

News, from page 1

and Bay Haven schools, a professor at Florida Southern College, Jacksonville University and adjunct professor at the University of South Florida. In 1967, 1968 and 1977 she was Visiting Professor at the Dalhousi University, Nova Scotia Summer School and Massey University in New Zealand.

She and her husband, Dr. George Spache, authored many textbooks for teachers and students in the field of reading instruction and became a popular speaker at institutions and school districts throughout the United States. They developed month-long summer seminars in several European countries and the Caribbean. They shared a love of traveling, participating on freighter cruises which allowed them to travel to many countries that other cruises never frequent. Altogether she traveled to 104 countries!

In 1989 she was awarded the Pi Lambda Theta Outstanding Book Award for her book, Reading Activity for Child Involvement. She is also in the Who's Who in the Southeast and Who's Who in American Women.

After the death of Dr. Spache in 1996, she married Merle W. Huntington of Longboat Key and Brevard. They were married for 16 years. She enjoyed living on Longboat Key and served on the Board of the Longboat Key Historical Society for many years. They were very active members of the Christ Church, Presbyterian and was elected elder at Siesta Key Chapel and Christ Church. During their time together, she kept busy building residential mountain homes where they had a second home, in Connetsee Falls, in Brevard. She had many dear friends there and loved spending time with friends in Brevard.

She was predeceased by all of her dear siblings, Ruth, Dona, Jack and Cyrus Bispham.

She is survived by her children, Raymond Schoonover and Margo Balaski, both of Sarasota and her stepchildren, Jacqueline Graves, of Tampa, Fla., Pamela Spache, of S. Fallsburg, N.Y., Jennifer Daniell, of Norcross, Ga., Kevin Huntington, of Avon, Conn. and Jeffrey Huntington, of Yellow Springs, Ohio; numerous dear nieces, nephews and grandchildre; and an abundance of family and friends who were so very fortunate to have known her and will forever have a gap in their hearts that she had so graciously filled.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. at Christ Church, Presbyterian of Longboat Key July 15, 2023.

To honor her memory, donations can be made to Christ Church, Presbyterian of Longboat Key, 6000 Gulf of Mexico Drive, USA, Longboat Key, Fla., 34228.

Dr. Gregorio Delgado Passes

Dr. Gregorio Delgado, a world renowned Gynecological Oncology Surgeon, passed away on June 20, 2023, at the age of 82, in Longboat Key, Florida. He was born on March 27, 1941, in Tarapoto, Peru. He is survived by his spouse, Mary, his children Frank (Sharon), Scott (Jodi), Kent, and Rosa, as well as his grandchildren Kelly, Morgan, Will, Sam, and Michael.

Dr. Delgado had an impressive educational history, graduating with a Medical Doctorate from the National University of Trujillo Academy of Medicine. He then went on to complete his internship at Sisters of Charity Hospital in Buffalo, New York, followed by a residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Georgetown University Medical Center. He completed his fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at M.D. Anderson Hospital & Tumor Institute and was a HEW Fellow in Gynecologic Oncology at the same institution.

Dr. Delgado held several notable positions in his career. He was the Director of the Gynecologic Oncology Division in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Georgetown University Medical School and the Vincent T. Lombardi Cancer Center. He was a Professor at Georgetown University Medical School and the director of the GYN/ONC fellowship program. He was also the Chairman of the Mary Isabelle Caestecker Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Loyola University of Chicago, Stritch School of Medicine, and the Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at The Western Pennsylvania Hospital. He was the Resident Program Director and Professor at Temple University School of Medicine Clinical Campus.

Dr. Delgado was a member of many professional medical societies, including The Felix Rutledge Society, The Mid Atlantic Gynecologic Oncology Society (MAGOS), The Society of Pelvic Surgeons, and The Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO). He authored two books and published countless medical research articles.

In his free time, Dr. Delgado enjoyed spending time with his family, golfing, fishing, and writing.

Visitation for Dr. Delgado will be held on June 30, 2023, from 2 pm to 4 pm and 6 pm to 8 pm at Money and King Funeral Home, located at 171 Maple Ave W, Vienna, VA 22180. A Funeral Mass will be held on July 1, 2023, at 11 am at St. Mark Catholic Church, located at 9970 Vale Rd., Vienna, VA. With interment to follow at Fairfax Memorial Cemetery. Dr. Delgado will be deeply missed by his family, colleagues, and patients whose lives he impacted with his dedication to his work.

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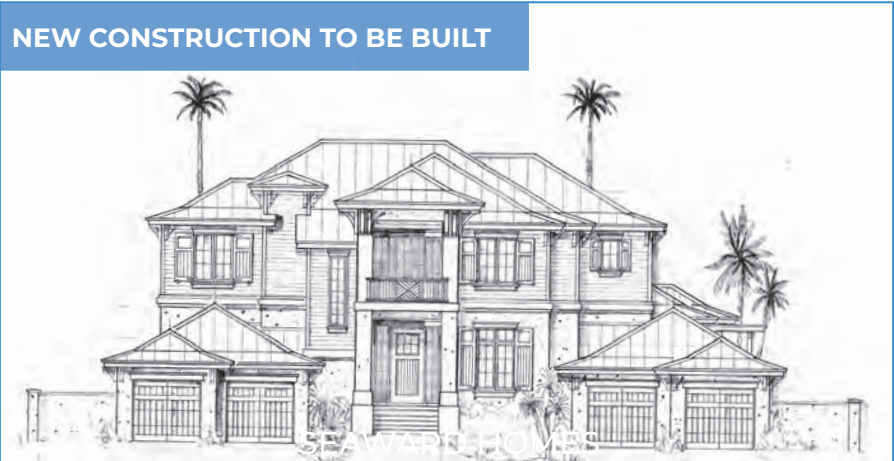
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Just listed- This coastal contemporary home offers attractive one-level-living, an abundance of natural sunlight and boasts a full array of developer upgrades. Desirable end unit with 3 BR/ 3 BA. Only 18 unique owners, perfectly situated between Sarasota Bay and the Gulf of Mexico.



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LIDO SHORES • 1212 CENTER PLACE **\$6,649,000**
Currently under construction and ready by end of the year! Spectacular location, steps to your own private, sandy beach on Gulf of Mexico. Home includes a breathtaking SKY TERRACE offering additional 1500 sq ft of walkable terrace area with 360 degree panoramic views of Sarasota's magnificent city and water views. This desirable, custom residence offers an open, bright, and airy floor plan with 5BR/5BA. Impressive 23-ft. ceiling in great room. Fantastic outdoor area w/custom pool, spa, kitchen and lanai. The residence boasts 4,750 sq. ft. of air-conditioned space.

