the case of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies, the question of authenticity becomes more critical. The source of Bitcoin, for example, and even more for the more recent meme coins introduced by Elon Musk and Donald Trump, does not trace back to an actual producer of prestigious wine or to anything comparable.

We see no reason to worry over whether wine collectors have their treasured Petrus Pomerol in an authentic or fake bottle. We do hope that they can tell the difference.

Of more concern, the proposal by two Republican members of the Florida legislature, Joe Gruters and Webster Barnaby, who have proposed legislation allowing the State of Florida to invest state funds in bitcoin. We suspect that if these two legislators combined their knowledge with that of Donald Trump, they would not be able to explain the block component of the Bitcoin story much less the chain. Is the recent increase in Bitcoin prices evidence of a good investment? Does anyone remember that Bernie Madoff's Ponzi scheme made some people rich for decades.

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.

SALES • SERVICE • ACCESSORIES

EBikes

pro

cycles

The area's **largest selection** of quality electric bicycles.

We will custom fit you to your E-bike to match your riding style.

423 Suwanee Ave,
Sarasota, FL 34243

(941) 531-2453

www.ebikesandcycles.com

Ads that work...

ads@Lbknews.com or 941.387.2200

You Can STOP Crime in Your Community

Report Criminal Activity - Anonymously

Cash Reward up to \$5,000.00

(For tips that lead to an arrest)

TIP LINE 941-366-TIPS (8477)

Download our FREE mobile app

Pd by CSTF

New Home? Renovation?

Call BRINGLES BLINDS LBK Today!

BLINDS • SHADES • SHUTTERS

HEADQUARTERED ON LONGBOAT KEY, WE ARE EFFICIENT, REASONABLE AND TRUSTWORTHY — JUST ASK OUR DOZENS OF LOCAL REFERENCES.

CALL for a free in-home consultation — 941-320-7019

BRINGLEBLINDS.LBK@GMAIL.COM

BRINGLESBLINDS.COM



CLIVE | DANIEL
HOME

Winner of Over 450 Awards for design
excellence including Best New
Showroom in the USA!

Premiere luxury destination for residential,
commercial and hospitality design services.

DESIGN MATTERS...INSPIRATION STARTS HERE!

- | Total Home Creation
- | Expert Interior Designers
- | Exclusive Collections
- | Beautiful In-Stock Styles
- | Custom Shop
- | One-of-a-Kind Rugs
- | Outdoor Furniture
- | Accessories, Lighting & Art
- | Unique Gift Boutique
- | Shipping to Midwest & Northeast
- | Immediate Delivery & so much more!



THE SERENE ESCAPE
Where luxury meets tranquility—guests may never want to leave.



LUMINOUS ELEGANCE

Where bold design meets radiant brilliance—casting light on luxury, style, and the art of ambiance.

STEP INTO OUR SHOWROOM TODAY & DISCOVER YOUR STYLE!

SARASOTA, FL SHOWROOM

3055 Fruitville Commons Blvd.
941.900.HOME(4663)
Monday-Saturday: 10am-6pm
Sunday: 12pm-5pm



Going east on Fruitville Rd. make a U-Turn at light (Lakewood Ranch Blvd.), then make a right on to Coburn Rd. Go around the circle to Fruitville Commons Blvd., pass Cooper's Hawk and you will see Clive Daniel Home on the right.



Financing is now available. SYNCHRONY

CLIVEDANIEL.COM

IB26001785

AWARD-WINNING | INTERIOR DESIGN | FINE FURNISHINGS
SARASOTA • FORT MYERS • NAPLES • BOCA RATON

Editor Letters



Letters, from page 4

If we do not have a response from Commissioner Saddique or his staff within the next week, I would like ask each of you to follow-up with a call to his office. Thank you for (on behalf of LBK residents, visitors and workers),
Maureen Merrigan
Longboat Key

Longboat Key traffic

To: Manatee County Commissioner Tal Saddique
We would welcome the opportunity to further discuss these traffic challenges and potential solutions to allow a more equitable egress off LBK for commuters/workers.
Maureen Merrigan, Paul Hylbert, Jim Haft, Jeff Driver
Longboat Key North Co-Chairs

Gulf of Mexico Drive/W ite Sands

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Thank you and FPL is aware. I believe it is planned to come down with the rest of the UG project wires and poles. It's in Phase 4. Charlie has asked Guy to see if it can come down sooner, but it was planned with that phase pole removals, I believe.
Isaac Brownman
Assistant Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Drive/W ite Sands

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Surely this falling lamplight could pose a serious injury threat to any innocent passer by which could lead to legal action again The Town or FPL?
Realizing how busy everybody is right now and thank you for all the town has done, I just wanted to bring this to your attention. Regards and thanks and no reply needed.
Michael Bergin
Longboat Key

Property Tax Exemption for Hurricane Impacts

To: Longboat Key Assistant Susan Phillips
Today's Commission Mail contains an entry about property tax exemptions from Manatee County that I believe should get wide publicity on the Town's website and elsewhere. Presumably a similar procedure is also available in Sarasota County. I've shared this with our Northend community (please see below).

