



# Longboat Key News

May 5, 2023

Serving Longboat Key, St. Armands, Downtown Sarasota & Anna Maria Island

FREE

## InsideLook



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in our Nation  
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Life on beach  
for \$5.35 million  
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Which wine  
critic knows?  
...page 13



A bit late for  
a beach date  
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## Longboat to debate garage plan June 5

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

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

Decision Day is June 5 on whether the Longboat Key St. Regis development is granted a parking garage by Town leaders.

St. Regis developer Chuck Whittall was approved to build the condominiums, hotel, spa and amenities in October 2021 with the required parking accommodated in a hotel parking garage with 62 mechanical lifts implemented to meet the requirements.

Now, Whittall wants to build a two-story parking garage spanning from the entrance north along Gulf of Mexico Drive, adding more than 15,000 square feet of building coverage to the 17.2 acre property.

The Planning and Zoning Board heard the matter last month and recommended approval to the Commission with a 5-2 vote.

Whittall asked if the commission could hold its first hearing on the garage in May because he will be



on vacation for most of June. That request was unsuccessful.

The Town Manager explained that May 15th’s regular commission meeting is not an option because of legal noticing could not be met in time. He said that staff suggested a special meeting on May 18 or at a special meeting on June 20.

Commissioner BJ Bishop said she did not think it would go as long

as other commissioners believed because islanders have gone north she exclaimed.

“Quite honestly, I think it’s no accident that the applicant wanted to put this in when our residents are not here,” said Bishop.

Town Attorney Maggie Mooney discouraged Bishop’s line of commentary.

**See Garage, page 2**

## Favored Sculpture for Fruitville Roundabout moves ahead



Where The Sun Always Shines by Sujin Lim earned the City of Sarasota Public Art Committee’s recommendation at yesterday’s meeting. It will now go to city commissioners for approval.

The City of Sarasota is one step closer to choosing a final art piece for the US 41-Fruitville Road roundabout in the heart of downtown Sarasota.

The initial vote at last week’s City of Sarasota’s Public Art Committee meeting was tied: two votes for Dancing Clouds, by Shan Shen Sheng, and two for Where the Sun Always Shines, by Sujin Lim, with no votes for Snowbirds, by Mark Reigelman.

The second round resulted in a majority vote for Where the Sun Always Shines.

## Mote’s Science Education & Outreach Center at the Anna Maria Pier opens

*Mote Marine Laboratory celebrated the opening of its Marine Science Education & Outreach Center on May 5 at the Anna Maria City Pier, making this Mote’s 8th operational campus.*

Mote President & CEO Dr. Michael P. Crosby was joined by Evan Barniskis, Associate Vice President for Mote Aquarium, Dan Murphy, Mayor of the City of Anna Maria, and Kevin Van Ostenbridge, Chairman of the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners, at the ribbon-cutting event.

“This new location is a great educational and entertaining experience for the Anna Maria Island community,” said Barniskis. “Visitors



to the pier are going to learn about the marine environment and the research that Mote scientists conduct every day.”

The concept for the Center grew

from Mote’s deep roots in the Anna Maria community, which was a location beloved by Mote’s namesake, Mr. Bill Mote. The Center is one of many expansions to ful-

fill a key part of Mote’s mission: Translate and transfer marine science as a public service to increase

**See MOTE, page 2**



Garage, from page 1

“We don’t want to go into that, we don’t want to go into that,” Mooney repeated with emphasis. The attorney explained that town code says after development matters are forwarded from the Planning Board, they are due to be heard at the next regular meeting. She then explained that June 5 is the next regular meeting.

The Commission decided on June 5 for the first hearing and June 20 for final consideration.

Mayor Ken Schneier asked the Town Attorney if the applicant could present a video if he is busy traveling. The attorney said it is the applicant’s presentation and they can do whatever is within reasonable bounds.

As the issue trickles through the community, opponents have written numerous letters to town leaders urging them to deny the request. The arguments include the idea that the entire development was a carefully negotiated process in which the developer did not have vested rights beyond town code. But the development is predicated on numerous departures from code with many of the arguments speaking to the large amount of open space and the water features at the entrance of the property. The parking was to be accommodated and the idea of building a bunker-like structure shrouded in vines is an unacceptable precedent.

Other letter writers have suggested that the town simply should insist the project should be built as approved and the developer is coming back to the buffet one too many times.

Those who support the proposal argue that it is in the interest of the island to lean into what will make the project most successful and that there is adequate space on the site.

MOTE, from page 1

ocean literacy.

“We know that one of the best ways to increase ocean literacy in ways that positively impact human society and the marine environment is to bring people as close as possible to that environment,” said Dr. Crosby. “At our Marine Science Education & Outreach Center, visitors will overlook Tampa Bay, have an underwater view of everything happening below the pier and engage with Mote educators and volunteers to learn about this critical coastal habitat.”

The focal point of the Center will be an interactive touch pool exhibit where guests will literally reach into the water and get in touch with local marine life. A “Draw Alive” station will bring guests’ drawings to life, and a multi-station microscope will bring out their inner scientists. Guests will leave with a new appreciation of mangroves, seagrass beds and the living world directly beneath the City Pier.

Mote’s Marine Science Educations & Outreach Center at the Anna Maria City Pier is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day. [mote.org/annamaria](http://mote.org/annamaria)

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**LONGBOAT KEY • 455 LONGBOAT CLUB RD #603** **\$2,345,000**  
The Pierre - Gulf to bay, city views from this 3BR/2BA, 2,470 SF residence behind the gates of the Longboat Key Club. Balcony access from every room. 24-Hour concierge. Guest suites, fitness area, club room, tennis, pool, and more.



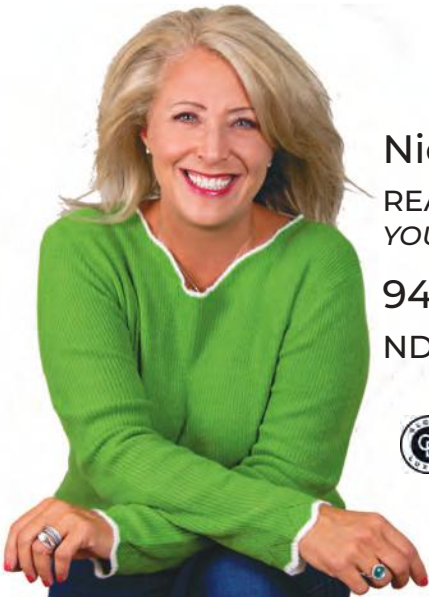
**LONGBOAT KEY • 6489 GULFSIDE DRIVE** **\$16,900,000**  
Fabulous Gulf front lot offering nearly 100 ft. of sandy beach, this gorgeous DSDG Architect designed home is a rare find. Boasting almost 6,000 AC/SF, this spectacular home is custom built with the finest details throughout. Architect designed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



**LIDO SHORES • 1212 CENTER PLACE** **\$5,699,000**  
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**SIESTA KEY • HIGEL AVE.** **\$16,995,000**  
Currently under construction and scheduled to be ready Fall 2023, this breathtaking 8,964 AC/SF residence is one of a kind, designed by DSDG. Gulf front property on one acre and offers a 2,000 SF roof terrace. Separate guest house and 8-car garage. No expense spared on this remarkable home.