GULF FRONT NEW CONSTRUCTION



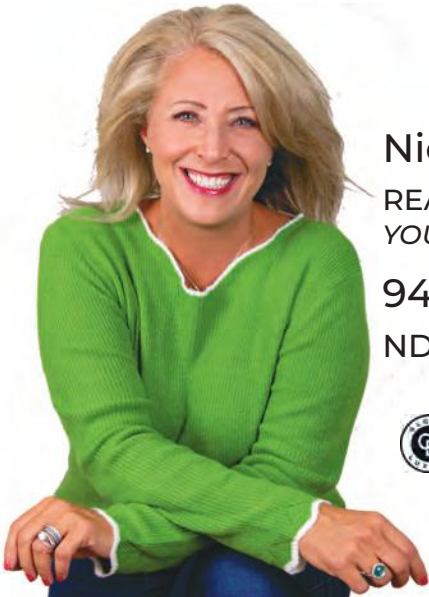
LONGBOAT KEY • 6489 GULFSIDE DRIVE **\$16,900,000**
Fabulous Gulf front lot offering nearly 100 ft. of sandy beach, this gorgeous DSDG Architect designed home is a rare find. Boasting almost 6,000 AC/SF, this spectacular home is custom built with the finest details throughout. Architect designed landscaped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



BIRD KEY • 217 BIRD KEY DRIVE **\$1,765,000**
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.



NOW PENDING SALE **\$16,995,000**
SIESTA KEY • HIGEL AVE.
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 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.

Budget workshop

To: Longboat Key Commission

This is a follow-up from Finance (thanks Sue) on questions from the Commission budget workshop. Comparing millage rates as we discussed in the meeting is not the easiest thing to do as there are different levels of complexities. From homesteaded to non- homesteaded, from agencies using more assessments than millage rates (think EMS assessments or beach assessments that some jurisdictions have), from Community Development Districts (CDD's) typically found in newer developments (like Lakewood Ranch) that are special taxing districts set up to pay for infrastructure costs, use of other funding streams like the Tourist Development Tax that can be used to offset certain related costs (beach nourishment for example) or utility fund transfers into the General Fund, different agencies find different ways to pay for things based on the desires of that particular jurisdiction's population.

All that being said, the Manatee County millage rate is almost double that of Sarasota and certainly impacts the amount paid by Town residents who reside there. Generally speaking, the higher millage rate usually reflects lower values (as opposed to Sarasota County) while having to pay similar costs for service since they share the same labor and materials market. For instance, a Sheriff's Deputy starting salary is likely to be in the same general cost neighborhood in both counties (salary, benefits (FRS), cars/equipment) yet because the values are so different Manatee must set their millage rate higher in order to pay for it.

All of the tax examples are from homesteaded properties. The taxable value is \$500,000 which is below the typical Longboat value but do provide a relatable scale for comparison. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager, Town of Longboat Key

Stormwater projects

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

Here's a little more detail (thank you Isaac and Charlie) on some of the stormwater projects we discussed today. Note that for the most part the grant amounts are what we've identified we need and are applying for and not what we have already been awarded. As we bring on a full-time grants coordinator, and as you well know, there are going to be three things that make our projects competitive. 1) Does the project align strongly to the grant intent? If it is a resiliency project for example, are we proposing something that will allow us to be more resilient? Sounds simple but as we know some projects are not a good fit for certain funding streams. 2) The more funding we have as a match the more competitive we will be in the eyes of the grant agency as their dollars will stretch further. 3) Can we get the money spent in a timely manner? Grant agencies have requirements to get the funding out and as important spent in a timeframe that meets the expectations of the legislative body that approved it. The more shovel ready we are, the stronger our application. Let me know if you have any questions.

Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Silt Fences

To: Longboat Key Commission

Sorry to keep bothering you with this but I reported this a week ago Friday and although I got a response from Alan saying action had been initiated with the builder it's now a week later and nothing has changed. We're getting heavy rains every afternoon and it's obvious this silt is going right into the bay.

Rusty Chinnis
Longboat Key

Silt Fences

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider

Thank you for your email. The permitting and enforcement team is committed to keeping our waterways clean and our construction sites in compliance and we will continue to work with the tools we have to obtain that. If our code and/or our tools are not sufficient, we'll come back to the Board to discuss any holes in our enforcement abilities.

Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 6

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648 BAYVIEW DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

Boater's dream property on oversized (19,994sf) rarely available cul-de-sac end lot with a 320-foot seawall located in Sleepy Lagoon, on the north end of Longboat Key. This location offers fantastic panoramic views of Bishops Bayou and the ICW.



\$6,295,000

5910 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

Under Construction. This spectacular, 4,210 sq. ft., newly built 4BR/4.5BA, coastal contemporary waterfront home provides easy access to the Intracoastal Waterway, Sarasota Bay and Gulf of Mexico. Located on a three-quarter acre lot with 133 feet of frontage on a 125-foot-wide canal.



\$2,299,000

793 JUNGLE QUEEN WAY | LONGBOAT KEY

Two-story custom-built, canal-front 4BR/3BA featuring a private rooftop deck. Spacious open floorplan with 22' soaring ceilings. French doors lead to an expansive back porch and screened patio with a pool and spa.



\$1,995,000

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

Stunning views of the Gulf of Mexico and Sarasota Bay in this 6th-floor condominium in Promenade. The desirable end unit features 2 bedrooms plus a den, all with full baths, abundant floor-to-ceiling windows and glass sliders to 2 balconies.



NOW PENDING!

\$2,995,000

830 TARAWITT DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

Just three lots to the ICW from this over 2,500 sf, coastal 2015 built home. Living area and kitchen open to the patio and contemporary pool. The privacy of the second level offers two guest bedrooms with full bath, plus an extra lounge.



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\$1,899,000

BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME

524 HALYARD LANE | LONGBOAT KEY

Country Club Shores - WATERFRONT 100 ft. x 100 ft. buildable lot. Includes 2BR/2BA/1,668 SF home. Perfect location for new construction on 80 ft. wide deep water canal. Close access to Country Club Shores' beach access and the Longboat Key Club. Less than three miles to Saint Armand's Circle. Highly desirable location on north side of 80 ft. canal for southern exposure on pool and outdoor entertaining space. Seller commissioned design of 4,344 SF contemporary home and considers property as lot value. Plans available. Renderings reflect one possible build option; new home not included in the listing.



