



# Longboat Key News

April 21, 2023

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

FREE

InsideLook



The power of Key support ...page 5



Longboat leads with beachfront ...page 7



Blowing dust at St. Regis ...page 14



Man with red jockstrap feared ...page 10

## Turtles are busy nesting!

*The first nest was laid by a loggerhead sea turtle, a threatened species protected under federal law.*

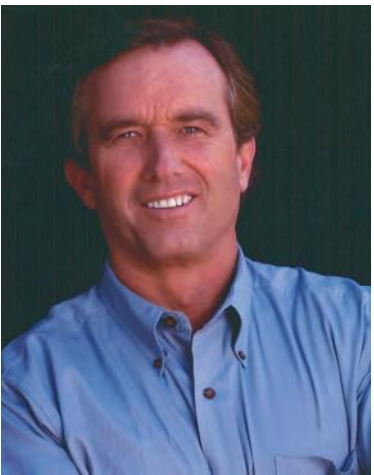
Mote Marine Laboratory documented the first local sea turtle nest of 2023 on last week in Casey Key. Mote's Sea Turtle Conservation & Research Program (STCRP), interns and approximately 300 volunteers began monitoring Sarasota area beaches on April 15, finding the first nest early - just 3 days after patrolling began. Mote's Sea Turtle Patrol monitors nesting activity on Longboat Key

See Turtles, page 12



## NewsAnalysis

### Why We Should Pay Attention to Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Presidential Candidate...



*'When I was young I did foolish and stupid things that I apologize for. There are skeletons in my closet. I am not the perfect Presidential candidate. But our politics need to change and I can bring that about.'*

██████████████████  
██████████ █████  
████████ ████████████████████

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. 69, just launched a campaign for President 2024, his main campaign theme is to end the corrupt alliance of big business and government. He blames this alliance for the rigging of the system that has destroyed the middle class over the last forty years. He points to the nefarious collusion between big government and big corporations and the transfer of enormous wealth and power over the last forty years to an American oligarchy that does not take the needs of the majority into account. He has been marginalized by the main street media for 18 years due to his skepticism of vaccines, and for questioning the collusion between pharmaceutical companies and the CDC and FDA. His views on the Ukraine war "we are driving Russia and China into an alliance" have also served to ostracize him. He's an environmental activist, author, Law school professor, and Time Magazine Hero For the Planet for his environmental advocacy. I first met Bobby some years ago and have followed his career closely. I have not always agreed with him, especially about the dangers of the MRNA vaccines, but I know him

See Kennedy, page 13

## Waves of fun off Bird Key



Under sunny skies and warm winds, the Sarasota Bay Cup Regatta, one of the largest regattas on the west coast of Florida, took place on Sarasota Bay on Saturday April 15. Hosted by the Bird Key Yacht Club, 67 boats, comprising One Design and PHRF racing classes, participated as their captains and crew harnessed the winds on Sarasota Bay in pursuit of racing honors. Colorful Sunfish, Flying Scots, E-Scows and Melges 15's, joined by various PHRF multi-hull boats were among the sailing vessels that enjoyed the day and the thrill of competition as they raced along the water surface. Fourteen Sailing Clubs participated from as far away as Newport, Rhode Island, Rochester, New York, and Minnetonka, Minnesota with western Florida sailing organizations from Venice, Naples and Bradenton and Sarasota enthusiastically represented. Sunfish Class captains had more than a share of Olympic level sailors plying their craft on Sarasota bay. Following the races, over 200 enthusiastic participants gathered at the Bird Key Yacht Club to celebrate their sport, the day of competition and their shared love of sailing and comradeship. They enjoyed a feast prepared by the Bird Key Yacht Club culinary team, led by Executive Chef Richard Mendoza. All enjoyed Chef Mendoza's culinary wizardry as awards were later presented to race winners. Doug Fisher and crew, piloting a PHRF Multi-Hull was the Sarasota Bay Cup Winner with Bird Key Yacht Club member and Regatta Co-chair Marvin Quin and crew claimed the coveted Price Cup. Toasts and good wishes were exchanged as winners and participants were celebrated and thoughts turned to next year.