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# EditorLetters



## Letters, from page 4 US 41 Gulfstream Roundabout, Night Work Reminder

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission  
Reminder  
Nighttime/Lane Closures:  
Anticipated schedule, weather permitting:  
Nighttime paving operations are scheduled Tuesday, 5/2/23 and continue nightly through Thursday, 5/4/23.  
Final grading and paving operations will occur throughout the project. Pavement marking crews will be restoring traffic pattern on new asphalt.  
Temporary closure of the east driveway on Ritz Carlton Drive beginning, Tuesday, 5/2/23 through Thursday, 5/4/23. Vehicles will not be permitted to enter/exit the east entrance at Ritz Carlton Drive during this time. Motorists may access via the south entrance at Sunset Drive.  
Motorists traveling through the project during the night operation should expect to encounter lane closures between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.  
Alice Ramos  
Community Outreach Manager  
Florida Department of Transportation

## Fee Structure

To: Longboat Key Commission  
Allen and Patti have followed up on the reconsideration of our fee structure in what is a new area for all of us (staff and property owners). Going forward, we are making revisions to our internal fees associated with reviews of Structural Reports for the statutorily required Milestone Inspections (applicable to Condominium Buildings that are 3-stories or more in height and are more than 25 years old by 12/231/24). The Town will be charging \$500 on a per application basis instead of on a per building basis. This is a new requirement for all jurisdictions and we expect to get more experience with administrative impacts over the next year. We are sensitive to the fact that this is a new obligation for condominiums too. Therefore, we’ve opted to err on the side of under-charging for staff’s time.  
This means that if a condominium complex has more than one applicable building, and the condominium applies for Milestone Inspection approval of multiple buildings at one time, they will be charged \$500 regardless of the number of buildings included in the application. If, through experience, we discover that multi-building applications are taking significantly more time to review/process/etc. then we will reevaluate this fee structure and seek to process an amendment to the Fee Resolution accordingly. The current Fee Resolution (Res. 2022-20) indicates that the fee for a Structural Building Recertification is \$500. The approach we’re taking now is consistent with this broadly described fee.  
Ms. Villari was the individual who brought the concern to our attention and Patti is reaching out to her to let her know. We will update our fee schedule and will push this change out through our media outlets as well. Many thanks to Allen and Patti for their review of this matter. Please let me know if you have any questions.  
Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

## Reviews of Structural Reports

To: Longboat Key Commission  
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Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

## City of Sarasota Rates

To: Longboat Key Commission  
At the last Board meeting, it was asked if there was a difference in the water rates between Manatee County (our primary water supplier) and the City of Sarasota (emergency supplier). Isaac has shared that the answer is yes.  
Manatee County currently charges \$1.95 per 1,000 gallons. That rate is scheduled to go up however even at a slightly higher rate it remains a very good value for our citizens.  
City of Sarasota’s interconnect charge is 1.25 x the base bulk water rate. The city’s bulk water rate is \$4.57 per 1,000 gallons. Obviously a much higher rate that we only use during highest demand periods that exceed what Manatee can provide.  
Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

## St. Regis parking

To: Longboat Key Commission  
I am opposed to the parking garage. Whittall knew this would be contested when he was making his initial proposals and did not want to incur any additional delays. He was aware that parking was an issue and just wanted to defer the discussion. If he gets it, how can you turn down the next developer who has a similar request? You can’t. Understand the concerns of the Aquarius Condo, but they could install electronics to limit access. Also, what happened to the Tiki Bar? Think this was another Unicorp ploy to get the initial approval from Longboat residents with many fond memories of the Colony welcoming them to the facilities. Guessing Whittall doesn’t want the Hoi Pollio impacting his affluent guests. Vote no.  
Brian Landry  
Longboat Key

## St. Regis parking

To: Longboat Key Commission  
I already sent an email, but thought of something else. Whittall hired consultants to help with defending his position. If they gave him incorrect estimates for parking, why are we so sure their estimates for traffic on Gulf of Mexico Drive were accurate?  
Brian Landry  
Longboat Key

## St. Regis Garage

To: Longboat Key Commission  
I am very concerned about the idea of having a three story garage very close to Gulf of Mexico Dr and so visible from the street and our neighborhood in Bay Isles.  
I am especially confident that it will be properly screened with vegetation to blend in with our natural island.  
Particularly since I’ve heard that plastic vegetation is going to be used to “hide” the building. This is an abomination on our beautifully landscaped and natural island Paradise.  
Plastic plants? Whatever happens this cannot be tolerated. Maybe they should talk to Selby and get advice on the proper plants to use. Powder coated trellises were used at Universal to hide their parking garage which is so large it can be seen from space.  
I am with the opinion they should just open see how the operations are working before building a permanent garage. And let’s see the landscaping plan in detail before approving.  
Shannon Gault  
Longboat Key

## St. Regis Garage Proposal

To: Longboat Key Commission  
I am a full-time resident of Longboat Key and the President of the Harbour Circle Homeowners Association.  
Our homeowners are united in opposition to the construction of the proposed St. Regis parking garage, recently recommended for approval by the Planning & Zoning Board on April 18th.  
The addition of a free-standing 3-level garage 20 yards from Gulf of Mexico Drive would detract from not only the island’s many attractive developments, but the St Regis itself. No similar structure exists on GMD, for good reason, and this one should not either. It would be a utilitarian structure and an eyesore to all residents and tourists driving by, and continuously visible by many of our residents.  
The developer promises to hide the structure. However, the ability to screen such a building with landscaping is challenging and particularly the upper level on which parked cars will be seen above the exterior wall. At the P&Z meeting, the screening was said to “eventually” hide the building as it will depend in part on the maturation of several canopy trees. We are thus assured of several years to a decade or more of incomplete screening. Other parking facilities like the parking garage on Palm Avenue near the Art Ovation hotel have installed a modern screening structure to hide the eyesore and light intrusion. Other parking facilities in the area have done the same. The developer clearly has the resources to provide an attractive screening on the Gulf of Mexixo Drive side of the garage.  
In the original approved and permitted project, other approaches to expand parking were carefully considered and approved. But now the Developer wants to add the garage to shave

See Letters, page 8

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# KeyOpinion

## Strange Days Indeed for our nation

*Biden would be 86 years old at the conclusion of a second term. From an actuarial perspective, his chances of surviving, much less thriving, in a second term are highly questionable.*

**GREGORY RUSOVICH**  
Guest Writer  
rusovich@lbknews.com

Current events remind us of the compelling Doors hit, “Strange Days.” It appears that Jim Morrison had frightening foresight.

*“Strange days have found us/Strange days have tracked us down/They’re going to destroy our casual joys/We shall go on playing or find a new town/Yeah!”*

And here we are, the subject of a new twist on a “song” that’s anything but a hit.

The “lyrics” include responsible good-credit home buyers paying more for their mortgages to subsidize loans to higher-risk borrowers; the federal government planning to force those who paid off their student loans or had to forego college to pay the debt of those who have not paid off their loans; men self-identifying as women and winning female sporting events; borders thrown open; and a mentally declining president in his 80s announcing that he is running for re-election. Strange days indeed.

The policies promoted by the Biden Administration and its progressive allies have several overlapping themes. Consider the mortgage and student loan policies. Both target middle-class citizens who play by the rules. To buy the home of your dreams, if you work hard to build a good credit score and save enough to make a 20% down payment, you now will pay the highest interest rate. Why? So that those with lower credit ratings can use your higher fee to secure a better mortgage rate. A similar theme applies to student debt. You and your parents decided to forego college because the tuition was simply unaffordable. Or you figured out a way to secure a loan to help pay for college, and then spent 10 years or more paying the loan back by squeezing your budget to meet your obligation. Under the proposed Biden student debt forgiveness plan, you as a taxpayer would be required to pay the debts of those who have not met their obligations. Both the mortgage and student loan policies would punish one set of Americans to unfairly benefit another.