Dear Friends

The Manatee Property Appraiser has sent out a reminder about property tax exemption:
"A homeowner may be eligible for a refund of a portion of property taxes paid (for the year in which the catastrophic event occurred) if the property was uninhabitable for at least 30 days due to a catastrophic event. To be eligible for a partial property tax refund, the property appraiser must determine the residential property was "uninhabitable."
For more information and to apply for the requisite survey, click the link below to go to the Manatee Property Appraiser website:
<https://www.manateepao.gov/catastrophic-event-information/>
Jim Haft
Longboat Key

Donating a bench

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle
Since the west tennis courts have been opened up for pickleball, now the same two benches are for four courts rather than two.
I don't like to stand when waiting for my turn to play, so I'd like information about donating a bench for the south pickleball courts, not memorials, just benches like are already there? Is that a possibility? How much would a bench cost?
Jill Bishop
Longboat Key

Weekly Building Permit Activity Summary

To: Longboat Key Commission
Allen is sharing a picture of their permitting and inspection activity over a 7 day period. As he notes, we continue to utilize everything we have to push the permits and inspections out.
As a reminder, we are also going live on our new permitting system in March which will be an additional short-term headache for the team but will eventually lead to greater long term efficiencies. We appreciate the team's herculean efforts to get our turnaround times down and people back in their residences.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Weekly Building Permit Activity Summary

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

See Letters, page 15

Elevate your leisure time with unparalleled experiences.

As a member you'll enjoy:

• Championship Golf

• Private Beach & Pool

• Deep-Water Marina

• Pickleball & Tennis

• Spa & Wellness Center

• Five Exclusive Restaurants

Contact membership@longboatkeyclub.com or (941)387-1661 for a tour.



LONGBOAT•KEY•CLUB





LEARN MORE



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE

JUDY
KEPECZ
HAYS *team*

\$3.4 Billion Career Sales

Kepecz@JudyHays.com | www.LongboatKeyLuxury.com



Leah
George

Judy Kepecz-Hays

Steven
Kepecz

941-780-0597 **941-587-1700** 941-376-6411

Siesta Key



OPEN HOUSE
Sunday 02/16, 1-4pm



3500 Bayou Louise Lane - \$10,000,000
5 Beds | 5.5 Baths | 6,300 sq. ft.
3500BayouLouise.com

Country Club Shores



521 Wedge Lane - \$1,948,000
3 Beds | 2 Baths | 1,758 sq. ft.
521WedgeLn.com

Promenade



1211 Gulf of Mexico Drive #211 - \$2,300,000
3 Beds | 3 Baths | 2,273 sq. ft.
Promenade211.com

Regency House



435 S. Gulfstream Ave #1004 - \$1,128,000
2 Beds | 2 Baths | 1,829 sq. ft.
RegencyHouse1004.com

Sanctuary



575 Sanctuary Drive #A303 - \$1,899,000
3 Beds | 2.5 Baths | 1,823 sq. ft.
SanctuaryA303.com

Tangerine Bay Club



350 Gulf of Mexico Drive #211 - \$1,078,000
3 Beds | 2.5 Baths | 2,394 sq. ft.
Tangerine211.com

Gulf Front Estate



5941 Gulf of Mexico Drive - \$8,800,000
Lot Size 100 x 465 sq. ft.
5941GulfOfMexicoDr.com

L'Ambiance



435 L'Ambiance Drive #L807 - \$3,500,000
LAmbianceL807.com

415 L'Ambiance Drive #A401 - \$5,694,000 | Furnished
LAmbianceA401.com

415 L'Ambiance Drive #A801 - \$7,500,000
LAmbianceA801.com

L'Elegance



1800 Ben Franklin Drive #A403 - \$949,000
2 Beds | 2 Baths | 1,350 sq. ft. | Furnished
LElegance403.com

Aria



2251 Gulf of Mexico Drive #204 - \$7,999,000
3 Beds | 3.5 Baths | 4,032 sq. ft.
Aria204.com

Emerald Harbor



6011 Emerald Harbour Drive - \$2,495,000
3 Beds | 2 Baths | 1,929 sq. ft.
6011EmeraldHarborDr.com

100 North Tamiami Trail | Sarasota, FL 34236 | Kepecz@JudyHays.com | www.LongboatKeyLuxury.com

OnPatrol



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

Feb. 8 Florida tolls

9:11 a.m.

Officer Ericsson was dispatched to Bayou Road on a worthless document call regarding a suspicious text message. Upon arrival, Officer Ericsson contacted the complainant who said that she received a text message. The message advised the woman to pay her 'Florida tolls' via the text message. The woman believed the text message to be suspicious and did not respond or send any money. The woman deleted the text and Officer Ericsson's investigation revealed there was no loss and the text was likely a phishing attempt. Case clear.



driver's license as of Jan. 23. The vehicle was located and a traffic stop was conducted on a 2012 Toyota pickup truck. Officer Pescuma made contact with the driver and introduced himself and provided the reason for the traffic stop. Officer Pescuma asked the driver for his license, registration and proof of insurance. The driver stated he didn't have a license and it was his spouse's vehicle. Officer Pescuma asked again if he had a valid driver's license or any driver's license and he said he did not nor was ever issued one. Officer Pescuma was able to verify his identity by cross referencing his name on the insurance card, his bank card and his daughter confirming his identity as well as place of residence. Additionally, Officer Pescuma conducted a check for active warrants with negative results. The driver said he was conducting work on Longboat Key. Officer Pescuma issued a criminal citation for no Driver's

License never had one issued. Officer Pescuma advised that the driver could not drive and he arranged for transportation. Case clear.