— Story by Tony Britt

**SARASOTA BAY CUP WINNER**  
DOUG FISHER (PHRF MULTI-HULL)

**PRICE CUP WINNER**  
MARVIN QUIN (QUINESSENTIAL)

PHRF Monohull Under 200	PHRF Monohull Over 200	PHRF Multihull	Melges 15	Flying Scot	Sunfish	E-Scow
1st - Chad Weiss (Zephyr)	1st - David Wilson (Solitude)	1st - Doug Fisher (no name)	1st - Jeff Eiber (USA 107)	1st - Don Perry (Leprechaun)	1st - Mary Ellen Brown	1st - William Misenheimer
2nd - Rolf Hahn (Raegan-c)	2nd - John Huber (Green Flash)	2nd - John Novack (Triple Threat)	2nd - Jack Dreyfuss	2nd - Charles Clifton (Ack Ack)	2nd - Chris Cartoll	2nd - Theodore Weihe (Picardy)
3rd - Joe McClash (Wind Caller)	3rd - Mike Landis (Eventide)	n/a	3rd - Lance Thomas (Directory Assistance)	3rd - Jim Bighan (GOOMBA)	3rd - Lisa Brown Ehrhart	3rd - Doug Dearden (Newble)



# Watch for Roundabout work...

US 41 at Gulfstream Avenue Roundabout Update for the week of Sunday, April 23, 2023  
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:**

- Removal of temporary roadway base material on US 41 along the Marina Jacks parking lot.
- Asphalt paving throughout the project (night work, see details below).
- Run wire and make connections to recently installed Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB) system and pedestrian signals.
- Installation of new sidewalk at the northwest corner of the Main and US 41 intersection.

**Anticipated Nighttime/Lane Closures, weather permitting:**

- Nighttime paving operations are scheduled Sunday, 4/23/23 and continue nightly through

- Thursday, 4/27/23.
- Paving operations will occur throughout the project. Pavement marking crews will be restoring traffic pattern on new asphalt.
  - Motorists traveling through the project during the night operation should expect to encounter lane closures between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.
  - Traffic during the day will be restored to normal operation.

**Detours/Crossings:**

- Phase 2B configuration is in place. Motorists on approach yield to motorists within the roundabout. Vehicles within the roundabout have priority and right of way.
  - Palm Avenue and 2nd Street are closed at the US 41 connection in both directions. Entering and exiting the downtown area via Cocanut Avenue to Fruitville Road is recommended.
  - Sidewalk at the northwest corner of US 41 at Gulfstream Avenue is closed. Pedestrian paths are available via US 41 Multi-Use Recreational Trail (MURT) along Ritz Carlton Drive.
  - The east pedestrian crosswalk at Sunset Drive and Gulfstream Avenue is closed. The west pedestrian crosswalk is available to cross Gulfstream Avenue. Signage and pedestrian barricades are in place for guidance.
- 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. Motorist may not exit the Marina Jacks parking lot via Bayfront Drive at Main Street/Marina Plaza. The south exit at Ringling Boulevard must be used to exit Marina Jacks.

Detours and lane closures will be in place during various phases of the project. During construction, reduced to 25 mph on US 41 and Gulfstream Avenue.

## Terminal Expansion Project Breaks Ground At SRQ

Work has started on the construction of a new five-gate terminal at the Sarasota Bradenton International Airport.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the \$73 million terminal expansion project took place Monday, according to a news release from the airport.

Connected to the east end of the ticket wing, the 75,300-square-foot facility will include a four-lane security checkpoint and five boarding hold rooms with 970 seats.

The facility will include a four-lane security checkpoint and five boarding hold rooms with 970 seats.

The new terminal is a response to the increase in travelers the airport has seen in recent years. In 2022, Sarasota Bradenton International Airport saw 3,847,606 passengers, a 21.6 percent increase over 2021's record passenger traffic. And over the past five years, passenger traffic has tripled at the airport.