The extremism of transgender equity advocates evokes yet another strange policy discussion. Riley Gaines, for example, is one of many female athletes who have had to compete against biological males — and lost due to unfair physical advantage. Gaines lost to biological male Lia Thomas at the 2022 NCAA Women’s Swimming Championship. Expect to witness more stories of biological males usurping biological females as the transgender movement take precedence over common sense and fair play. Meanwhile, there is growing momentum in progressive circles to support the use of risky puberty blockers, hormone therapies, and even surgical



RUSOVICH

procedures on minors who are found to have gender dysphoria. In Washington state, Senate Bill 5599 recently passed along party lines and now awaits Gov. Jay Inslee’s signature. The bill would give teenagers as young as 15 access to “gender-affirming” care such as puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and life-altering surgeries even without parental consent. In this strange progressive orbit, the state knows far better than parents.

Meanwhile, President Biden frequently appears confused and discombobulated. While he certainly nods his head in approval of proposed fringe gender and economic equity policies, his administration is dominated by radical progressive operatives. Biden would be 86 years old at the conclusion of a second term. From an actuarial perspective, his chances of surviving, much less thriving, in a second term are highly questionable. Leader of the Free World is an incredibly stressful, difficult job. Remember candidate Hillary Clinton’s ads concerning her ability to answer the phone at 3 a.m. and handle a global crisis? Would Joe Biden take such a call? Would his staff even wake him up for it?

And if Biden is unable to fulfill his term in office, is America satisfied to hand the country to Vice President Kamala Harris? Her designated roles to date have resulted in abysmal failures. Most notable is her appointment as the Administration’s Border Czar. Millions of illegal immigrants and hundreds of millions of deadly doses of fentanyl have poured across the border since Harris was put in charge. Her only strategy to deal with the crisis has been to focus on “the root causes” in Central America — long-term challenges with no chance of immediate impact.

Biden’s job approval rating is also in the tank. Gallup’s April poll shows it at 37%, the lowest of his presidency. And a Fox News Poll shows that 70% are “feeling dissatisfied about how things are going.” Clearly Biden-Harris are vulnerable.

Elections are about choices, and the Republicans have a golden opportunity in 2024. But they must choose a candidate who can win. When deciding how to vote in the Republican primaries, GOP voters must ask themselves one overarching question: which candidate has the best chance of winning? Nothing else really matters and failing that, there’s no doubt we are in for more strange days.

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Address	Sq. Ft.	List Price	Bed/Bath/Half Bath			Days On Market	Sale Price
4651 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#303	4,100	\$5,350,000	4	4	1	28	\$5,350,000
548 CUTTER LN	4,174	\$5,333,000	5	5	2	131	\$5,333,000
4651 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#302	4,100	\$4,350,000	4	4	1	29	\$4,350,000
6541 GULFSIDE RD	1,164	\$4,075,000	2	2	0	0	\$4,075,000
3342 GULF OF MEXICO DR	3,410	\$2,649,000	3	4	0	140	\$2,500,000
6547 GULFSIDE RD	776	\$2,375,000	2	1	0	0	\$2,375,000
6840 LONGBOAT DR S	2,665	\$2,395,000	4	3	1	274	\$2,225,000
455 LONGBOAT CLUB RD Unit#603	2,470	\$2,295,000	3	3	0	70	\$2,200,000
340 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#135	2,800	\$2,000,000	3	3	1	2	\$2,100,000
2425 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#11E	1,470	\$1,678,900	2	2	0	0	\$1,635,000
621 BUTTONWOOD DR	2,530	\$1,675,000	3	3	1	28	\$1,625,000
2110 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#518	2,616	\$1,395,000	3	2	1	7	\$1,375,000
3115 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#201	1,465	\$1,195,000	3	2	0	2	\$1,350,000
5135 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#202	1,502	\$1,175,000	3	2	0	80	\$1,250,000
2373 HARBOUR OAKS DR	2,245	\$1,150,000	3	2	1	36	\$1,125,000
7175 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#21	1,170	\$1,110,000	2	2	0	0	\$1,110,000
5393 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#207	1,300	\$989,900	2	2	0	119	\$960,000
1030 BOGEY LN	1,522	\$999,000	2	2	0	236	\$910,000
2295 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#11	1,180	\$875,000	2	2	0	17	\$862,500
4401 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#803	955	\$886,000	1	1	0	42	\$850,000
2328 HARBOUR OAKS DR	2,554	\$849,000	3	2	1	13	\$810,000
448 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#A206	1,474	\$819,000	3	2	0	152	\$805,000
1965 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#G5-102	1,257	\$699,000	2	2	0	55	\$689,000
4310 FALMOUTH DR Unit#202	1,071	\$679,900	2	2	0	126	\$660,000
4380 EXETER DR Unit#H-103	992	\$560,000	2	2	0	154	\$560,000
3465 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#225	427	\$559,900	1	1	0	3	\$559,900
4360 CHATHAM DR Unit#308	1,316	\$565,000	2	2	0	4	\$555,000
3155 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#218	416	\$500,000	1	1	0	9	\$490,000
129 TAFT DR Unit#W201	2,460	\$2,799,000	3	3	0	63	\$2,620,000
1 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#76	1,389	\$1,650,000	2	2	0	4	\$1,685,000
424 PHEASANT WAY	1,964	\$1,500,000	3	3	0	0	\$1,500,000
101 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#66	1,363	\$1,599,000	2	2	0	63	\$1,487,500



JEFF RHINELANDER

941-685-3590 • Jeff@jeffrhineland.com

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941-893-7203 • courtney.tarantino@floridamoves.com



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BIRD KEY

526 BIRD KEY DRIVE

ACTIVE LISTING \$2,595,000



SIESTA KEY

651 AVENIDA DEL NORTE

ACTIVE LISTING \$2,595,000



LAKEWOOD RANCH

5527 PALMER CIRCLE, #206

ACITVE LISTING \$515,000



BIRD KEY

449 E ROYAL FLAMINGO DRIVE

SOLD \$5,600,000



BAY POINT DRIVE

1507 BAY POINT DRIVE

SOLD \$6,350,000



LONGBOAT KEY

2525 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #4E

SOLD \$1,600,000



FOX TRACE

2547 FIREFLAG LANE

PENDING \$520,000



BIRD KEY

314 BIRD KEY DRIVE

SOLD \$4,600,000



# EditorLetters

**Letters, from page 6**

a few minutes off the time to return a valeted car. That should not be considered a sufficient reason to accept this blot on Gulf of Mexico Drive.

Let there be no misunderstanding. Approving this garage as it is now proposed would be a major and permanent change in the stewardship of the island and mar its unique aesthetic. We respectfully ask the Town Commission to reject the proposal and tell to find other solutions and/or designs to resolve the parking issue.

Don Stitzenberg  
Longboat Key

**St. Regis Garage proposal**

To: Longboat Key Commission

I am a full-time resident of Longboat Key, with a home in Bay Isles Harbor. We love the Key and all it offers. Thank you for your service to our town and helping to keep Longboat the very special place it is.

I also am the President of Bay Isles Harbor Association, which represents 67 single family homeowners in a beautiful community directly across from the St. Regis Hotel and Residences. Our homes collectively contribute hundreds of millions of dollars in property value to the Town and County.

Our homeowners are united in opposition to the construction of the proposed St. Regis parking garage, recently recommended for approval by the Planning & Zoning Board on April 18th.

Please understand that we are not against development, or the St Regis project, in particular. New developments on Longboat, in general and within limits, are welcome insofar as they upgrade our infrastructure, renew the building stock, increase amenities, and add to the beauty of the island. The addition of a free-standing 3-level garage 20 yards from Gulf of Mexico Drive would detract from not only the island’s many attractive developments, but the St Regis itself. No similar structure exists on GMD, for good reason, and this one should not either. It would be a utilitarian structure and an eyesore to all residents and tourists driving by, and continuously visible by many of our Harbor residents, who live on Harbor Sound Drive. These residents are not looking forward to the viewing the garage and the flickering of headlights moving around its upper level.