Front View

EditorLetters



Letters, from page 4

Silt Fences

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Perfect. Thanks.
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Longboat Key

Silt Fences

To: Rusty Chinnis
If there are violations here and warnings were given, let’s bring to bear some financial consequences quickly. I have heard from various parts of town that contractors and their subs are ignoring our construction rules as well as complaints by neighboring residents. Maybe a bold-faced notice to all current and future holders of building permits of key provisions and enforcement measures is warranted.
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Longboat Key

US 41 at Gulfstream Avenue Roundabout Project

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission
Construction project: Crews will work within the right-of-way, medians, driveways and throughout the project limits. Please use caution and watch for construction vehicles, dump trucks, semi-trucks and heavy equipment entering or exiting the work zone.
Activities Include:
Cleanup of the project site, mowing and equipment removal.
Lane Closures/Detours/Crossings:
Marina Jacks north parking lot entrance/exit on Gulfstream Avenue is closed to vehicular traffic. Motorists may access the parking lot via Bayfront Drive at Main Street/Marina Plaza. No through traffic allowed through this area.
Construction activities will take place weekdays and weekends, daytime and occasionally during nighttime hours. Expect noise from grinding asphalt, hammer drills, noise and vibration from construction equipment, backup alarms, vacuum trucks, pumps, and lighting.
Improvements being made as part of this project consist of replacing the existing signalized intersection on US 41 at Gulfstream Avenue with a roundabout, installation of Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB) system, raised pedestrian refuge islands, replacement of underground drainage structures, utilities, fiber optic, new LED streetlights, reconfiguration of stormwater retention ponds, sidewalks, and pedestrian walkways. Expected completion is spring 2023.
Landscaping: Managed as a separate contract, the Gulfstream Roundabout Landscaping will begin in July when construction and final acceptance are complete.
SWFLRoads.com | @MyFDOT_SWFL | facebook.com/MyFDOTSWFL
Alice Ramos
Community Outreach Manager
Florida Department of Transportation

Complete Streets project

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

I must say I enjoyed hearing from you at yesterday’s Town Hall meeting about your recent trip to Europe, particularly your experiences with walking and biking trails there.
During the discussion about the Complete Streets project on Gulf of Mexico Drive, I believe I heard you say, “In Europe, there is no place for bicycles on a walking trail,” or words to that effect.
I could not agree more. Indeed, for the safety of pedestrians, it’s my opinion that wheeled vehicles of all types, except wheelchairs, should not be allowed on our Town’s walking trails and sidewalks.
This separation should include bicycles powered and unpowered, and of course golf carts/low-speed vehicles. Whether or not the Complete Streets project is ever completed.
Jim Whitman
Longboat Key

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Reference today’s email to the Mayor from Mr. Cavell; and Commissioner Bishop’s email to you and I reference this incident:
On Saturday June 17th, Officer Joe Ferrigine was conducting a prisoner transport to the Manatee Jail when he observed a golf cart southbound in the 35 mph zone heading into the restricted 45 mph zone. By policy Officer Ferrigine was unable to take action himself due to being w/prisoner, so he radioed Officer Nazareno with the golf cart info.
Officer Nazareno located the golf cart as it was proceeding into the restricted zone (45mph). He stopped and then ordered the operator to immediately turn around and off the island. See Officer Nazareno’s email narrative below.
Longboat Key Police Department has a Zero tolerance for golf cart violations, we ticket when appropriate, and always requires the cart owner come pick up the golf carts when found in the restricted 45 mph zones on Gulf of Mexico Drive.
In this specific case, the Officer stopped and advised the operator just as he was entering the 45mph zone, advised of the Florida law, and ordered him to immediately turn around. At no time did the Officer advise the operator to drive on the sidewalk, but as stated by Officer Nazareno, he did observe that operator merge back into heavy northbound traffic from the sidewalk. We contacted Mr. Cavell to explain. He understood and was very complimentary of the service the Police Department provides.
George Turner
Police Chief
Town of Longboat Key

Golf Cart

To: Longboat Key Police Sgt. Lee Smith
On Saturday June 17, 2023 at approximately 1230 hours while patrolling the area of North Shore Rd. I was alerted by Officer Ferrigine on the radio of a blue golf cart traveling south from the 6800 block of Gulf of Mexico. I canvassed the area traveling southbound and made a u turn on the 6500 block as I was unable to locate the vehicle. As I continued northbound I observed the blue golf cart traveling in the southbound lane at the 35mph zone by Whitney Beach and turned around to make contact with the driver. I advised the driver that golf carts are not allowed to travel on FL State roads over 35 mph and had told him to turn around and safely merge back on traffic northbound. There was heavy traffic at that time and I observed him merge back from the sidewalk on traffic at the 6700 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive.
Officer Nazareno
Police Department
Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 7

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EditorLetters



Letters, from page 6

Golf Cart

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
This is unbelievable. We were told Police were ticketing. Making the golf cart drivers to vacate the vehicle, have it towed and require the golf cart driver and passengers to call Uber or a friend. I have witnessed police cars ignoring golf carts. This is a dangerous situation that our officer made worse.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Commissioner Williams –

I believe you are looking in the correct place. Sec. 158.099 from the 2018 Code ultimately became Sec. 158.029 of the current Code. Yes, there is a variation in the 2 versions of subsection (D), and the 2018 version is written more narrowly.
However, the Town Commission could (and has in the past under the 2018 Code) allowed applicants to amend their application during the pendency of the QJ hearing process. It happened in 2018 and 2021 with the St. Regis applications (for example, stipulations and changes to the size of the ballroom (2018), authorization for parking lifts (2021), authorizations to return tourism units to the pool (2021)). Amendments to the pending site plans were proffered by the applicant in those instances (in the midst of the pending quasi-judicial hearings) to address community/Commissioner concerns.
Accordingly, I am of the opinion that the Town Commission has been and remains authorized under the Town Code (2018 and current code) to allow site plan applicants to amend their submitted plans (ie, to address comments and concerns raised by the public, PZB and Town Commission) during the public hearing processes. It is the nature and significance of the revision(s) to an application that governs the process when an amendment is received, and how much additional Staff review and hearing process is needed to properly consider an amendment.
Please let me know if you would like to talk on the phone to discuss this opinion further.
Maggie D. Mooney
Town Attorney
Town of Longboat Key

2018 code for revising site development plan submissions

To: Longboat Key Town Attorney Maggie Mooney
Quick question regarding the town code that permits an applicant to request a continuance. When we spoke you cited 158.029 (D), from the current code, which I see does allow revisions before the public hearing before the final decision-making or recommending public hearing. The only reference I could find in the 2018 code was section 158.099 (D), which allows an applicant revisions prior to the public hearing before the planning & zoning board. If we are using the 2018 code, is the applicant allowed to make revisions at this point? Perhaps I’m looking in the wrong place.
Debra Williams
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Request for continuance for St. Regis parking garage

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
The Town has received a continuance request from Unicorp this morning but that request still needs to be properly considered by the Town Commission during the public hearing. The request is not automatically granted; it has to be acted upon and there may be relevant discussion on the timing of the continued hearing(s) that the public is interested in. I would not recommend discouraging the public from attending tomorrow’s hearing.
Please give me a call if you have any further questions.
Maggie D. Mooney
Town Attorney
Town of Longboat Key

St. Regis Hearing

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Should we make some public announcement before the nearing in case people who might attend need to revise plans?
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

St. Regis Hearing

To: Longboat Key Commission
The request for continuance was received this morning and is attached for your information. Staff has a call with the applicant at 11 a.m. to discuss. We will reach out to update you of any further developments prior to tomorrow’s meeting.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

St. Regis parking garage

To: Longboat Key Commission
Well, now they are back again. How many departures have been granted up to now? They have gotten everything they asked for, but it is never enough. The Landscape Plan if there even was one, has been shredded.
Remember, the premise for granting the large event rooms was that guests would come by bus, thereby obviating the traffic problem of hundreds more cars on the road. Where’s the proof of need? Wasn’t traffic bad enough this past Winter? As a retired travel industry profes-

See Letters, page 11

Growing in Jesus’ Name



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Mote releases thousands of fish to replenish stocks

On June 22 Mote Marine Laboratory scientists released approximately 1,800 of the 20,000 red drum into Phillippi Creek on Sarasota Bay as part of an ongoing partnership with Salt Strong designed to find the most effective methods to replenish and enhance red drum populations. The rest of the fish will be released later this month.