Mangroves

12:43 p.m.

Officer Ericsson and Sgt. Puccio were dispatched to the 200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on an agency assist regarding a party lost in the mangroves. The original call was to Taft Drive, however, a phone ping showed the lost subjects 10 meters off Gulf of Mexico Drive. Upon arrival, Officer Ericsson was able to locate two women across a small body of water in the mangroves just north of Quick Point Park beach. The only access to the two individuals was across the 50 yard wide body of water. Once located, the two women were able to walk through the water and to the path where we were located. The two woman said they were exploring, went off the path and got lost in the thick mangroves. Both women were uninjured and refused medical attention. Case clear.

Citizen assist

2:31 p.m.

Officer Barrett responded to the 1800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive regarding a vessel too close to the beach behind the residence. Upon arrival, Officer Barret made contact with the caller who directed the officer to the vessel. Officer Barrett then made contact with the owner of the boat. The boat was anchored approximately 50 feet off of the beach which was not in violation of any state or local laws. Officer Barrett explained to the boat owner that he was investigating a call from a concerned citizen regarding his boat and his dog. The owner advised that his dog was a service dog. He voluntarily said he would return to his boat and leave. Case clear.

Sept. 9

Door

2:08 a.m.

Officer Maple while on patrol was conducting a business check and located an unsecured rear door. Upon finding the unlocked door, Officer Maple canvassed the building for signs of illegal activity, forced entry or unauthorized personnel with negative results. The building is in the process of a major reconstruction and the owners are currently out of town. The door was secured and business card left at front entrance with event details. Case clear.

Feb. 10

Fire

10:15 a.m.

Officer Smith responded was dispatched to the 5300 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of a vehicle fire. Upon arrival, Longboat Key Police provided traffic control until the fire was extinguished by Longboat Key Fire Department. Case clear.

Vehicle

2:20 p.m.

Officer Pescuma while on patrol received a target alert service hit for a license plate indicating a driver with a suspended/revoked/cancelled driver's license. Officer Pescuma checked the state link and FCIC/NCIC database and confirmed that the driver had a suspended

Driver's license

10:00 p.m.

Sgt. Montfort while on patrol in the 400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive, and he observed a Nissan Altima travel north on Gulf of Mexico Drive. Sgt. Montfort observed that the windows were down and a man was in the driver's seat. Sgt. Montfort identified the driver who was previously cited for unknowingly operating a motor vehicle while suspended license. Sgt. Montfort pulled out behind the vehicle to conduct a FCIC/NCIC check on the vehicle's registration to which the vehicle signaled a right turn onto Yawl Lane. The driver is a known employee as a security guard. Sgt. Montfort then followed the car onto the side street with the vehicle coming to a rest in the driveway of Yawl Lane and Sgt. Montfort conducted a check which revealed the driver had a suspended driver's license. Sgt. Montfort then initiated his traffic stop and made contact with the driver who said he missed his turn. In sum and substance it was determined the driver was attempting to avoid Sgt. Montfort because he knew his license was suspended. The man was subsequently processed and released in the field with one uniformed traffic citation. The driver is scheduled to appear in the County Court. Case clear.

Suspicious

11:55 p.m.

Officer Mathis while on patrol observed a Toyota 4Runner parked in eh kayak launch area of Bayfront Park. Officer Mathis activated his lights and as he did so a man walked around the driver's side of the vehicle to the rear of his vehicle. Officer Mathis introduced himself and asked the driver what he was doing in the park after hours and why his vehicle was parked in the kayak launch area. The man replied that he had just found out his mother had cancer and was upset. Officer Mathis then asked the man for his identification. The man advised his license was in the vehicle. Officer Mathis then asked the man to retrieve his license and vehicle's documentation. The man walked back to his already opened driver's door and reached inside the passenger compartment. While doing so, the man chuckled and said "I have a gun in here." Officer Mathis immediately gave him verbal commands to step away from the vehicle with empty hands and he complied. The man was detained and walked back to the front of the patrol unit to distance themselves from whatever firearm the man thought he had in his vehicle. The man was handcuffed to the rear and the handcuffs were checked for proper fit. The man advised he was an attorney and this was a bit much. Officer Mathis explained to the man that he was not under arrest but detained for the moment. Officer Mathis explained to the man that he was in the park after hours and parked in a no parking area and while reaching inside his vehicle he said he had a gun in. Once Sgt. Montfort and Officer Troyer arrived and it was determined the man was alone in the park and no gun was in immediate reach in the front passenger compartment of his 4Runner, the man was then taken out of handcuffs. The man was cited for being in the park after hours. The man signed the court copy of the citation and provided his cell phone number. Case clear.

Feb. 11

Fishing

12:35 a.m.

Sgt. Montfort while on patrol, observed a vehicle parked after hours in Overlook Park. Sgt. Montfort observed two men sleeping in the vehicle, and so he approached the vehicle and did not observe contraband prior to contact. Sgt. Montfort woke the two men who said that they were fishing and upon returning to the vehicle, fell asleep. The two men provided their identification with a negative return for wants or warrants. Sgt. Montfort issued the men a verbal warning and the two departed the area without incident. Case clear.

Feb. 12

Golf cart

5:01 p.m.