The developer promises to hide the structure, thus admitting its appearance is not worthy of being seen. The ability to screen such a building with landscaping is challenging and particularly the upper level on which parked cars will be seen above the exterior wall. At the P&Z meeting, the screening was said to “eventually” hide the building as it will depend in part on the maturation of several canopy trees. We are thus assured of several years to a decade or more of incomplete screening.

In the original approved and permitted project, other approaches to expand parking were carefully considered and approved. But now the Developer, under pressure from Marriott to “ensure a 5-star experience” wants to add the garage to shave a few minutes off the time to return a valeted car. That should not be considered a sufficient reason to accept this blot on Gulf of Mexico Drive. The management of the complex is clearly (or should be) able to manage this aspect of their operation within the current plan.

Let there be no misunderstanding. Approving this garage would be a major and permanent change in the stewardship of the island and mar its unique aesthetic for decades.

We respectfully ask the Town Commission to reject the proposal and tell the Developer and Marriott to find other solutions to their 5-star problem.

Michael D. Taylor  
Longboat Key

**St. Regis Second Go Permit**

To: Longboat Key Commission

My wife Lisa and I are full time residents of Longboat Key and have been for 5 years. Over the five years we have been permanent residents we have marveled at the well run machine called Longboat Key! In 1999 we stayed at The Colony for New Years, remember computers were supposed to implode due to Y2K! Sixteen of our family member stayed at the colony that week and enjoyed the special place that LBK was and is. My parents were original owners at L’Ambiance building two. We have a long history on the key that we treasure so very much!

We now live directly across the street from the new St Regis in the Harbor section of Bay Isles and we are very excited to see what the developer will deliver. Currently it looks like a lot of concrete and glass, at this stage of development many projects do. We are optimistic that the St Regis brand, the developer and the city approved landscaping plans warm the property substantially. We expect it will be beautiful.

Then a few weeks ago we learned of the request to alter the permit to add a 3 story (not 2) parking garage to be placed less than 20 yards from the road. We attended the P&Z meeting. The developers lawyer clearly admitted that the issue arose as a result of a mistake (she used the word mistake) in calculating where garage spaces were located, to many spots are located in the condo buildings which are not suitable for hotel use. The developer made the mistake, the town of LBK approved the mistake and now we are expected to fix the problem with a very large mistake, the construction of an eye sore for all.

The argument used by the developer and the developers lawyer that we all should be happy to look at the new landscape screened garage rather than the business of the hotel which contains garbage cans, truck delivery’s and the like is disingenuous at best as one would expect the town of Longboat Key would ensure none of that would be visible from the street once the project is complete.

The 4.5 minute vs 7.5 minute retrieval time for a valet vehicle while likely accurate can easily be overcome with added staff and logistics. I’m not in the hotel business and I can think of three suggestions, I won’t bore you!

The approval of this garage is the third mistake in a series of mistakes and the arguments

used to justify it are weak at best. The likelihood the next project asks for a parking garage and litigates when you refuse is high. The likelihood you lose that legal battle is also high as precedent will have been set with the first ever parking garage on the key changing the look of Longboat Key forever.

Lisa and I along with most of the residents of LBK respectively ask you to deny the developer’s request for an adjustment to the project permit.

Dominic (Bob) Zacone II  
Longboat Key

**St. Regis Garage**

To: Longboat Key Town Commission

While we are supportive of the St Regis development project in general, we are not supportive of the last minute attempt to add a garage.

We want to encourage you to stop the plan to add this garage that is an afterthought that was not in the original plan of the St Regis. It will be an unsightly addition right on our beautiful green Gulf of Mexico Drive.

It would seem that if it were really necessary, it would have been in the original plan where it could have been more appropriately located within the complex. Thank you for considering our concerns.

Gabe Rosica  
Longboat Key

**Unpermitted roof**

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons

The Owner of the roofing company advised he made a mistake. A permit was pulled for the wrong address and town for which he just realized yesterday. I had all work stop until permits are correctly pulled and initial inspections complete. I also advised him of our Noise Ordinance. He is very aware of the immediate attention this needs and their should be no further issues with this site.

Bryan Wisnom  
Code Enforcement Officer Planning, Zoning & Building Dept.  
Town of Longboat Key

**Unpermitted roof**

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. It appears to have been a train wreck from the get go. Please don’t hesitate to advise if there are any further issues at this property.

Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager, Town of Longboat Key

**Underground utility assessment**

To: Longboat Ley Finance Director Susan Smith

I just read in the newspaper that the Town is “hoping” to complete the underground utilities project before hurricane season.

In September 2022, I asked about the amounts for this underground project, and understood from your email below, that my little one bedroom cottage has a balance of approx. \$9,000 for this utility, and that “as the project was coming to a close” --- I could elect to pay a lump sum, after an anticipated refund was applied based on project savings. In the meantime, year after year my property taxes are paying \$772 a year (for 30 years if I don’t pay it in a lump sum at project close), which amounts to a whopping \$24,000 for this utility. I’ve already paid by my calculations 772 x 3 and it looks like another \$772 for this year which will bring my payments to \$3,000. The previous owner of my property also paid approx \$1,500, bringing a total of \$4,500 already paid with a still owing balance of \$9,000!

Moreover, are residents aware that some are paying much less than others? Indeed, it does appear that the assessment was not uniform. Just a few examples:

The Shore and Mar Vista restaurants that use significantly more utility services than I ever dreamed of, are paying significantly LESS for this utility project than what I am paying.

A huge multi-million dollar on the gulf mansions that use 3 or 4 times the utilities of my 700 square foot home, are paying 1/2 what I am paying for this project? For example 6665 Gulf of Mexico Drive? Paying \$381? And I am paying \$772.

Strip mall such as the one at 6812 Gulf of Mexico Drive is only paying double what I am paying. Their utility use has to be twenty times more than my home (or any single family residence).

Country Club Shores some \$2 million dollar single family residential properties paying \$400, where I am paying \$772.

585 Channel Lane paying \$567 and \$0 for the GMD project.

Finally, an accurate timeline to completion, facts, figures and showing a list of what every resident, business and property was assessed, and is paying both annually and for 30 years (what the actual assessment is in total), should be clearly communicated to every resident in a letter.

I look forward to the answers to these questions. Thank you.

Jim Lince  
Longboat Key

**Underground tax assessment**

To: Town of Longboat Key Finance Director Susan Smith

Thank you for the info and that there is an expected recalculation. With that - we will hold off another year to pay in full, and see what the recalculation comes out to.

Jim Lince  
Longboat Key

See Letters, page 9

Ads that work...  
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A horizontal banner with a white background. On the left side, there is a portrait of Sandra Smith, a woman with dark hair and bangs, wearing a pink top. To the right of the portrait, the text 'SECUR-ALL INSURANCE AGENCY' is written in a large, bold, black sans-serif font. Below this text is a thick blue horizontal bar. Underneath the bar, the name 'Sandra Smith' is written in a black cursive script, followed by a vertical line and the phone number '941.383.3388' in a bold black sans-serif font. Below the phone number, the address '6350 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE • LONGBOAT KEY, FL' is written in a smaller black sans-serif font. At the bottom of the banner, the text 'CHUBB, AIG, UNIVERSAL, UNITED, SAFECO, PROGRESSIVE, FRONTLINE, VAULT, FLOOD, WE HAVE YOU COVERED!' is written in a small black sans-serif font.



# OnPatrol

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

## April 28 Suspicious vehicle

3:05 a.m.  
Officer Miklos while on patrol on Gulf of Mexico Drive, observed three vehicles parked at Overlook Park after hours. Officer Miklos came into contact with several individuals who were sitting on the picnic table talking near the entrance. The group advised they were unaware of park hours and stated they would leave without issue. All individuals left without incident and did not observe any alcoholic beverages or illegal substances within the group. Case clear.