With support from Salt Strong*, Mote was able to produce and release its largest number of red drum yet with fish that tip the scales at 6-10” in length to boost survival of the stocked fish, enable monitoring their post-release behavior, and help promote sustainable fisheries.

The species is one of Florida’s most popular sport fish and plays an important role in drawing recreational anglers to the state. According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida is the top-ranked state in economic output from recreational fishing, which draws \$13.8 billion to the economy annually. Saltwater fishing alone generates 67 percent — \$9.2 billion — of that income.

Prior to the release in Southwest Florida, the red drum were spawned and reared at Mote’s Aquaculture Research Park (MAP) – a 200-acre facility where a team of scientists focus on conservation and cultivation of marine finfish, bivalves, crustaceans, and aquatic plants in land-based recirculating systems.

Aquaculture involves breeding, raising, and harvesting aquatic organisms in water. These aquatic organisms—including finfish, bivalve shellfish, shrimp, and other invertebrates, and aquatic plants are farmed for the ornamental aquarium trade, food, conservation, and other uses. “Responsible aquaculture practices can sustainably provide food security and prepare us to meet future protein demands without increasing the pressure on wild-capture fishery resources,” said Mote’s Directorate of Fisheries & Aquaculture, Dr. Nicole Rhody. “There are nearly 8 billion people in the world and humans



across the globe rely on the ocean as a main source of food. The demand for seafood is only increasing. Some wild fish populations are feeling the pressure from that demand increase with about 60% of the world’s fish stocks listed as fully fished, meaning they are right at the limit of sustainability. Here at Mote, we are leading the development of innovative technologies to farm seafood, using aquaculture as one tool to help take pressure off wild-capture fishery resources.”

By utilizing a method called stock enhancement, researchers are able to farm fish species, such as red drum, in a hatchery and release them in areas where their population has

declined. Prior to release, some of these red drum were fitted with PIT (passive integrated transponder) tags, which allow Mote scientists to monitor these fish to learn from their efforts. By placing an antenna along the shore, each PIT tag is detected when a fish swims by, allowing Mote scientists to monitor each fish’s movement and survival, and collect data critical to the effectiveness of Mote’s stock enhancement methods.

Mote’s Fisheries Ecology & Enhancement Program Manager, Dr. Ryan Schloesser, explains the importance of PIT-tagging the fish, and what can be learned from the data that is collected from these tags, “We may only ever see a very small percent of released fish again if relying on physical recaptures alone. We know we regularly get data from 80% of the PIT tagged snook we release, and we can’t wait to see how much PIT tags can show us about red drum stock enhancement” said Schloesser.

Rhody and her team oversaw the process of rearing and caring for these red drum at MAP.

Red drum, along with snook, are the main test species for restocking efforts statewide. Mote has promoted responsible fisheries enhancement of snook in partnership with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for more than 25 years.

Mote’s partnership with Salt Strong makes a difference in helping conservation aquaculture efforts. Choosing sustainably caught or farmed fish helps ensure that future generations can both enjoy and rely on an abundant healthy ocean.

“Ever since we participated in a snook release with Mote a few years ago, we knew that we had to recreate a release with red drum,” said Joe Simonds, Salt Strong Co-Founder. “The more we talked with Mote about the lack of reliable data on past red drum releases, our entire team and members became incredibly excited that we’d be one of the first ever to PIT tag this many red drum. So not only will this large release give Southwest Florida a much-needed increase in red drum, but the data collected will positively impact all future red drum releases.”

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4960 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#202	1,312	\$699,000	2	2	0	62	\$665,000
847 SPANISH DR S	1,399	\$975,000	2	2	0	15	\$950,000
4725 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#220	1,071	\$1,100,000	2	2	0	0	\$1,010,000
7175 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#22	1,170	\$1,250,000	2	2	0	3	\$1,200,000
3532 FAIR OAKS LN	3,524	\$2,895,000	4	4	1	67	\$2,700,000
4651 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#102	4,000	\$4,490,000	4	4	1	61	\$4,490,000
572 HALYARD LN	4,257	\$4,800,000	4	5	1	236	\$4,085,000
217 BIRD KEY DR	2,489	\$1,999,999	3	2	2	67	\$1,765,000



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



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



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

OnPatrol

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

June 16

Suspicious vehicle

1:45 a.m.
Officer Butler while on patrol when he observed a vehicle parked in a bank parking lot after business hours. The vehicle was not reported stolen and was unoccupied. Officer Butler made contact with the owner who states he is working late. Case clear.

Traffic citation

11:03 a.m.
Officer Ferrigine responded to Bay Isles Road for a suspended driver's license. Officer Ferrigine located the vehicle and made a traffic stop. He spoke with the driver and advised her for the reason for the stop. The woman advised she knew her driver's license was suspended from a prior citation in the past and she had failed to take the driver's course. The driver was issued another notice to appear for driving while her license is suspended, the woman was advised the next time she is pulled over she will be taken to jail. The driver was advised to park her vehicle at her place of employment and find a ride home after work. Case clear.

Suspicious incident

4:12 p.m.
Officer Smith responded to the 4100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of a subject laying on the ground possibly needing assistance. Upon arrival, Officer Smith made contact with the landscaper in the area indicating a woman on the ground attempting to put her shoes on. He said she got her shoes on and left the area in a vehicle. Case clear.

June 17

Boat assistance

3:15 p.m.
Officer Connors while on marine patrol in the eastern area of Longboat Pass Bridge, observed a 'Fun Mat Float' occupied by four occupants drifting under the bridge. Officer Connors pulled alongside the occupants who advised that they had drifted from the beach and requested assistance. Officer Connors was able to get the four occupants on the police boat and safety transfer them to their friend's boat who had also come to assist. No further police services were needed. Case clear.

Boating

5:30 p.m.
Officer Connors while on marine patrol in New Pass, observed a sailing boat off of North Lido Beach broad side to the breaking waves with the waves crashing over the sides. Officer Connors was flagged down by the captain who advised that he was struggling to get his sailboat back on course, due to taking a wave over his small engine resulting in his engine becoming disabled. Officer Connors stood by until the captain and mate had control of the vessel via sails and assisted them into New Pass. Due to the captain not having any means of communication, Officer Connors radioed the New Pass Bridge tender to assist with an opening. The sailboat was able to transit through the bridge and New Pass with no further assistance. Case clear.