Officer Ericsson and Officer Miklos were dispatched to the Bay Isles Parkway in reference to a golf car traveling southbound causing heavy traffic. While enroute, Officer Miklos conducted a check of Google maps traffic and discovered traffic was backed up into downtown Sarasota. Officer Ericsson conducted a check of the area from Bay Isles Parkway to Gulf of Mexico Drive and did not observe a golf cart. While arriving at Bay Isles Parkway, Officer Miklos observed a low speed vehicle turn northbound onto Gulf of Mexico Drive from Publix. Officer Miklos initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle at Bay Isles Road and didn't believe the vehicle was the cause of the traffic jam. The driver was issued two traffic warnings and parked the vehicle at CVS until the rental company could tow it back to Holmes Beach. Case clear.

LBK
Liquors



941.953.1835

The Island's largest selection of Beer, Wine & Spirits
Come check out our competitive prices!

Discounts on cases of wine | Special orders welcome

Locally owned & operated

Whitney Beach Plaza
6854 Gulf of Mexico Drive | Longboat Key, FL



KeyRealEstate

Bird Key, Lido Key, Longboat Key latest sales

Address	Sq. Ft.	List Price	Bed/Bath/Half Bath			Days On Market	Sale Price
3607 FAIR OAKS PL	2,339	\$1,799,000	3	2	0	25	\$1,700,000
720 OLD COMPASS RD	2,393	\$1,799,000	3	3	0	48	\$1,600,000
1901 HARBOUR LINKS CIR Unit#1	2,376	\$1,399,000	3	2	1	28	\$1,175,000
5310 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#11	1,014	\$700,000	2	2	0	3	\$700,000
4234 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#Y1	1,150	\$725,000	2	2	0	32	\$675,000
3320 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#302C	1,187	\$489,000	2	2	0	48	\$478,000
610 FOX ST	1,206	\$469,900	3	2	0	15	\$459,000
713 SAINT JUDES DR S Unit#2	1,088	\$300,000	2	2	0	5	\$263,000
3710 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#G26	912	\$265,000	2	2	0	31	\$250,000
247 ROBIN DR	3,059	\$5,999,999	3	3	0	8	\$5,500,000
435 PHEASANT WAY	2,890	\$3,925,000	3	3	1	341	\$3,775,000
1800 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#B507	1,980	\$2,200,000	3	3	0	6	\$2,100,000



247 ROBIN DR



JEFF
RHINELANDER
941-685-3590

Jeff@jeffrhinelander.com



COURTNEY
TARANTINO
941-893-7203

courtney.tarantino@floridamoves.com



443F John Ringling Blvd. • Sarasota, FL 34236



BIRD KEY

605 WILD TURKEY LANE, SARASOTA • \$2,090,000
3BR/2.5BA • 2,200 SF • CORNER LOT



L'ELEGANCE - NOW PENDING

1800 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR., #B507, SARASOTA • \$2,200,000
3BR/3BA • 1,980 SF



BIRD KEY - NOW SOLD

410 MEADOW LARK DRIVE, SARASOTA • \$3,550,000
4BR/2.5BA • 3,257 SF



COUNTRY CLUB SHORES

585 GUNWALE LANE • LONGBOAT KEY
3BR /3.5BA • OPEN WATER • \$5,995,000

Opinion, from page 1

as is the way in Florida where homes are an invasive vine filling any fertile void.

The Vision is formed

Next, former Mayors Jim Brown and George Spoll and other past commissioners got extremely involved and surveyed the community. It was not ad hoc; the Town used the Urban Land Institute.

A plan was forged by the Town of Longboat Key with the Urban Land Institute, and the conclusion was Longboat Key lacked a true center. It lacked a place where the residents could gather and do things together both literally and on a geographical level. It was also realized the Town needed to replace the lost activities that had taken place for decades in the Art Center. The Town wanted a new cultural arts and community center so residents could undertake activities and various pursuits and make their final years and experiences on Longboat Key profound and interesting and social.

The Town studied this problem for quite some time and really the outcome is intuitive; it isn't some crazy idea that we found out. Longboaters want a place where they can gather to pursue artistic activities like pottery and creative writing and photography. Things they don't want to do at home and they want to do in a social setting with instructors and with friends.

The Town also realized residents like the offerings at the Education Center now at Temple Beth Israel. Thousands of people go through the Education Center every winter, and Susan Goldfarb has run the center for more than 30 years bringing high-level academia to our island every season. But here is a secret I am going to let you in on – despite Susan's eternal youthful looks, she has no plans on running the center into the afterlife – and there is no succession plan.

Part of the idea was to work with Susan Goldfarb in devel-

oping some programming where the Education Center could operate or down the road have classes at such a facility. And then lectures and meetings and all kinds of public get-togethers would happen there.

So the town was going to build and design basically an art and education and cultural center. It was going to either have Susan Goldfarb or someone of her skill level help manage it and it would be a place in the middle of town where everyone would gather for such events. But a Sarasota County Public Library is not that place.

Middle of the bell curve

Over the past weeks, I have poured through the so-called programming and classes at several other County library facilities. The offerings are interesting and useful, but not at the level of the Longboat Education Center's classes or of the former Art Center.