## Suspicious vehicle

11:38 p.m.  
Officer Butler while on patrol in the 3400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive at the Beach Access saw two vehicles parked in the lot after hours. Officer Butler inspected the vehicles and found no occupants. Officer Butler activated his emergency lights while alerting dispatch to the suspicious vehicles. A short time later, a man appeared from the beach stating he was with his date on the beach and did not realize that it was this late. Officer Butler advised that the beach and parking areas were closed after 11 p.m. Officer Butler then issued two citations for each vehicle to the man. The girlfriend was seen exiting the beach and packing the car with personal items. The man was warned about being on the beach after 11 p.m. Case clear.

## April 29 Suspicious person

9:30 a.m.  
Officer Martinez responded to Longboat Pass Bridge regarding a report of a possible juveniles jumping off the bridge. Officer Martinez was advised that the subjects were on the north end of the Longboat Pass Bridge. Dispatch advised no identifying description was reported of the subjects. Dispatch also notified Officer Martinez that no identifying description was reported of the subjects. Dispatch notified Officer Martinez that a Bradenton Beach Police Officer was on scene. Upon arrival, Officer Martinez searched the immediate area and did not see the subject on the bridge or in the water surrounding the location. Officer Martinez made contact with the Bradenton Beach Police Officer who notified that two men jumped off the Longboat Pass Bridge, boarded an unidentified water vessel in the immediate area, and left the scene in an unknown direction. Nothing further, case clear.

## Traffic hazard

10:27 a.m.  
Officer Martinez responded to 6200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive and saw a disabled vehicle on the southbound lane. The vehicle was seen with the front/rear left tires partially on bicycle lane facing southbound. Upon contact, Officer Martinez noted the front right tire was flat and on the shoulder of the road. The driver was on scene and requested assistance to replace the tire. In reference to the Mechanical Assistance for Motorists and Towing section, assisted driver in replacing the tire due to driver being physically incapable of changing the tire. Officer Martinez noted the approach of inclement weather possibly hindering the response time of the vehicle assistance from off island and vehicle being partially on the bicycle lane. Officer Martinez then assistance from off-island and vehicle being partially on bicycle lane. Officer Martinez then assisted with the tag replacement using the spare tire located in the trunk of vehicle. Case clear.



## April 30 Rescue assist

5:26 a.m.  
Officer Butler while on patrol, responded to a person stuck in an elevator. Fire Department was operating already on the scene. Case clear.

## May 1 Citizen assist

8:14 p.m.  
Officer Martinson responded to the Moorings Marina for a call of an Alarm Assist. Officer Martinson upon arrival, located a white Prestige 590 in the last slip on the dock with its bow lights flashing. Officer Martinson spoke to the owner of a neighboring boat and he stated that he believed the owner of the bot were gone but he did not have their phone number. He said he would tell the owners about the bow light flashing the next time he sees them. Officer Martinez also spoke to another boat owner who stated he had been sitting outside on the deck of his boat for quite a while and had not heard or seen anything out of the ordinary.

## May 2 Injured Animal

12:24 p.m.  
Officer Nazareno was dispatched to Ranger Lane for an injured animal call. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno observed an injured racoon next to a work trailer parked in the driveway. Sarasota Animal Control was requested to respond to the location to pick up the injured animal. Case clear.

## Unsecured Premises

11:11 p.m.  
Officer Martinson while on patrol conducting business checks at Whitney Beach Plaza, found a business unlocked. Officer Martinez checked inside the business and everything appeared to be normal with no one found to be inside. There were no signs of forced entry. Officer Martinson was unable to secure the business. Officer Martinson called the owner but he did not answer so he left a voicemail informing him of the unlocked door. Case clear.

## May 3 Citizen assist

12:46 p.m.  
Officer Martinez responded to Broadway for a complaint of harassments made via text messages. Upon arrival, Officer Martinez made contact with the complainant who stated she has been receiving multiple unwanted text messages from a woman which she said were offensive. The complainant stated that the woman lives in Lakewood Ranch and has been sending unwanted messages to the complainant and the complainant's significant other for the past few weeks. Officer Martinez asked the complainant if the woman has made any threats of physical violence towards the complainant, to which she stated no. The complainant also stated she was not in fear for her life, but requested to report the occurrence with the police department. The complainant stated that she does not have regular contact with the woman other than the unwanted text messages. The complainant requested assistance with avoiding the unwanted messages, which Officer Martinez advised she could possibly block all text messages/phone calls from the woman, but advised her the decision would be her own. No signs of criminal nature involved, no further incident. Case clear.

## May 4 Traffic hazard

8:59 a.m.  
Officer Montfort while on patrol, counted six to seven tractor trailers with roofing material parked on the right-of-way in the area of the 5700 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Montfort made contact with several operators who advised that they were delivering at that location. Officer Montfort spoke to all operators involved and they agreed to obtain each other's phone number and 'leapfrog' back and forth to unload. The drivers were sent on their way and advised to locate legal parking off the right-of-way. Officer Montfort spoke with the contractors on site who advised more trucks were in route to the location. Officer Montfort advised all contractors to send arriving trucks away and not to block the right-of-way or they would be subject to a traffic citation. Case clear.

## Citizen assist

7:45 p.m.  
Officer Tillman responded to the 2000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive to a water leak. Officer Tillman arrived and noticed a minor water leak which he passed on to Public Works Department. Case clear.

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# Editor Letters



Letters, from page 9

St. Regis Parking Deck

To: John and Mary Rayis  
Thanks for your note. Because of the quasi-judicial nature of the hearings coming before the Commission, we can't discuss or comment on the St. Regis proceedings. Our first (of two) hearings will take place at 11 a.m. on Monday, June 5, at which time members of the public will be welcome to share their views.  
Ken Schneier  
Mayor  
Longboat Key

St. Regis Parking Deck

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier  
Mayor – St. Regis is time certain at 1 p.m. on June 5th. Other matters on the agenda will begin at 11 a.m.  
Trish Shinkle  
Town Clerk  
Longboat Key

St Regis Parking Deck

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle  
Thanks, Trish. Good to know.  
Ken Schneier  
Mayor  
Longboat Key