June 19

Noise

5:12 p.m.
Officer Montfort responded to the 300 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of construction noise after hours. Officer Montfort arrived on scene and was directed by security to the area where he observed roofers actively working on the dwelling. Officer Montfort made contact with the crew supervisor who was advised that construction could only take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Officer Montfort also informed the crew supervisor that no work could be done on federal holidays. A tracs ordinance warning was issued to the crew supervisor who was working for a roofing company. Case clear.

June 20

Found property

10:21 a.m.
Officer Zunz met a public works employee at the front desk of the Police Department who gave him a found fanny pack that had been turned in at Public Works. Someone was swimming at the beach and found a bag adrift in the Gulf at Greer Island. The pack appears to be made of a hemp type product and in fact has a brand label reading 'Hemp Accessories' and contains a pack of cigarettes, a lighter, a vaping apparatus and an older iPhone that will not power on. There was no owner identification present. The contents and the pack were placed in property evidence room to dry. Case clear.

Citizen assist

12:12 p.m.
Officer Ramsaier responded to the 4400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for walk in individuals who wanted to request the police to cut locks on their bicycles. The complainants stated that a couple of weeks ago he allowed his nephews to use their bicycles for the day. The complainant said that the bikes were returned and locked near their place of residence. The complainant said that they keys for the locks have been misplaced. Officers advised him to go to a local hardware store and purchase a cutting instrument to remove the locks. Case clear.

June 22

Alcohol

Officer Miklos responded to the 2800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a suspicious person that had alcohol on the beach reported by a caller who did not wish to meet. Sarasota Sheriff's Office Dispatch advised the caller said the male was approximately 30 years old with blond hair and an orange towel. Additionally, the caller advised the man was potentially the same man involved in another case on June 20. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos came into contact ith the man who had a cooler with one unopened alcoholic beverage in it. The man was cooperative and advised he was unaware that alcohol was not allowed on the beach. The man provided his information without incident and was searched through the Sheriff's Officer for any wants and warrants with negative results. The man advised he was staying at a residence at the 2800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive and he said he would take the cooler and alcoholic beverage and leave the beach. Case clear.

Citizen dispute

10:28 p.m.
Officer Martinson responded to Linley Street for a report of a suspicious vehicle. Upon arrival, there was no vehicle parked in the complainant's driveway. Officer Martinson called the complainant and the officer told her that when he arrived the vehicle was no longer in her driveway. The woman told the officer that she believes that the vehicle probably belonged to either her neighbors that live across the street or one of their friends. The woman stated that over the past couple of years she has had problems with her neighbors continuously parking their vehicles or boat in her driveway when she is out of town. The woman said she has called tow companies to remove the vehicles but they refuse to tow the vehicles without being paid first. The woman said that since neither the police department nor tow companies will remove the vehicles off her property as she does not know what else to do. Officer Martinson advised the woman that if she could provide any proof such as videos or pictures from her home, security cameras showing her neighbors parking their vehicles on her property, along with any witness statements see could get from other neighbors that the police could probably trespass them. The woman stated she would work on getting pictures and statements from her other neighbors but also stated she wanted to speak with a supervisor tomorrow morning about other things that could be done. Officer Martinson then spoke with the neighbors at Linley Street who stated they did not know who had parked in the driveway that evening. The complainant sent them a text message earlier telling them she was going to tow the vehicle parked in her driveway. The neighbor said they replied back to her and said they didn't know who's vehicle it was and that she could tow it. The neighbor said that he has three parking spaces on his property and has no need to park in the complainant's driveway. The neighbor stated its other people or employees from Mar Vista and the Shore that are parking in her driveway and not him. Officer Martinson advised the neighbor to make sure to stay off the complainant's property altogether to prevent any further issues. Case clear.

LBK

Liquors



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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 7

sional I can attest to the fact the guests will come by bus.

Now that they have the event rooms, suddenly they just have got to have a parking garage to house the additional cars. To protect their guests from waiting three more minutes for their cars. Oh the humanity!

What was built is a desertscape, denuded of everything green that would soften and beautify the project. For 68 years Longboat has adhered to stringent planning to protect the island from becoming just another just another overbuilt concrete island.

If you grant the continuance, we will just have to go through this again in the Fall. And if you end up granting the one floor garage, they will be back a year or two later asking for another floor or two. Or more rooms! And other developers will exploit this precedent to build more density than we want. This is a residential island, after all.

Look at downtown Sarasota. Their planners kept talking for 20 years about not wanting to become another Ft. Lauderdale, but they allowed it anyway.

Please kill this dead, and demand a new landscape plan for whatever space is left, with dimensions and plants specked so you can evaluate it.

If they give you one, please have it evaluated by a garden professional here.

Thank you for your service, this is not an easy job.

Shannon Gault
Longboat Key

Golf Carts

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

A few years ago, my wife and I were almost struck by a golf cart as we were walking on the sidewalk by Whitney shops. The cart came at full speed around the curve on the sidewalk adjacent to the south side of the Whitney parking lot. To avoid hitting us, the cart had to make a hard turn, across the grass median, into the parking lot. When we arrived home, I wrote to our police department to obtain the rules for golf carts on LBK. Captain Bourke was very responsive. I attached his e-mail below.

Since this incident, our encounters with golf carts driving on our sidewalks have become more frequent. Here are just two:

A few months ago, an orange golf cart (no tags or other identification), passed us four times on the sidewalk during our walk to Centre Shops. It travelled north and south, apparently on a joy ride, carrying different people each time. On one of their passes, we informed them that it was illegal to drive on the sidewalk (per Captain Bourke's response below). In a very unpleasant tone, they replied that I was misinformed.

Our most recent encounter was Saturday, June 17, 2023. We first noticed the vehicle heading south on the Longboat Pass Bridge as we were walking home from Anna Maria Island. About 10 minutes later, the same golf cart was driving at a fast clip, on our sidewalk, heading north. We encountered them as they tried to pass us in front of the Whitney condos. I notified

the operator that it was illegal to drive a golf cart on LBK sidewalks. The driver said he was ordered off the road by one of our police officers, and he was told to proceed back to AMI, but he had to take the sidewalk along the 45 MPH stretch of GMD. Therein lies the rub; once a golf cart crosses over into the 45 MPH section of GMD, there is no legal way for it to return to its "base".

Our officer had no choice, or recourse. Either option to send the golf cart back, GMD or sidewalk, was illegal.

Recommended Solution:

Empower our Police Force by enacting stiff regulations that carry the concomitant consequences for violations.