The County Library's art is more akin to the arts and crafts you would find at Michaels and spend an afternoon with your grandchild cobbling together. The public libraries are all about scrap booking and lectures on the history of the region or other intellectually light material. You will not be engaged with deep discussions on literature, poetry, mythology, religion, politics or psychology. The folks instructing will likely have less education than your average Longboater. The least interesting are the pragmatic offerings in how to use digital technology (a subsidized Geek squad of enthusiastic helpers) and endless classes on tax help. Ugh.

As much as the word "free" sounds compelling, the County Library is far from ideal for the needs of Longboat Key residents and visitors. It does not make sense and it'll be an overbuilt building that will under serve our population and we will be stuck with it an ordinary county building plopped down on one of the few open spaces created when the Town

developed the Town Center Green.

Fourth Quarter fundraising...

To add to the strange roll-out, the Town Manager is now the ever optimistic Tony Robbinsesque fundraiser tasked with cajoling three million dollars in donations to build additional enhancements to the already \$11 million project so Longboat can have a large room and a porch with an overhang to call its own. The County is funding the \$11 million main Library.

And the fundraising results? That in and of itself tells a story.

Town Manager Tipton told me last June that the \$3 million would have to be raised by August 2024. There was a deadline and if Longboat did not raise the additional \$3 million, we would be stuck with a generic County library.

Well, all of a sudden, a month ago I got an announcement and it said the fundraising has kicked off for the library and it reads like Groundhog Day as if there's a denial that they already went through all their contacts who didn't want to pony up two to three million dollars for a porch with an overhang and one big room that Longboaters can use. This renewed effort is like the Chiefs fourth quarter Super Bowl push.

Are they tripping?

But this is the whole sad problem: Trying to raise two to three million dollars for some enhancements to justify the project is not the way to go about solving what was supposed to be one of the more exciting chapters of Longboat Key's evolution.

This current Town Commission is in love with this free library idea and it will forever end the chance to build what we really want and need. They act like former Town Manager Tom Harmer found gold in the County when he forged the plan about four years ago and we should all trip over it because it's free and who turns down a free library. But free simply means general, less wealthy taxpayers are subsidizing an \$11 million library for us. That alone feels irresponsible in a time of massive social program gutting and cutting. It feels like the Town leaders feel proud to have brought some pork back home and brag about it.

Tom Harmer and the Commission got so giddy over the idea of the free gold that they tripped over the gold, bonked their heads and now they have just fallen in place on this library idea as if it's 'problem solved.'

A small parable: Summit Fever

The disconnect between the Commission and Town Manager and what residents think and feel on this Library issue is profound.

The commission is suffering from summit fever.

It is as if they used up all the oxygen and they're close to the top of K2. The danger of not reaching the top is they will feel like failures and they've spent so much money and effort and years getting there. Now, the bad decisions begin - instead of staying put or going down the slope and regrouping and coming back another day, this Commission and manager are going to trudge on and try to get to summit late in the day starved for oxygen. Their minds are blurry. I think I hear them coughing. I think I heard a last breath. I think the Commission and the library might perish on that slope on K2 for trying too hard without enough oxygen in the room. The Sherpas went down a long time ago; they should have listened to the Sherpas. But instead, we see them wearily trudging blindly on that cold miserable slope near the summit of K2 and soon we see the manager and the mayor clutching to the library as they gasp for help.

This editorial is like a final radio message to the Mayor and Manager at the top of K2:

"Guys, you've gone way beyond your limits. It's getting dark. Night is falling and there's going to be a big storm; please come down you don't have to summit! You don't have to deliver a library on Longboat Key! You are successes even without reaching the top of K2; even without a public library we love you. Please come back to us. Your family will thank you. Come back and join us. Your oxygen has run out and you no longer are aware of your actions... please return."

They disappeared into the night and endless frozen expanse of sky.

A quizzical question

My best thought and my best advice and I think it represents most residents is let's make the existing Town Center Green as beautiful as possible and utilize this community asset of open space.

And then I think we need to go back to the drawing table and look at the kind of activities Longboaters want to do, which is art, cultural and educational. Then we should figure out how to build an aesthetically pleasing and architecturally significant building that serves exactly those needs.

Deviating from that previously adopted mission and vision is really not at all what the Commission should be doing. They were supposed to follow an adopted mission and vision plan, not go down a path of just building something because

See opinion, page 13

Luxury Living out EAST!

LAKEWOOD RANCH
3008 TOLMINO COURT

Waterfront Deeded Golf lot at the end of cul de sac! Two Bed/Two Bath plus Den, Oversized two car garage with an extended 4 feet. An extended screened in Lanai that is Pre-Plumbed with Electric, Gas and Water for your future outdoor kitchen. Electric and Gas were also provided during build out for your future private pool! Located in the coveted gated Esplanade at Azario community, with deeded Golf Membership and tons of amenities!

2BR/2BA • 1,689 SF • \$680,000

Don't miss out!

Thinking of moving off island? You will want to call this your next home. CALL US TODAY!





Earl Larson & Tryla Brown Larson



TRYLA BROWN LARSON TEAM

SARASOTA, LAKEWOOD RANCH, AND ISLANDS

941-962-1122

TrylaBrownLarson.com

 /TrylaBrownLarson

Michael Saunders & Company
LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKER

Opinion, from page 12

it's free.

We need to build amenities that dramatically enhance either the lifestyle or the property values of our residents. A library will do neither. Just ask any smart realtor and they'll tell you that saying a new county library is going in and going to gobble up half the park will not be a selling point on Longboat Key. It will only generate a quizzical yawn.