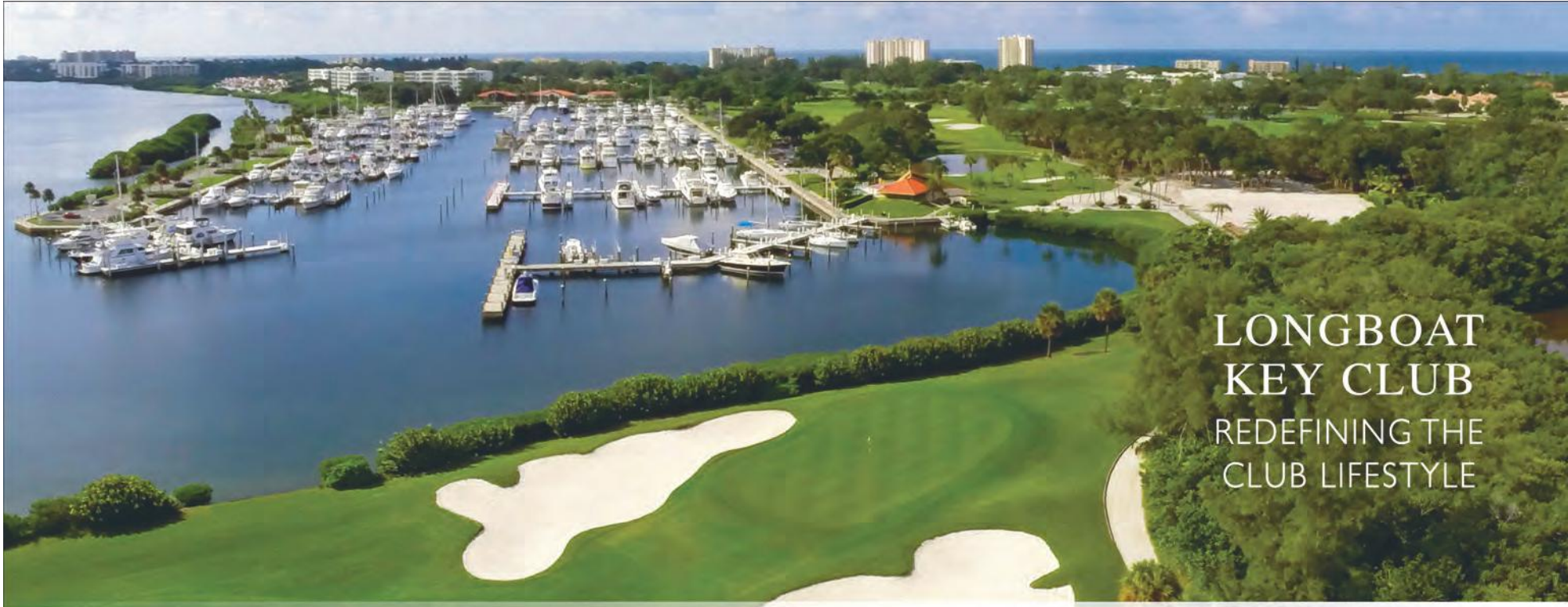
St. Regis Garage Proposal

To: Longboat Key Commission  
I am a full-time resident of Longboat Key, with a home in Bay Isles Harbor. We love the Key and all it offers. Thank you for your service to our town and helping to keep Longboat the very special place it is.  
I also am the President of Bay Isles Harbor Association, which represents 67 single family homeowners in a beautiful community directly across from the St. Regis Hotel and Residences. Our homes collectively contribute hundreds of millions of dollars in property value to the Town and County.  
Our homeowners are united in opposition to the construction of the proposed St. Regis

parking garage, recently recommended for approval by the Planning & Zoning Board on April 18th.  
Please understand that we are not against development, or the St Regis project, in particular. New developments on Longboat, in general and within limits, are welcome insofar as they upgrade our infrastructure, renew the building stock, increase amenities, and add to the beauty of the island. The addition of a free-standing 3-level garage 20 yards from Gulf of Mexico Drive would detract from not only the island's many attractive developments, but the St Regis itself. No similar structure exists on GMD, for good reason, and this one should not either. It would be a utilitarian structure and an eyesore to all residents and tourists driving by, and continuously visible by many of our Harbor residents, who live on Harbor Sound Drive. These residents are not looking forward to the viewing the garage and the flickering of headlights moving around its upper level.  
The developer promises to hide the structure, thus admitting its appearance is not worthy of being seen. The ability to screen such a building with landscaping is challenging and particularly the upper level on which parked cars will be seen above the exterior wall. At the P&Z meeting, the screening was said to "eventually" hide the building as it will depend in part on the maturation of several canopy trees. We are thus assured of several years to a decade or more of incomplete screening.  
In the original approved and permitted project, other approaches to expand parking were carefully considered and approved. But now the Developer, under pressure from Marriott to "ensure a 5-star experience" wants to add the garage to shave a few minutes off the time to return a valeted car. That should not be considered a sufficient reason to accept this blot on Gulf of Mexico Drive. The management of the complex is clearly (or should be) able to manage this aspect of their operation within the current plan.  
Let there be no misunderstanding. Approving this garage would be a major and permanent change in the stewardship of the island and mar its unique aesthetic for decades.  
We respectfully ask the Town Commission to reject the proposal and tell the Developer and Marriott to find other solutions to their 5-star problem.  
Michael D. Taylor  
President  
Bay Isles Harbor Association, Inc.

St. Regis Garage

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Penny Gold  
We think that the St Regis will be an amazing place and a big plus for our beloved Longboat Key, We are shocked, however, at the possibility of Village government approving a 3 story  
**See Letters, page 12**



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Letters, from page 11

parking garage right on Gulf of Mexico drive anywhere on the island for any reason. I think we can all agree that it is not in keeping with the charm that is literally everywhere on LBK, differentiating us from other islands. We believe that ownership knew they were going to want this garage from the beginning but knew that if it were part of the original proposal it would have been vetoed.

We really hope that this garage is shut down because we believe it is aesthetically wrong for LBK and I know there are other ways to accommodate the needed parking. Please do not allow this precedent setting three story garage to be built.

Todd and Libby Rieke  
Longboat Key

Reviews of Structural Reports

To: Longboat Key Commission

Allen and Patti have followed up on the reconsideration of our fee structure in what is a new area for all of us (staff and property owners). Going forward, we are making revisions to our internal fees associated with reviews of Structural Reports for the statutorily required Milestone Inspections (applicable to Condominium Buildings that are 3-stories or more in height and are more than 25 years old by 12/231/24). The Town will be charging \$500 on a per application basis instead of on a per building basis. This is a new requirement for all jurisdictions and we expect to get more experience with administrative impacts over the next year. We are sensitive to the fact that this is a new obligation for condominiums too. Therefore, we've opted to err on the side of under-charging for staff's time.

This means that if a condominium complex has more than one applicable building, and the condominium applies for Milestone Inspection approval of multiple buildings at one time, they will be charged \$500 regardless of the number of buildings included in the application. If, through experience, we discover that multi-building applications are taking significantly more time to review/process/etc. then we will reevaluate this fee structure and seek to process an amendment to the Fee Resolution accordingly. The current Fee Resolution (Res. 2022-20)

indicates that the fee for a Structural Building Recertification is \$500. The approach we're taking now is consistent with this broadly described fee. Ms. Villari was the individual who brought the concern to our attention and Patti is reaching out to her to let her know. We will update our fee schedule and will push this change out through our media outlets as well. Many thanks to Allen and Patti for their review of this matter. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Howard Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

St. Regis Garage Proposal

To: Longboat Key Commission

We are writing to you as concerned residents of the Bay Isles Harbor Community.

Since the early 1980's we have had the privilege to enjoy the beauty of Lido and Longboat Keys. We truly live in paradise and all of us have a responsibility to preserve our Islands so that future generations can enjoy them as well.

In this light, we ask each of you to put the St. Regis request for a parking garage on hold for six months. The St. Regis Project was approved without a parking garage. The original parking plan, which was approved, will most certainly enable the facility to effectively operate for a short period of time. Once the St. Regis is open an operating important data will be obtained. This will enable each of you to make a final decision based on factual information.

We ask that you consider our suggestion and wait to have operating data before a final decision is made. Thank you for all you do for our Community and let us know if you would like additional information on our request.

Robert & Joan Piscitelli  
Longboat Key

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Artificial Wine Intelligence: A Google Bard Face-Off with Microsoft Bing

We showed examples of what ChatGPT in minute or two acquired from the web, assembled, and presented as answers. Many of the ChatGPT answers eerily resembled the wine expert's answers.

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

A recent Wine Times column reported results of comparing answers to questions about wines by a human expert and independently by the artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot, ChatGPT. We showed examples of what ChatGPT in minute or two acquired from the web, assembled, and presented as answers. Many of the ChatGPT answers eerily resembled the wine expert's answers.

Now we have some of the leading developers of AI chatbots calling for them to exercise restraint.