1. Warnings issued to violators are not a sufficient deterrent. In our opinion, most violators are vacationers from AMI, so warnings are inconsequential. Citations should be issued for every incident. In addition to the standard citations for violating current LBK laws (which should be the maximum \$\$ fine we can issue), the vehicle should be moved to a safe area, and the operator (if privately owned), or the rental company, should be responsible for arranging a tow (back to the vehicle's base) at their expense. This will avoid compounding the infraction by allowing the operator to return via our sidewalks or 45 MPH zones. The operator, along with any passengers, should be responsible for arranging alternate transportation back to their origin, again at their expense.
2. Longboat Key government leadership should encourage AMI government leadership to require all golf cart rental companies on AMI to add language to their contracts delineating Longboat Key golf cart regulations (per Captain Bourke). Since Longboat Key law enforcement probably can't issue a citation to an AMI rental company, the inconvenience and cost of towing the vehicle to its origin, along with the cost of transportation of the passengers back to AMI, should be sufficient deterrent. (In our opinion, since we want to affect the behavior of the operators of these vehicles, the contract should hold the renter liable for all citation, towing, and transportation costs.)
3. Require all LBK based golf carts have clearly delineated identification, license plates or otherwise, allowing LBK residents to easily report violations to law enforcement.
4. Add a section on "Golf Cart Rules" to the LBK Township web site. Highlight this policy, along with the consequences of violating our laws, in LBK News, The Observer, The Sun, and The Islander.

We have an outstanding police department. They exceed expectations at every level. If empowered by LBK leadership, they can easily eradicate the scofflaws who are currently operating these golf carts with impunity. We are reasonably confident that, if enforced, the above citations will result in a significant drop in golf cart infractions after just a few applications.

I will gladly volunteer my time if there is any assistance you may need in executing a solution.

We have been living on LBK, full time, since 2015. This is the first time my wife and I felt

See Letters, page 12



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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 11

it necessary to raise an issue to the attention of our mayor and commissioners. In other words, we could not be more delighted with our decision to retire to LBK.

Thanks for all your efforts on our behalf!
Vince Cavell
Longboat Key

Golf Carts

To: Vince Cavell
This is in response to the email you submitted requesting information about where golf carts are allowed to drive on Longboat Key.
A licensed driver, driving a street legal golf cart with vehicle tags and registration can operate on any roadway with a speed limit of 35 mph or less, they can cross a roadway with a higher speed limit. Other than service golf carts, such as property maintenance and such, golf carts are not allowed to drive on the public sidewalks. We do enforce violations when we encounter them. If you see a violation and want to report it please call the non-emergency number (941) 316-1201 and dispatch will send an officer. I hope I have answered your questions, if I can be of further assistance please let me know.
Captain Robert Bourque
Longboat Key Police Department
Town of Longboat Key

2018 code for revising site development plan submissions

To: Longboat Key Town Attorney Maggie Mooney
Quick question regarding the town code that permits an applicant to request a continuance. When we spoke you cited 158.029 (D), from the current code, which I see does allow revisions before the public hearing before the final decision-making or recommending public hearing. The only reference I could find in the 2018 code was section 158.099 (D), which allows an applicant revisions prior to the public hearing before the planning & zoning board. If we are using the 2018 code, is the applicant allowed to make revisions at this point? Perhaps I'm looking in the wrong place.
Debra Williams
Commissioner
Longboat Key

2018 code for revising site development plan submissions

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra Williams
I believe you are looking in the correct place. Sec. 158.099 from the 2018 Code ultimately became Sec. 158.029 of the current Code. Yes, there is a variation in the 2 versions of subsection (D), and the 2018 version is written more narrowly.
However, the Town Commission could (and has in the past under the 2018 Code) allowed applicants to amend their application during the pendency of the QJ hearing process. It happened in 2018 and 2021 with the St. Regis applications (for example, stipulations and changes to the size of the ballroom (2018), authorization for parking lifts (2021), authorizations to return tourism units to the pool (2021)). Amendments to the pending site plans were proffered by the applicant in those instances (in the midst of the pending quasi-judicial hearings) to address community/Commissioner concerns.
Accordingly, I am of the opinion that the Town Commission has been and remains authorized under the Town Code (2018 and current code) to allow site plan applicants to amend their submitted plans (i.e., to address comments and concerns raised by the public, PZB and Town Commission) during the public hearing processes. It is the nature and significance of the revision(s) to an application that governs the process when an amendment is received, and how much additional Staff review and hearing process is needed to properly consider an amendment.
Please let me know if you would like to talk on the phone to discuss this opinion further.
Maggie D. Mooney
Town Attorney
Town of Longboat Key

St. Regis Parking Garage

To: Longboat Key Town Commission
Since I will not be able to be at the meeting tomorrow, June 20th, to voice my opposition again to the proposed St. Regis parking garage, I am writing you to reinforce my stance on the issue and ask you to stand by your unanimous decision to turn down Unicorn's request for a parking garage along Gulf of Mexico Drive. I do not think they have made a good enough case on why it is needed and we need to protect the beauty of our island! I do not think they should be given more time to revise their plan and build a case for any parking garage. They need to finish the St. Regis development and get it open and prove that it will be successful

and benefit our community!
There are other ways to handle the need to get more people on the property besides adding another concrete building. Tell them to think out of the box!
Thank you for listening and being such great stewards of our island!
Julie Klick
1450 Harbor Sound Drive
Longboat Key, FL 34228

St. Regis Parking Garage

To: Longboat Key Commission
I have been a resident on Longboat Key for over 23 years and I live on Harbor Sound Drive in the Bay Isles Harbor Section, directly across the street from the St. Regis development. I am active in the community and sell real estate on the island and volunteer for Mote Marine. I love this beautiful island and the wonderful people who live here and feel a huge responsibility to protect this piece of paradise and preserve the environment.
Many years ago, I did attend a few meetings about the St. Regis development, and I supported the project in principle with the limited information I was given. We needed to do something with the land besides look at the dilapidated Colony Tennis Resort and I thought the St. Regis would be a positive step for our island.
Now that the project is under construction, I am learning about many of the decisions made by the Town of Longboat Key that I think are affecting our island negatively and I do not support them. The development is more massive in reality than I think any of us expected from the design on paper. It may meet our "town codes and zoning criteria" by the ability of the developer to manipulate calculations to meet the requirements and push the limits to get it approved, but it is does not meet the aesthetic and environmental guidelines for preserving green space and the beauty of our island.