I do not support just throwing a huge piece of development on a public parcel because it's free. Turning something down that's free often makes one stronger and healthier.

Don't build a compromise

So as my wife would say, it's time right now for the town "to put a pin in it."

It's better to wait, develop exactly what we are looking for, something where residents say, "I could really see myself going there."

If this Commission and the management doesn't have the wherewithal to take the information of what Longboat really wants and figure out how to monetize and help operate or get someone to operate a community cultural arts center, then do nothing. Build nothing and leave the park alone.

A library was never the dream.

If I plan to put a fountain in the center of my hibiscus garden, I'm not going to settle for a barbecue grill from the County just because it is free, just because grills are useful and people like the smell of brisket.

Not on Longboat. If you cannot embody the dream, if you cannot create specifically what the residents said they need, then why do it at all?

Why should the Town exist if we simply go generic?

Why aren't we part of the county if we're just going to emulate the county beach and parks and roll out of facilities? All we are doing is adding a layer of government and cost.

Our existence as the Town of Longboat Key is predicated on being representative and nuanced for our residents. And that includes a real arts center and cultural community center that is curtailed for us.

My instinct is we are better than this. And I'm not saying that as some weird Elon Musk edict to cut government spending. I'm saying it because we can possibly spend more and design and build something we want and need

And if we can't do that, then we are simply wasting money and that I am against. We need to be strategic with our investments and we should be building to make Longboat Key the most sought after community in the nation for next generation. That comes from self-consciously perfecting our island, not building a \$14 million compromise.

Ads that work...

ads@Lbknews.com or 941.387.2200

THE EDUCATION CENTER AT TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL

Like College, Only Better!

2024-2025

LECTURE SERIES

PAINTING CURRENT EVENTS
QIGONG YOGA **MEDITATION**
BRIDGE MAH JONGG CANASTA
SUPREME COURT AMERICAN HISTORY
LITERATURE & POETRY **MOVIE & BOOK GROUPS**
MUSIC & ART APPRECIATION JAZZ NIGHTS
MORNING FORUMS THEOLOGY **WORLD POLITICS**
FILM FESTIVALS THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES
AUTOBIOGRAPHY **IPHONE & IPAD** BIRDING
NATURE WALKS WELLNESS
LANGUAGES **SUNDAY CONCERTS**
BROADWAY BIOS **CRAFTS**
SPECIAL ONE-TIME EVENTS
& MUCH MORE!

Everything Under The Sun To Learn & Enjoy

Many Programs Available on Zoom.

THE EDUCATION CENTER AT TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL
567 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, FL 34228
VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.TBleducationcenter.org
For a brochure or inquiries call: (941) 383-8222
or email Admin@tbieducationcenter.org

HURRICANE DAMAGE?

3 Reasons Why Hurricanes Helene & Milton Insurance Claims Are Underpaid Or Denied:

- Improper Damage Assessment
- Inaccurate Evaluations
- Rushed Claim Assessments





WINDYLAW.COM
LARRY MOSKOWITZ, PA
PROPERTY DAMAGE LAWYERS

Main Office: 400 SE 9th Street Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316
Satellite Offices: Ft. Myers & Tampa (by appointment).

WE CAN HELP

Larry Moskowitz has practiced law in Florida for more than 35+ years, beginning his career as an Assistant State Attorney/Prosecutor in Broward County, FL. He is an accomplished trial attorney with over 150 jury trials to verdict.

Mr. Moskowitz has handled thousands of Property Damage Claims against all the major insurance companies.

WE WORK ON A CONTINGENCY FEE BASIS. WE DON'T GET PAID UNTIL YOU DO!

- NO RECOVERY
- NO FEES
- NO COSTS

CALL:
844-88-WINDY (94639)

Business Directory

Professional Home Watch & Concierge Service



CERTIFIED • BONDED • INSURED • TRUSTED



• Detailed Interior & Exterior Home Checks
• Time & Date Stamped Reporting & Photos
• Concierge Services to Fit Your Needs
• Home Maintenance Coordination

Cindy Jessup, Owner



WHC *Welcome Home*
CONCIERGE
The Home Watch Experts
941.915.1248
www.whcsarasota.com



SCAN ME

L♥ved again
Boutique
UPSCALE WOMEN'S CONSIGNMENT STORE



HIGH END CLOTHING, SHOES, AND ACCESSORIES

- JOHNNY WAS • CHANEL
- HERMES • JIMMY CHOO

4141 S. Tamiami Trail #8 • Sarasota
BESIDE TRADER JOE'S
941.702.8159

SARASOTA PAINTING

INTERIOR / EXTERIOR / CABINET

FULLY INSURED • OWNER OPERATED

CALL OR TEXT **941-900-9398** TODAY!

OWNER: **DON HUBIAK**

Instagram Page: @SarasotaInteriorPainting

EBikes
cycles

Fresh Air and Exercise?