Geoffrey Hinton, the noted 'Godfather of AI' resigned his AI scientist role at Google last week to join critics of unbridled development of generative AI systems, says that he sees further development of AI systems as increasingly dangerous. His qualms about the technology he pioneered echo what we heard Joseph Weizenbaum, an MIT psychologist and computer scientist, say in the 1980's about the Eliza counselling program he developed during the 1960's to simulate Rogerian therapy. He had observed that many users of Eliza believed that they were interacting with a trustworthy therapist and would share intimate details of their lives with a computer system. He had serious concerns as well about the risks of therapy guided by a machine. He admitted that he regretted his role in creating a Frankenstein's monster.

One major problem with AI systems appears to be the inherent difficulties even AI experts have when they attempt to evaluate what these systems are actually doing. For example, an AI chatbot trained using buyers' ratings of wines to predict which of other wines would have equally high ratings will reflect hidden biases creeping into a selective sampling of all possible buyers. The developers of the AI system will typically grab large volumes of training data and know little about the sample they use to train the AI chatbot. An AI expert attempting to evaluate whether a chatbot responds accurately to questions will usually know even less about the sources of training data. The computer program underlying the AI chatbot evolves as it encounters each additional sample of buyers' ratings; it becomes increasingly complex to the point that humans can no longer understand and evaluate what it is doing.

Much the same happens in evaluations of statistical software packages such as SPSS, SAS, or R. A statistician once asked how to use a calculator to check statistical estimates produced by a statistical package. The answer: it cannot be done. The only way to evaluate one statistical package would be to compare its estimates with those from one or more of the other statistical packages and note differences.

We follow a similar strategy in our face-off of the AI-enhanced Bing chatbot and the Google Bard chatbot: examine different Chatbots' responses to the same question. First, we ask each chatbot about questions that would challenge a wine expert. We discovered up front that AI Bing phrases questions differently when compared with Bard. AI Bing opts for questions that specify a wine, region, vintage, etc.; Bard suggests more general questions.

AI Bing: Can you describe the specific winemaking techniques used to produce this wine?  
Bard: What are the different winemaking techniques and how do they affect the taste of wine?

To deal with these differences, we ask essentially the same question in specific and more general forms.

More specific: Can you describe the specific winemaking techniques used to produce a premier California Cabernet Sauvignon?

AI Bing answer to the more specific question:

Sure, I can try to describe some of the winemaking techniques used to produce a premier California Cabernet Sauvignon. According to the web sources I found 12, some of the key methods are:

- Harvesting: The timing of the grape harvest is crucial, as it impacts the wine's sugar, acidity, and tannin levels. Cabernet Sauvignon grapes are typically harvested when they reach a certain level of ripeness, which can vary depending on the climate and terroir of the vineyard. Some winemakers prefer to harvest earlier to preserve freshness and acidity, while others wait for later harvests to achieve more concentration and complexity.
- Crushing and Destemming: After harvesting, the grapes are usually crushed and destemmed to release the juice and separate it from the stems and skins. Some winemakers may choose to leave some whole clusters or berries intact to add more structure and flavor to the wine.
- Fermentation: The juice is then transferred to a fermentation vessel, where yeast converts the sugar into alcohol and carbon dioxide. The fermentation temperature, duration, and type of yeast can affect the wine's aroma, flavor, and color. Cabernet Sauvignon wines are often fermented at higher temperatures (around 25-30°C or 77-86°F) for longer periods (up to two weeks) to extract more color, tannin, and flavor from the skins.
- Maceration: During fermentation, the skins and seeds form a cap on top of the juice, which needs to be periodically submerged or mixed with the juice to enhance extraction. This process is called maceration, and it can be done by various methods such as punching down, pumping over, rack and return, or using a rotary fermenter. The length and intensity of maceration can influence the wine's body, color, tannin, and phenolic content.

- Pressing: After fermentation and maceration are complete, the wine is separated from the solids by pressing. The pressed wine can be either blended with the free-run wine (the wine that flows naturally from the grapes) or kept separately for different quality levels. Some winemakers may also use a basket press or a gentle pneumatic press to minimize oxidation and tannin extraction during pressing.
- Malolactic Fermentation: Most Cabernet Sauvignon wines undergo a secondary fermentation called malolactic fermentation (MLF), where bacteria convert malic acid into lactic acid. This reduces acidity, softens tannins, and adds complexity and creaminess to the wine. MLF can be done in stainless steel tanks or oak barrels, depending on the desired style and character of the wine.
- Aging: Cabernet Sauvignon wines are usually aged for several months or years before bottling, either in stainless steel tanks or oak barrels. Oak aging can impart various aromas and flavors to the wine, such as vanilla, toast, spice, smoke, chocolate, or coconut. The type of oak (French, American, Hungarian, etc.), the size of the barrel (smaller barrels have more surface area and more influence), the level of toast (lighter or darker), and the age of the barrel (newer or older) can all affect the wine's profile. Oak aging can also soften tannins and increase stability and complexity.
- Blending: Many Cabernet Sauvignon wines are blended with other grape varieties to create a more balanced and harmonious wine. Some common blending partners for Cabernet Sauvignon are Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot, Malbec, Syrah, Zinfandel, or Sangiovese. Blending can also be done with wines from different vineyards or vintages to achieve more consistency and complexity.

These are some of the main winemaking techniques used to produce a premier California Cabernet Sauvignon. Of course, each winemaker may have their own preferences and variations depending on their goals and vision for their wine.

Bard answer to the more specific question:  
Sure. Here are some of the specific winemaking techniques used to produce a premier California Cabernet Sauvignon:

- Grape selection: The first step in making a great Cabernet Sauvignon is to select the right grapes. The grapes should be grown in a climate that is warm enough to ripen the fruit, but not so warm that it produces too much sugar. The grapes should also be grown in a soil that is well-drained and has good mineral content.
- Vinification: Once the grapes have been harvested, they are taken to the winery and vinified. The vinification process begins with crushing the grapes and extracting the juice. The juice is then fermented with yeast, which converts the sugar in the juice into alcohol. After fermentation, the wine is aged in oak barrels. The length of time the wine is aged in oak barrels can vary, but it is typically between 12 and 24 months.
- Blending: After the wine has aged in oak barrels, it is blended with other wines. The blending process is used to create a wine that has a balanced flavor profile.
- Bottling: Once the wine has been blended, it is bottled and ready to be enjoyed.

- Here are some additional tips for producing a premier California Cabernet Sauvignon:
- Use the right yeast strain: The type of yeast strain you use can have a big impact on the flavor of your wine. Choose a yeast strain that is appropriate for the style of wine you are trying to make.
  - Monitor the fermentation temperature: The fermentation temperature can affect the flavor of your wine. Keep the fermentation temperature within the proper range to ensure that your wine has the desired flavor profile.
  - Use oak barrels that are appropriate for the style of wine you are making: The type of oak barrel you use can also have a big impact on the flavor of your wine. Choose oak barrels that are appropriate for the style of wine you are trying to make.
  - Age the wine for the appropriate amount of time: The length of time you age your wine can affect the flavor of your wine. Age your wine for the appropriate amount of time to develop the desired flavor profile.

With careful attention to detail, you can produce a premier California Cabernet Sauvignon that is sure to please.

More general question:  
What are the different winemaking techniques and how do they affect the taste of wine?  
AI Bing answer to the more general question:  
Winemaking is a complex and fascinating process that involves many steps and techniques. Some of the main factors that affect the taste of wine are:

- Harvest date: The ripeness of the grapes at the time of picking determines the sugar, acidity, and flavor profile of the wine. Different styles of wine require different levels of ripeness. For example, sparkling wines are usually made from grapes that are less ripe and have higher acidity, while dessert wines are made from grapes that are very ripe and have high sugar concentration1.
- Maceration time: This is the period of time that the grape juice (or must) stays in contact with the grape skins, seeds, and stems. This process extracts color, tannins, and aromas from the grape solids. Maceration time varies depending on the type and style of wine. For example, white wines usually have little or no maceration time, while red wines can macerate for days or weeks12.
- Fermentation temperature: This is the temperature at which the yeast converts the sugar in the must into alcohol and carbon dioxide. Fermentation temperature affects the speed and efficiency of fermentation, as well as the production of various flavor compounds by the yeast. Generally, lower temperatures result in slower fermentation and more fruity and floral aromas, while higher temperatures result in faster fermentation and more spicy and earthy aromas12.