Some examples include the development exceeding normal lot coverage criteria by the use of water features which are exempt from the coverage criteria; allowing the removal of 1,218 trees from the property and only replacing 218 of them, instead giving the developer the option to donate to a tree fund; accepting a landscaping plan that uses artificial turf and does not adequately buffer the development from Gulf of Mexico Drive and neighboring communities; and approving a plan that does not have enough parking for the number of residents and guests.
Now the developer is coming back to the Town of LBK admitting that they made a mistake in their calculations about their parking requirements after years of planning and negotiating with the Town. They say the use of mechanical lifts in the approved hotel parking garage will take too much time to valet cars and not give a five-star experience to their guests. Their solution is to propose a new three level (not two level) parking garage within 57 ft. of Gulf of Mexico Drive that will only provide 52 additional parking spaces and will increase building coverage to the property by 15,000 SF. Their plan to camouflage the structure from GMD and the Bay Isles Harbor Section involves using artificial plants in planters on the garage which will not be in keeping with the natural beauty of LBK an only contribute to the plastic pollution.
I urge you not to approve this new parking garage and stay with the original plans approved for the development. Let the developers come up with alternative solutions to bring less cars and traffic to our island. Thank you for your consideration!
Julie Klick
Longboat Key

St. Regis Parking Garage

To: Longboat Key Commission
Will you please pardon this late message which, I believe, you should consider at tomorrow's Special Meeting. I'm writing now because I just learned that today St. Regis may have expressed interest in amending its January 5, 2023 application for Ordinance 2023-7.
At the conclusion of the June 5 public hearing, the Commissioners unanimously voted to deny St. Regis' proposed Ordinance 2023-7 to authorize construction of a 27-foot tall, 62,000 square feet, 3-story parking garage within 20 yards of Gulf of Mexico Drive. At a special meeting on June 20, the Commissioners will vote on the proposed Denial Order specifically recording their findings of fact and conclusions of law. There have been no objections to that Denial Order.
Today, I learned that St. Regis has requested a continuance of the June 20 special meeting. There is no reason to continue that meeting. Moreover, there are very good reasons to proceed on the vote for entry of the Denial Order tomorrow.
Since its inception, this project has been the subject of various applications for complex amendments and departures such as those you considered on June 5. If passed, this Denial Order will become a final order which will guide your considerations of future St. Regis applications but also will be a valuable future reference for consideration of other applications to develop sites in our community.
A continuance of the Special Meeting to consider the Denial Order is unnecessary. At no time prior to the April 27 planning and zoning board public hearing, did St. Regis propose any amendments or other changes to its proposed free-standing garage. Nor did St. Regis propose amendments or changes to the garage during the June 5 public hearing. Today, two weeks after the denial of its proposal, St. Regis first suggested a change in the garage design. That's not a sufficient reason to delay your vote tomorrow on the Denial Order. Moreover, it's too late.

These Proceedings have been governed by the 2018 Town Code. That Code provides, in pertinent part:
2018 Code
158.099 Submission Procedure
(D) The applicant may elect to revise the site plan submission at any time in the review process prior to the public hearing before the planning and zoning board. ...” emphasis added
If St. Regis wished to revise the garage plan they had to submit those revisions prior to the April 27 planning and zoning public hearing. They didn't.
The June 5 public hearing on proposed ordinance 2023-7 has concluded. The substantial competent evidence has been considered. You have expressed the findings and conclusions which supported your votes. Those are recorded in the Denial Order.
Prior to and during the last public hearing, more than 75 members of the community expressed their opposition to construction of the proposed garage within 20 yards of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Since then, members of the community have praised your decision. None have expressed any concerns. Any last-minute interest St. Regis may now have in changing the

See Letters, page 14

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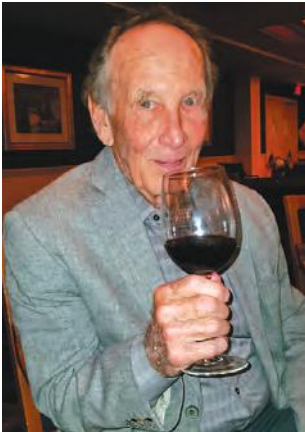


Celebrity Wines

In 1975, after directing the first two films of the Godfather series, Francis Ford Coppola purchased the Niebaum Estate vineyard from the Napa Valley pioneer, Inglenook.

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

While browsing racks of bottles in a wine shop, one cannot help but notice celebrity names on labels. From the old days, labels feature Fred MacMurray (Remember the Night, 1940,), Fess Parker (Davy Crockett), and Francis Ford Coppola (legendary filmmaker) and names of current celebs, singer Dave Matthews, rapper Snoop Dogg and interior designer Martha Stewart, Brad Pitt and Angela Jolie, English futbol star David Beckham and wife Posh Spice, and Donald Trump, to name a few. French actor Gérard Depardieu and Chinese basketball player Yao Ming head a long list of international celebrities who own and lend their names to vineyards and wine brands. Name recognition has a crucial role in the crowded retail point-of-sale space.



Dogg’s face on the 2019 19 Crimes Snoop Cali Red (\$12) label catches the eye of a younger group of wine buyers who have limited experience with wine varietals, vineyards, and brands. Alongside the Treasury Wine Estates’ 19 Crimes labels with faces of British criminals deported to Australia for one or more of 19 crimes, the Cali Red exports the Australian rogue brand concept to the USA, sourcing Petit Sirah and Zinfandel grapes that thrive in the arid expanses of vineyards in the Lodi region of California and recalling Dogg’s rap hit Dodi Lodi. While James Laube’s 2006 Wine Spectator article, “Celebrity Wines Seldom are Stars” reminded us about celebrity wine duds (Always Elvis and Frank Sinatra’s California Cabernet), the Treasury Wine Group has cleverly positioned the Snoop Cali Red in a retail niche that favors a big red wine with a touch of sweetness in its blackberry and purple plum first tastes, high alcohol, and low acidity on the finish.

Name recognition aside, celebrities have a variety of roles in the wine industry. MacMurray, Fess Parker, and Coppola bought large tracts of land in California Wine Country. MacMurray purchased the Porter Ranch in 1941 and renamed it MacMurray Ranch. His daughter, Kate, developed the family vineyard and sold the 1,700 acre tract in what is now called the Russian River Valley to the Gallo empire in 1996. She continues to maintain the vineyards and the brand (Gallo often leaves intact the vineyards they acquire). MacMurray Pinot Noir bridges the mass and fine wine markets.

Fess Parker purchased the 714 acre Foxen Canyon Ranch, located in Santa Barbara Wine Country in California, in 1988. His family continues to own and operate the sustainability-certified vineyards, producing highly rated Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Rhone Syrah blends with grapes sourced from the Santa Ynez Valley and the cooler Sta. Rita Hills areas.

In 1975, after directing the first two films of the Godfather series, Francis Ford Coppola purchased the Niebaum Estate vineyard from the Napa Valley pioneer, Inglenook. He and his family continued to operate Coppola Winery until sold to Delicato Family Wines in 2021. His daughter Sofia, who has followed in her father’s filmmaker successes (Lost in Translation), expanded Coppola Winery mass-market products when she introduced a sparkling mini wine-in-a-can.

The old-time celebrities with wind brands started their vineyards thanks to large bundles of spare cash and yearning for a rural escape for their families. They succeeded brilliantly.

Many of the celebrity wines on shelves today come about as a collaboration of a celebrity and a winemaker. Ideally the celebrity has enjoyed the winemaker’s wines and hopes to improve the odds of success of the brand with his or her endorsement. Far from ideal, a winemaker could produce forgettable wines and realize that a celebrity endorsement will improve the chances of success of a wine that cannot stand on its own. How do we tell the difference?