### A Longboat Key Landmark

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NEW CONSTRUCTION TO BE BUILT



**WEST OF TRAIL - HIGHLY DESIRABLE LOCATION** **\$6,999,000**  
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OPEN HOUSE  
SUNDAY 1:00 - 4:00 PM



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

GULF FRONT NEW CONSTRUCTION



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

PENDING SALE

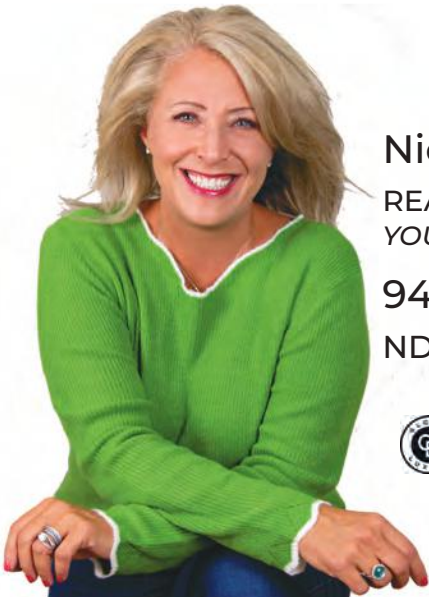


**LIDO KEY • 129 TAFT DR., #201** **\$2,799,000**  
Park Residences - Live steps from the Gulf in this luxurious, coveted 3BR/3BA end unit featuring direct sunset views from oversized terrace. This young 6-year-old, stylish building is code compliant, offering full array of developer upgrades. Resort-style pool.

NOW PENDING SALE



**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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A Shining Example of Support on Longboat

CAROL ErKER  
Guest Writer  
writer@lbknews.com

The Rotary Club of Longboat Key is usually known for the generous and uplifting projects that its members undertake in the greater Longboat Key community, implementing literacy programs, honoring and supporting local veterans, promoting environmental sustainability, combatting food insecurity, and supporting Longboat Key’s Police and Fire Rescue Departments. Indeed, the Club’s mottoes are “Spreading Sunshine Through Service That Matters” and “Service Above Self.”

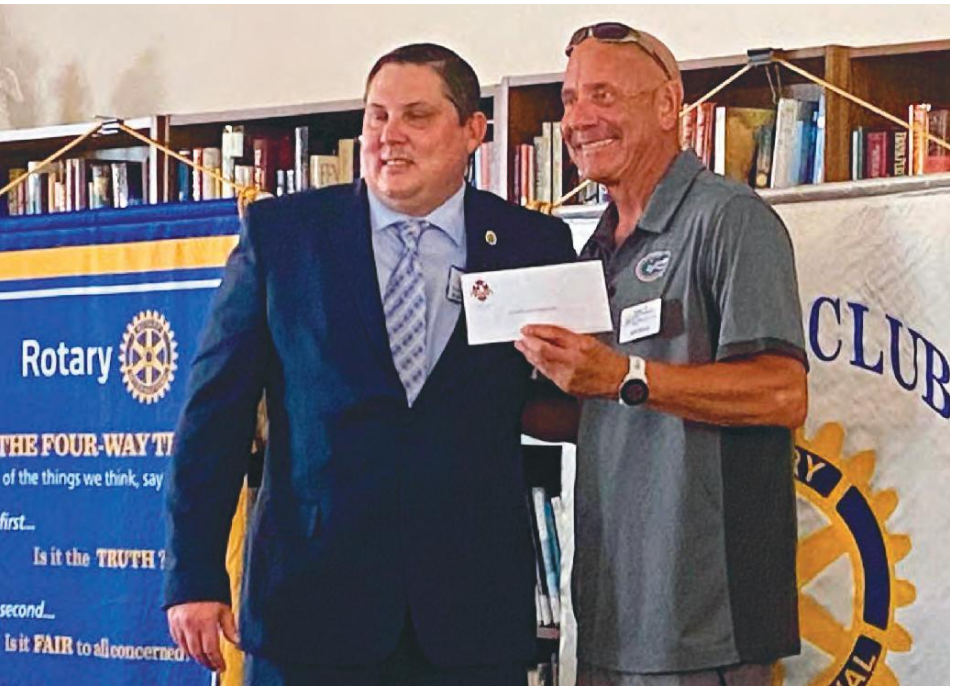
The tables were turned, however, at the Club’s April 18th Club Recognition event, when the Rotary Club found itself on the receiving end of a heartfelt “thank you” and a generous donation from a group that expressed its profound gratitude for Rotary’s service. Jason

Berzowski, a Longboat Key Firefighter/Paramedic, was joined by four of his fellow LBK Firefighter/Paramedics in presenting Rotary President Jeffrey Driver with a donation in the amount of \$1000 from the Suncoast Professional Firefighters & Paramedics Charitable Foundation.