See Wine, page 14



Wine, from page 13

- Punchdowns vs. pumpovers: These are two methods of mixing the must during fermentation to prevent the grape solids from drying out and to increase extraction. Punchdowns involve pushing down the cap (the layer of grape solids that rises to the top of the tank) into the liquid with a tool or a machine. Pumpovers involve pumping the liquid from the bottom of the tank over the cap with a hose. Both methods have advantages and disadvantages in terms of extraction, oxidation, and flavor development12.
- Oak vs. steel tank: This is the choice of vessel for aging the wine after fermentation. Oak barrels can impart various flavors and aromas to the wine, such as vanilla, toast, smoke, coconut, and caramel. They also allow some oxygen to enter the wine, which can soften tannins and enhance complexity. Steel tanks are inert and do not add any flavor or aroma to the wine. They also prevent oxygen from entering the wine, which can preserve freshness and fruitiness12.
- Corks vs. screwcaps: This is the choice of closure for bottling the wine after aging. Corks are natural and traditional closures that allow some oxygen to enter the wine over time, which can affect its aging potential and character. Screwcaps are synthetic and modern closures that prevent oxygen from entering the wine, which can maintain its stability and consistency12.

These are just some of the many winemaking techniques that influence how a wine tastes. Different winemakers may use different techniques depending on their preferences, goals, and resources3. Winemaking is both a science and an art that requires skill, knowledge, and creativity1

- Bard answer to the more general question:
- There are many different winemaking techniques that can be used to create different styles of wine. Some of the most common techniques include:
- Destemming: This is the process of removing the stems from the grapes before fermentation. Stems can add bitterness to wine, so removing them can help to create a more delicate wine.
  - Grinding and pressing: Once the grapes have been destemmed, they are either crushed or pressed to release the juice. The juice is then fermented.
  - Fermentation: This is the process by which yeast converts the sugar in the grape juice into alcohol. The length of time that the wine ferments will affect its alcohol content and flavor.
  - Clarification and stabilization: After fermentation, the wine is clarified to remove any solids. It is then stabilized to prevent it from spoiling.
  - Maturation: Wine is often aged in oak barrels or other containers. This process can add flavors and complexity to the wine.

The different winemaking techniques can have a significant impact on the taste of wine. For example, a wine that is fermented for a long time on the grape skins will have more tannins than a wine that is fermented for a shorter time. A wine that is aged in oak barrels will have more oak flavors than a wine that is not aged in oak barrels.

The best way to learn about the different winemaking techniques is to taste different wines and see how they differ. You can also read about winemaking techniques and talk to winemakers to learn more.

We see the answers to the two forms of the same question as very similar. Richer formatting of the AI Bing answers look different when compared to the plain text Bard answers (the Google search engine has featured since its origin searches and responses in plain text). These superficial differences aside, the content of the answers suggest that both chatbots derive answers from the same or similar web pages.

We do see naïve elements in the answers of both AI Bing and Google Bard. AI Bing, for instance, mentions one purpose of malolactic fermentation is to add creaminess to a Cabernet Sauvignon. While true of some Chardonnay, Cab winemakers generally are looking to remove green or grassy tastes that malic acid imparts to wine, not to add creaminess. California Cab makers often choose single varietal Cab, some from a single estate and others drawing on different plantings of Cab. The Bard answer also implies that blending of wines, an essential feature of Left Bank French Bordeaux made primarily from Cabernet Sauvignon, carries over to California Cabs. California differs from Bordeaux in this respect.

Working around these minor quibbles, we see the potential of AI chatbots as recommenders of wines with specific qualities. Comparing answers from multiple Chatbots helps us filter out

misinformation and enrich our understanding of wines. What differences do you see as critical?

*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.*

# KeyCrossword

## Hands and Feet

ACROSS

1 Stinger

5 Certain South Africans

10 Put away for another day

14 Sport fish

18 Legal rights gr.

19 Hydrophyte-like organisms

20 Substitute for cocoa

22 Westerns writer Wister

23 Sign from Siskel

25 1936 Rodgers and Hart hit

27 Home wreckers

28 Cookware glass

30 Pitchman's partner

31 Genesis site

32 Williams or Crawford

33 King of the range

34 View from Vesuvius

37 Itchy canine concern

38 Patterned upholstery fabrics

41 Debbie or Gracie

42 Skaneateles and Seneca

44 Short snort

46 Nelson's "On the Again"

47 Ray, of "Battle Cry"

48 Supplicant's sign-off

49 Hoodwink

50 Coquettish

51 Penurious

55 Felicitous

56 Branch

58 Chad and Rob

59 Recalcitrant

60 Warner who played Chan

61 LEM part

62 Robed in purple

63 Stir up

64 Street of Blues

65 Used as insulation

68 Ancestral image

69 Moochers

71 On a roll

72 Cheeky chatter

73 Undaunted

74 Excessively suave

75 "\_\_\_ No Angels": Bogart film

76 Intuition

77 Oasis of the Golden State

81 Be generous

82 Without zeal

84 Hepburn's "\_\_\_ Holiday"

85 Clemens pitch

86 Actors Griffith or Kaufman

87 Elect members summarily

88 IOU

89 Thanks, in Thiers

91 Disney dog

92 Companion at sea

96 Like a fat cat

98 Not comforted

100 Man or Wight

101 Swipe

102 Scandinavian

103 Author/humorist Lardner

104 Carriage

105 Elwes or Grant

106 Fred, of "Hunter"

107 Uncomplicated

DOWN

1 One joule per second

2 Craving

3 Aspersion

4 Beat badly

5 Moistens roasting vegetables

6 Of a bygone era

7 Selves

8 Immature

9 Aware of

10 Harridan

11 Dred Scott Decision chief justice

12 African antelope

13 Court

14 Themes

15 MP's problem

16 \_\_\_ over; pass out

17 Off opposites

21 Kalahari desert nomads

24 First State senator Joseph

26 Cassowary kin

29 "Picnic" playwright

32 Creek craft

33 Encrusted

34 Sleep starter

35 Stand-offish

36 Flirt, in a way

37 Center

38 Fonteyn and Markova

39 No genius he

40 Toy terrier type

42 Outpouring

43 Subsequent

45 Sail in a tacking pattern

47 By oneself

49 Forced labor camp

51 Deep rift

52 See 96 Across

53 Ancient district on the Aegean

54 Super Bowl MVP Lynn

55 Nigerian capital

57 Pivots around

59 Black or blue fruit

61 Hits terra firma

62 Film units

63 Rake over the coals

64 Temperate

65 Make parallel

66 "Casablanca" actor Peter

67 Take the tiller

68 Child's abbreviation

69 Little Miss Flinders

70 1939s Mr. Chips, Robert

73 Villains

75 James who pla Truman

77 Make a collar

78 Without shame

79 Cheer

80 Capture and confine

81 Mistakes

83 Conference

85 Mouse

87 Lucid

88 Opted for

89 Interlock

90 Jazz great Fitzgerald

91 Petition

92 Use a crystal b

93 Inter \_\_\_

94 Sawbucks

95 Irritable

96 Its cap, is Madi

97 List's last, brief

99 Ibsen's homela abbr.

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