Scan Our Free Guides
Legacy Trail, Sarasota Bayfront,
and the Gulf Islands

Steff's Stuff
ANTIQUES AND TREASURES

ESTATES & CONSIGNMENTS ARRIVING DAILY

5380 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE
IN THE CENTRE SHOPS • 941.383.1901

CLOSED THROUGH MID-OCTOBER

SteffsStuffLBK.com

Cortez Bait & Seafood

Fresher than Fresh!
Local Florida Seafood

Oysters • Shrimp • Clams
Fish Spread • Smoked Mullet



MON - SAT: 10 AM TO 6:30PM | SUN: 10AM TO 5PM

941.794.1547 12110 Cortez Road West
www.cortezbaitandseafood.com Cortez, FL
SEE US ON FACEBOOK

MASSAGE & FACIAL REJUVENATION

AcuMed
Wellness & Acupuncture

- Acupuncture
- Injection Therapy
- Herbology
- Homeopathy
- Massage

941.250.6911

AcuMedFL.com • KCHILL@ACUEMEDFL.COM
2953 Bee Ridge Road • Sarasota, FL 34239

THE FISH HOLE
ADVENTURE GOLF

18 HOLES
OPEN 9am-9pm
7 DAYS A WEEK
COME PLAY
A ROUND!



115 BRIDGE STREET
BRADENTON BEACH, FL
34217
PHONE: (941) 778-3388 www.THEFISHHOLE.com

KAREN & ANGELO POMPETTI
Two Generations of Master Barbers

Traditional & Cutting Edge Barbering
38 Years in Business



200 CENTRAL AVE. SUITE 11
ACROSS FROM WHOLE FOODS

484-889-8991 • menshaircutsarasota.com

Ads that work...

ads@Lbknews.com

ANTIQUE ORIENTAL RUGS.COM



FOR OVER 40 YEARS...
ALL HAND CHOSEN
ALL ONE-OF-A-KIND
BOUGHT • SOLD • APPRAISED

Visit our Sarasota Gallery
Call **Robert Mosby**
941.925.1025
By appointment only

DESIGN 2000

Celebrating 27 years on the island!

EXCELLENCE AND EXPERIENCE
IN HAIR AND NAIL DESIGN

941-387-9807

We are THE Color experts on
LBK - a Goldwell salon.
Make your appointment today!

6840 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE
AT WHITNEY BEACH PLAZA
www.design2000longboatkeyfl.com

Angelo Pompetti Bonetti

Professional men's barber services.
At our salon or at your residence
on Longboat or Lido Key.
Call or text for appointments.

200 Central Ave. 941.297.8991
Suite 11
www.menshaircustsarasota.com

**Longboat Key News
Sarasota City News**

PO Box 8001
Longboat Key, FL 34228
941-387-2200
www.lbknews.com

Steve Reid, Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

Associate Publisher
Melissa Reid


Columnists
Susan Goldfarb, Sig Hermansen,
Greg Rusovich, Blake Fleetwood

Sales
Lillian Sands
Steve Reid
ads@lbknews.com

Graphic Production
Dottie Rutledge

Taxes and Accounting 5370 #202
941-387-0926 **CPA** GMD

Bob and Mary are @
5370 #2020 Gulf of Mexico Dr



Art Ready To Hang Sale



Letters, from page 8

As discussed, below is a snapshot of the most recent weekly permitting activity in the Department. The volume of activity is reflective, in part, of the extensive hurricane damage repairs & rebuilding that have been ongoing, but also reflects the typical non-storm damage building permitting that continues uninterrupted. Building Division staff continue to work diligently by prioritizing storm damage related permits & by prioritizing relatively straightforward permits such as roofs, demolitions, and a/c & water-heater changeouts. Staff have been working overtime, after-hours & weekends and we continue to supplement our staffing with mutual-aid, contract & Town-hired-private provider labor to help get people back in their homes, businesses & properties. We will be sharing this info on a regular basis.

Allen Parsons
Director Planning, Zoning & Building Department, Town of Longboat Key

Prescott Clean Water Mobile Water Treatment Unit

Second question first – Manatee County was not included, most likely because the permit was through the South Florida District of FDEP, which does not include anything north of Sarasota County.

In terms of scalability – good question, not sure how 80 gallons per minute is big enough for much beyond a canal or so. However, the idea of ozone and nanobubbles is a solid one, it’s the same technique that is involved in our “magic jet ski” study. We’ve known that ozone can kill red tide and detoxify brevetoxin for almost 50 years, it has always been an issue of scalability, not the science, as you’ve pointed out.

Dave Tomasko
Executive Director
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY
GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION MARCH 11, 2025

EARLY VOTING will take place at the **Longboat Key Town Hall, 501 Bay Isles Road**, Longboat Key, FL for **ALL** Longboat Key (Sarasota and Manatee) registered voters.

March 3 through March 8, 2025
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The following schedule has been established regarding the Town of Longboat Key Canvassing Boards for the March 11, 2025, General Municipal Election. **All meetings are open to the public.**

LOCATION	LOCATION
Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections 4400 Fruitville Road Sarasota, FL	Manatee County Supervisor of Elections 600 301 Blvd West, Suite 108 Bradenton, FL
DATES/EVENTS February 24, 2025, 1:00 p.m. Logic & Accuracy Testing (of equipment)	DATES/EVENTS February 26, 2025, 10:00 a.m. Logic & Accuracy Testing (of equipment)
February 24 through March 10, 2025 Initial Canvass of vote-by-mail ballots, as needed Times and locations to be determined	March 11, 2025, 5:30 p.m. Canvass of vote-by-mail, early voting, and election results
March 11, 2025, 5:00 p.m. Canvass vote-by-mail, early voting, and election results	March 14, 2025, 9:00 a.m. Manual voting system audit
March 13, 2025, 5:30 p.m. Canvass provisional ballots, if needed	
March 18, 2025, 9:00 a.m. Voting system audit	

GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION DAY - MARCH 11, 2025
Polls Open: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Sarasota: Precinct 201
Polling location: (Town Hall)
501 Bay Isles Road
Longboat Key, FL

Manatee: Precinct 309
Polling location: (Longboat Island Chapel)
6200 Gulf of Mexico Drive
Longboat Key, FL

BRUCE MYER GROUP

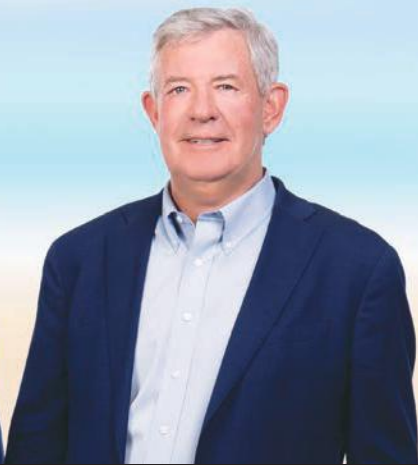
OVER \$130 MILLION SOLD IN 2024



Learn more at www.BruceMyer.com



CHASE MYER (941) 315-5318



BRUCE MYER (941) 376-5311

JUST LISTED



GRAND BAY • \$1,525,000
3060 GRAND BAY BLVD. #124
LONGBOAT KEY, FL
2BR/2.5BA • 2,550 • Updated

JUST LISTED



L'AMBIANCE • \$2,995,000
415 L'AMBIANCE DR., #C404
LONGBOAT KEY, FL
3BR/3.5BA • 2,820 • Furnished

JUST LISTED



MARINA BAY • \$2,295,000
2550 HARBOURSIDE DR., #322
LONGBOAT KEY, FL
3BR/2.5BA • 2,830 • Updated



REGENT PLACE • \$4,495,000
675 LONGBOAT CLUB RD., #22A
LONGBOAT KEY, FL
3BR+DEN/4BA • 3,654 SF • Beachfront

NEW PRICE



SUTTON PLACE • \$375,000
569 SUTTON PLACE
LONGBOAT KEY, FL
3BR/2BA • 1,198 SF • Furnished



THE MARK • \$1,399,000
111 S. PINEAPPLE AVE., #1004
SARASOTA, FL
2BR/2.5BA • 1,513 SF • City views



ORCHID BEACH CLUB • \$2,875,000
2050 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR. #A601
SARASOTA, FL
3BR/3.5BA • 3,242 • Beach/Bay views



LONGBOAT KEY TOWERS • \$1,595,000
603 LONGBOAT CLUB RD., #1102N
LONGBOAT KEY, FL
2BR/2BA • 1,458 SF • Gulf & Bay views



GRAND BAY • \$1,595,000
3060 GRAND BAY BLVD. #113
LONGBOAT KEY, FL
3BR/3.5BA • 2,550 SF • Two terraces



PROMENADE • \$2,250,000
1211 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #401
LONGBOAT KEY, FL
3BR/3BA • 2,100 SF • Gulf & Bay views



COREY'S LANDING • \$2,800,000
3444 MISTLETOE LANE
LONGBOAT KEY, FL
4BR/3.5BA • 2,836 SF • Upgraded



LBK YACHT & TENNIS CLUB - \$869,900
4215 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #103
LONGBOAT KEY, FL
2BR/2BA • 1,497 • Furnished



COUNTRY CLUB SHORES • \$2,490,000
597 CUTTER LANE
LONGBOAT KEY, FL
3BR/2BA • 1,963 SF • 103' of Waterfront



WEST OF TRAIL • \$2,490,000
1886 PROSPECT STREET
SARASOTA, FL
4BR/4BA • 3,444 SF • Built in 2016



BAYPORT BEACH & TENNIS CLUB • \$949,000
520 BAYPORT WAY
LONGBOAT KEY, FL
2BR/2BA • 1,456 SF • Gulf to Bay



ISLANDER CLUB • \$799,000
2301 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #85N
LONGBOAT KEY, FL
2BR/2BA • 1,235 SF



ISLANDER CLUB • \$649,000
2301 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #25N
LONGBOAT KEY, FL
2BR/2BA • 1,235 SF • Furnished



FAIRWAY BAY • \$675,000
1932 HARBOURSIDE DR., #242
LONGBOAT KEY, FL
2BR/2.5BA • 1,192 SF • Bay views

NOW PENDING



COUNTRY CLUB SHORES • \$5,000,000
596 YAWL LANE
LONGBOAT KEY, FL
5BR/5.5BA • 7,374 SF • 275' of Seawall

NOW PENDING



LONGBOAT KEY TOWERS • \$1,295,000
603 LONGBOAT CLUB RD., #903N
LONGBOAT KEY, FL
2BR/2BA • 1,458 SF • Gulf & Bay views

This material is based upon information that we consider to be reliable, but because it has been supplied by third parties, we cannot represent that it is accurate or complete, and it should not be relied upon as such. The offering is subject to errors, omissions, changes, including price, or withdrawal without notice.

595 BAY ISLES ROAD, SUITE 250 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL 34228