Berzowski, who is also the 7th District Vice President for the Florida Professional Firefighters Union, explained that Longboat Key’s Fire Rescue Department has a “rare and special relationship with our community,” adding, “Rotary is a shining example of support for our firefighters.” Rotary’s First Responders meal delivery program in April and May of 2020, at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, was the project that inspired the gift from the firefighters’ union. Berzowski explained that mealtime in a fire station is a “decompressing time, an important part of our daily ritual.” In the early days of the pandemic, however, Longboat Key’s First Responders were exposed to many health risks and were unable to visit grocery stores or any of the local restaurants. “Rotary’s meal deliveries brought a semblance of normalcy to us,” he explained, adding, “During Covid, the meals that you all delivered almost every day were huge to our psychological well-being as firefighters.”

Rotary member Joan Sherry was the chief architect of the program, arranging for Rotarians to handle meal pick-ups from local restaurants and deliveries of lunches and dinners to both the North and South Fire Rescue Stations and to the Police Department, covering every shift. Participating businesses included Chart House, Lazy Lobster, The Shore, Mar Vista, Whitney’s, Blue Dolphin, LaNorma, Harry’s, Dry Dock, Solorzanos, Maison Blanche, Longboat Key Club, Publix and the Sunny Days Ice Cream truck. Members of the public enthusiastically contributed close to \$6000 to Rotary to help fund the ambitious undertaking.

Berzowski thanked the Rotarians for their generosity over the years, including hosting several



relaxing family picnics for the First Responders and support staff from both the Fire Rescue Department and the Police Department. For many, it was their first opportunity to socialize between departments and to introduce their families to their co-workers. Rotary has provided other support, including communications equipment and iPads for the Fire Rescue Department, and police bikes, a surveillance camera, and night vision monoculars for the Police Department.

The Rotarians gave Berzowski and his colleagues a standing ovation at the conclusion of the presentation. Club President Driver advised, “We plan to apply these funds to a community project that supports our mutual interest in the well-being, health and safety of our citizens. We look forward to continuing to work to support the critically important services provided by the First Responders in our community.” To learn more about Rotary, visit LongboatKeyRotary.org, or attend a Rotary meeting at Parish Hall at All Angels Church, 563 Bay Isles Road, at 5 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.



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# EditorLetters



## Letters, from page 4 Response requested from Policy Board members

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

Recently, we have discussed what we are somewhat tongue-in-cheek referring to as the “magic jet ski” study. For those who might want reminding, we have an opportuntiy to study the benefits (if any) of a potentially management-scalable technique to mitigate the impacts of red tide. Research dating back to the 1970s has shown that ozone can not only “kill” the red tide organism, but also significantly degrade the toxins associated with red tide that cause so much of the problems we experience with these events.

The science on ozonation as a control mechanism for treating red tides is not new, but it has been refined over the years, particularly by researchers at Mote. But what is potentially new is that there could be a way to produce ozonated seawater on a mobile platform at rates that are similar to the discharge rate of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Such an approach – if it works – could be a way to make the science potentially relevant for management purposes.

I have been working with a firm that is willing to provide a one-quarter scale pilot for us, at no cost. They are willing to bring it over and to run it around in an experimental layout that we design, with water quality samples analyzed by a third party (not us, and not them) with the results publicly available – whether they are good or bad or a mix of good and bad.

But for us to carry out this study, we need to move about \$25,000 from one budget line to another. We are proposing that we move \$25,000 from our line item for Wetland Coordination to Biological Monitoring, which is the relevant category for this effort. Since this involves an amount greater than \$15,000, we need the Policy Board’s prior approval, before we can make this change – the intent of this email.