Wine rating scores, though highly imperfect in ranking wines, provide evidence of wine quality. It seems unlikely that a celebrity would tout a wine and favor its winemaker if it has a low rank among wine critics. In fact, our review of expert ratings of celebrity wines ranks them as comparable to other wines in the mass-market and premier wine categories. A few actually rank close to the top of their price ranges: the 2020 B.R. Cohn Cabernet Sauvignon Silver Label (\$20), a 1984 collaboration of Bruce Cohn, a former manager of the Doobie Brothers, and the now renowned Helen Turley, has achieved high ratings in its price range. Cohn grows olive trees and wine grapes in California’s Sonoma County. A celebrity name on the label may increase the price of a wine relative to its competitors, but in general does not tempt a wine buyer to go for markedly inferior wine.

We do see another class of celebrity with a stake in the wine business and an impact on



buyers: famous wine critics who rate wines. Robert Parker owns the vineyard Beaux Frères Vineyards & Winery and has subscription service that reviews and rates wines. James Suckling has an army of wine reviewers who rate wines and provide the ratings as another subscription service, as does British author Jancis Robinson. These wine celebrities benefit from overall inflation of wine ratings. For this reason, we recommend that wine buyers compare ratings by different reviewers. Caveat emptor. We depend on expert ratings of wine to evaluate wines, but we have to take them with a grain of salt.

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

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

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 12

garage design does not warrant a delay in your vote on the Denial Order tomorrow.
John Wilson
Longboat Key

St. Regis Parking Garage

To: Longboat KeyCommission
I wanted to respond to Mr. Simonian’s timely email, and further inquire regarding the St. Regis parking issue:
As I stated in my presentation at the recent Town Hall meeting, I do not believe it was a “mistake” for St. Regis to reallocate the 62 parking spaces to the condos. I’m sure they wanted all along for each condo unit to have 3 (rather than 2) parking spaces each, and they unilaterally reallocated and sold these spaces to the buyers. Of course, a condo unit with 3 spaces is more valuable than one with only 2, and this was certainly reflected in the price they charged the buyers. as Mr. Simonian so eloquently stated.
My question for the Town is: Are there no consequences for this? Such as requiring them to do whatever is necessary, structurally and otherwise, to “reallocate” these spaces back to their originally authorized use (and likely compensating the condo buyers)? And if not, why not? It seems to me there may be a cause of action here, as they violated the original site plan, if nothing else than to reclaim the profits they made at the expense of the Town and its taxpayers (No I’m not a lawyer. But I am a taxpayer!).
Jim Whitman
Longboat Key

St. Regis’ New Proposal

To: Longboat Key Commission
Again thank you for your unanimous support in rejecting the St. Regis parking garage as originally proposed. I see now they are coming back for another bite of the apple. As I mentioned in my first letter to you, I used to be on your side of the Dais for a number of years in a small town outside of Chicago reviewing many of these same issues so I will try and make this short and sweet.
Facts:
• The whole reason for this garage issue was a mistake on St. Regis’ part in allocating 62 parking spots to the condo side of the development vs. the hotel side of the development.
• Nothing was done at the time to address or rectify their mistake.
• A solution of a lift system was proposed and supported by St. Regis and approved by Longboat Key .
• The proposed and supported lift system that St. Regis requested to address their mistake in the first place now comes with lost valet time because they do not want to make the investment in additional valet’s/technology to rectify the 2-3 minutes of additional valet time required to access a vehicle
• One of the Commissioners in the last meeting mentioned a possible compromise and putting 1 or 2 stories of the garage underground. An option that St. Regis did not look into for their original garage proposal and I am guessing will not be included in this new proposal. Their response to this possible compromise was lame at best. Citing possible sub-terranean issues and mechanical costs associated with underground garages.
• When asked how much St. Regis sold those 62 additional parking spots for on the condo side no figure was provided.
• When the landscape architects were asked how long would it take for the proposed landscape plan to cover the proposed parking garage you would have thought they were running for political office with their evasive answer.
My Two Cents:

St. Regis’ mistake should not become our problem. There are three easy fixes to this problem. None of which St. Regis wants to embrace due to costs or aesthetic impact to their development. Instead they want the residents of Longboat Key to suffer the burden of their mistake for years to come and set a precedent for future developments. Here are the solutions for St. Regis without burdening the current and future of Longboat Key.
1) Put as many stories as you propose you need underground
2) Add additional valets and technology to your valet process to eliminate the 2-3 minutes of additional valet time needed for the lift system
3) Put the parking garage on the gulf side of your development
St. Regis can use the money they benefited from the sale of the 62 additional condo spots their mistake generated to subsidize any of the above options. I am guessing that mistake made them millions of dollars of additional parking spot revenue on the condo side.
Thank you for taking your precious time to read my thoughts and recommendations. More importantly, thank you for your service that goes so often without any gratitude or acknowledgement.
Tom Simonian
Longboat Key

Abysmal state of EV charging stations

To: Sarasota City Commission
My wife and I recently bought two new electric vehicles and were shocked at the state of the charging stations at your Palm Ave. and State St. garages! Almost NONE of them work.
We spent 20 minutes at the Palm Ave. stations moving from plug to plug. They were ALL broken at the clip that holds the charging plug into the car. If that clip is not there, cars won’t charge.
Reviews on the stations report that they have been broken for over a year!
Come on, we can do better than this! I’m glad we did not really need a charge to get home, because we would have been out of luck.
Didn’t the infrastructure bill contain money for EV stations? Can’t you hold ChargePoint responsible for this? If so, I would highly recommend asking them to either repair or remove the chargers so working, maintained ones can be installed.
We thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. We need to get on this right away, as EV sales are exploding nationwide. I’ve attached a chart for you.
Dave and Melissa Berry
Sarasota

Abysmal state of EV charging stations

To: Sarasota City Parking General Manager Broxton Harvey
Thanks. Please reach out to the complainant to find out what happened.
Marlon Brown
City Manager, City of Sarasota

Abysmal state of EV charging stations

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown
See attached. Based on my data, I only see one that is down. But I will have my staff to reboot and reach out to ChargePoint as well. In addition, the second attachment shows how much energy we are utilizing as well with the Charging stations throughout the city.
Broxton Harvey
Parking General Manager, City of Sarasota

Ringling Bridge Lights
To: Sarasota City Commission
The National Multiple Sclerosis Society Mid Florida Chapter is requesting the Ringling Bridge lights be lit for March 10-17, 2024. MS effects an estimated 1,397 in Sarasota County, and close to 1MM nationally. Our colors are black and orange, with orange the predominant color.
I personally live in Venice (Joe Neunder’s district) and a MS patient for over 23 years. One of my goals is to expand knowledge of MS and raise awareness to this devastating disease. After many years advocating in Washington DC, I very rarely meet someone who doesn’t know or has not been impacted by multiple sclerosis.
We have started to illuminate as many buildings and bridges in March (our state capital was lit last March) throughout the country. Which brings me to this request. Next March,I would like to request the Ringling bridge lights illuminated in orange. Thank you for your time and consideration.
Brian Rippet
National Multiple Sclerosis Society Mid Florida Trustee
Advocacy Lead for Florida Cyclist

Longboat Key News

Sarasota City News

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