If something arises that does not allow us to move forward, such as a lack of red tide (hopefully...) or permitting issues, then the money would revert back to Wetland Coordination. The Wetland Coordination tasks can still proceed, without the \$25,000, because adequate funds could be made available via our next Infrastructure Law funds Workplan.

Also, if you could respond prior to this coming Friday (March 31st) that would be much appreciated. I will inform the Policy Board of the results, and we will bring this up at our next Policy Board meeting, as suggested by Don.

Dave Tomasko  
Executive Director  
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

### St. Regis

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Is there any chance the commissioners could have a walk-through of the site at St. Regis, not inside the structures just around the site prior to our hearings on the project?

Gary Coffin  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

### St. Regis

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin

Yes sir. It would be one Commissioner at a time and anyone who goes onsite would have to disclose the fieldtrip on the record at the public hearing. We’ll reach out to St. Regis and to Commissioners to gauge their interest and determine dates.

One of the things we’ll want to discuss with the Board at the May 1st meeting is the preferred schedule for hearing this matter (it will require two public hearings), understanding that at least the first hearing could take 4+ hours.

Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

### Resident Certification

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Saw a report on news about SRQ County training residents to be part of CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). Is that something we could do here?

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

### Resident Certification

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

There was a group many years ago but many of the residents that showed up for the training and eventually joined the group were not physically able to do what was required. I am happy to discuss with Tip.

Paul B. Dezzi  
Fire Chief, Town of Longboat Key

### Resident Certification

To: Longboat Key Fire Chief Paul Dezzi

Thanks Paul. I am thinking we do have a younger, more active population. I would be willing to do it.

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner, Longboat Key

### Thank you

To: Manatee County Commissioner Kevin Van Ostenbridge

Kevin, Thank you for serving as Chair of your Commission. You have done a great job of keeping LBK in the loop as part of Manatee County. We look forward to continuing our collaborative relationship.

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

### Thank you

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

Thank you for the kind words. Of course I will continue to advocate for LBK any way that I can.

Kevin Van Ostenbridge  
Commissioner  
Manatee County

See Letters, page 8

*Growing in Jesus’ Name*



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# KeyRealEstate

## Bird Key, Lido Key, Longboat Key latest sales

Address	Sq. Ft.	List Price	Bed/Bath/Half Bath	Days On Market	Sale Price
100 SANDS POINT RD Unit#208	1,492	\$995,000	2 2 0	145	\$935,000
2020 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#411	1,442	\$975,000	2 2 0	22	\$967,500
4311 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#604	1,239	\$1,099,000	2 2 0	28	\$975,000
3501 MISTLETOE LN	3,049	\$895,000	3 3 1	7	\$985,000
2110 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#512	2,039	\$989,000	3 2 0	17	\$989,000
1701 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#207	1,551	\$1,260,000	2 2 0	1	\$1,260,000
3030 GRAND BAY BLVD Unit#325	2,250	\$1,299,000	2 3 1	23	\$1,299,000
553 JUAN ANASCO DR	2,337	\$1,885,000	3 2 0	64	\$1,715,000
601 LONGBOAT CLUB RD Unit#603S	1,458	\$1,850,000	2 2 0	54	\$1,725,000
2675 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#502	1,896	\$1,995,000	2 2 0	2	\$2,050,000
991 LONGBOAT CLUB RD	5,101	\$3,800,000	5 5 1	332	\$2,633,000
3482 MISTLETOE LN	3,323	\$3,150,000	3 4 0	10	\$3,050,000
566 JESSMYTH DR	3,923	\$3,450,000	3 4 0	3	\$3,250,000
540 HARBOR GATE WAY	5,048	\$3,999,000	5 6 1	182	\$3,600,000
3614 FAIR OAKS PL	4,050	\$3,900,000	3 3 1	12	\$3,675,000
5056 GULF OF MEXICO DR	3,819	\$5,695,000	3 2 1	505	\$4,425,000
1241 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#PH08	2,965	\$4,995,000	4 4 1	32	\$4,600,000



1241 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit PH08



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1507 BAY POINT DRIVE  
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2525 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #4E  
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FOX TRACE  
2547 FIREFLAG LANE  
PENDING \$520,000



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



# EditorLetters



**Letters, from page 6**

**Thank you**

To: Manatee County Commissioner Kevin Van Ostenbridge  
Keep up the great work.  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

**Town website**

To: Longboat Key Chief Information Officer Jason Keen  
Hi Jason - not sure if this is an issue for you, if not please direct me to the appropriate person.  
The links from the town website to Facebook and Twitter don't work from the mobile site (the desktop works fine). I have attached screenshots for clarification.  
Debra Williams  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

**Town website**

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra William  
Thank you for bringing this to our attention. We don't oversee the social media portion but it appears that the token for Facebook expired and Twitter disabled automatic feeds with the acquisition by Elon.  
To help alleviate this happening in the future, we left the automatic feed on the initial web page which shows correctly for monitors and cellphones (in widescreen mode). On mobile phones in portrait mode, the mobile buttons now redirect to the social media page on their respective website. If you happen to notice any other areas that are not functioning correctly, please let me know. Thank you and have a great afternoon!  
Jason Keen  
Chief Information Officer  
Town of Longboat Key

**Tax Oversight Committee Report**

To: Longboat Key Commission  
The Tax Oversight Committee met on April 10th for its annual meeting with the Finance Department to discuss the Infrastructure Surtax FY2022 audit and review of the FY2023 Budget Committee's report. The Committee's report is attached.  
The Citizen Tax Oversight Committee's role is to ensure the Town is complying with proper procedures with regards to the infrastructure surtax budget process. The Committee has determined, based on the materials provided, that the Town has complied with the proper process regarding infrastructure surtax approvals. This is provided annually for your information.  
Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

**Tourism Units Information**

To: Longboat Key Commission  
Allen has provided some helpful background information regarding the conversation from yesterday on the efforts to maintain a tourism balance.

Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

**Tourism Units Information**

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
Following-up on the Commission's discussion that touched on the Town's overall inventory of tourism units. Attached is a copy of the memorandum that was provided to the Planning & Zoning Board (and shared with the Town Commission) about two years ago. The Mayor's recollection was right with regard to the potential to have approximately the same number of tourism units as existed in the year 2000, if the long-planned-for development of additional tourism units at the Islandside Longboat Key Club are developed.  
Allen Parsons  
Director Planning, Zoning & Building Department  
Town of Longboat Key

**FLC Monday Morning Call-In**

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
Good retreat today. Two highlights from morning Legislative call before meeting. The Financial Disclosure Bill is moving forward - full steam - committee did not accept the amendment to hold off on requirements for commissioners to not be required to disclose until they run for a new term. I think this is going to pass easily. I also think the Commission needs some information in easily read form to understand what and how this form must be done.  
Vacation Rental Bill was going to Committee today - so far they have attached amendment that says you cannot limit how many people in a rental and other language not beneficial to communities. Not sure - we may still be protected by our grandfathered status - check with Maggie. If we are not protected we need to make some calls - imagine 20 people in a two or three bedroom house and all the cars that come with those 20 people.  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

**Question from Commissioner Gold**

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons  
Allen, can we please ask the contractor during these dry and windy times to be more cognizant of the dust blowing off the property and do more watering. Once the raining season kicks in it shouldn't be an issue, but it has been so dry and windy that it would be great if they could kick it up a notch for their neighbors.  
Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager, Town of Longboat Key

**Question from Commissioner Gold**

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
Thanks for passing along. Will do. I'll let you know when I hear back about the requested cleaning.  
Allen Parsons  
Director Planning and Zoning Board  
Town of Longboat Key

**See Letters, page 9**

**Turtles, from page 1**

through Venice every day of sea turtle nesting season, which officially runs from May 1-Oct. 31 in southwest Florida.  
"Sea turtles don't necessary stick to the calendar, so we typically start patrolling a few weeks before the official season, and we're glad we do, otherwise, we might not have found this nest today," said Melissa Macksey, Senior Biologist with Mote's Sea Turtle Conservation and Research Program. "Today marks the earliest documented nest in our program's history, which might mean, we're in for a busy season, and it is more important than ever before that we do as much as we can to keep our beaches turtle-friendly."  
The first nest was laid by a loggerhead sea turtle, a threatened species protected under federal law. Loggerheads are the most common species on southwest Florida nesting beaches, followed by endangered green sea turtles. In recent years, Sarasota County has also hosted a handful of endangered Kemp's ridleys, among the smallest and rarest sea turtles.  
This year, Mote's Sea Turtle Conservation and Research Program will continue its long-term studies of local sea turtles by documenting every sea turtle nest and false crawl (when a turtle emerges but does not leave a nest) in Mote's patrol area, marking each nest with yellow stakes and flagging tape and collecting a suite of data.  
Mote research has shown that nest numbers have increased recently on local beaches, with several record-breaking years in the past decade. In 2022, Mote reported 4,483 nests on Longboat Key through Venice.  
The public will be able to view Mote's weekly counts of sea turtle nests on Longboat Key through Venice at: [www.mote.org/2023nesting](http://www.mote.org/2023nesting).  
"Now that sea turtle nesting season is underway, we strongly urge beachgoers to enjoy our beautiful beaches while making sure we do our part for these sea turtles that are endangered and threatened species that have been nesting here for millions of years," said Macksey.

**How to protect sea turtles**

During nesting season, it is important to keep local waters and beaches sea turtle friendly.  
Sea turtles are swimming just offshore to mate before the females come ashore to nest, juvenile turtles are feeding along the Gulf Coast, and by early summer the first hatchlings will venture into Gulf waters.  
On the nesting beaches, light from waterfront properties can disorient nesting female turtles and their young, which emerge at night and use dim natural light to find the sea. Also, beach furniture, trash and other obstacles can impede sea turtles and their young.  
**Do:**

- If you encounter a nesting turtle or hatchlings, remain quiet and observe from a distance.
- Shield or turn off outdoor lights that are visible on the beach from May through October.
- Close drapes after dark and stack beach furniture at the dune line or, ideally, remove it from the beach.
- Fill in holes that may entrap hatchlings on their way to the water.

**Do Not:**

- Approach nesting turtles or hatchlings, make noise, or shine lights at turtles.
- Use flashlights or fishing lamps on the beach.
- Encourage a turtle to move while nesting or pick up hatchlings that have emerged and are heading for the water.
- Use fireworks on the beach.
- For more details, please refer to local sea turtle ordinances, including Sarasota County's marine turtle protection code (which includes Lido, Siesta, Casey and Manasota Keys), the City of Venice marine turtle protection ordinance and the Town of Longboat Key marine turtle protection ordinance. An updated Longboat Key ordinance took effect in 2022. For questions about any sea turtle code or ordinance, contact code enforcement staff from each municipality.

**On the water**

- Follow Coast Guard-approved safe boating guidelines and use vigilance to avoid striking sea turtles and other large marine life.
- Be sure to stow trash and line when under way. Marine debris that accidentally blows overboard or out of a truck can become ingested by or entangled around marine life.
- Wear polarized sunglasses to better see marine life in your path.
- While viewing any large marine animals, follow 10 viewing tips (designed for dolphins, but suitable for other large marine species too). [Click here for a PDF](#).

**Emergency contacts**

If you see a sick, injured or stranded sea turtle, dolphin or whale in Sarasota or Manatee county waters, contact Mote Marine Laboratory's Stranding Investigations Program at 888-345-2335. Outside of Sarasota or Manatee counties, please call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) at 888-404-FWCC (3922).  
If you suspect that someone is tampering with a sea turtle nest, harassing a sea turtle or has possession of a sea turtle or any of its parts, please call FWC, call your local sheriff's department.



# EditorLetters



Letters, from page 8

Question from Commissioner Gold

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
Following-up: St. Regis contractors have had a water truck running multiple times a day. The contractor also went over to Sea Place and it looked to him that whoever pressure washed a couple sides on the building left sand on the screen of 4 balconies. They had just painted their buildings. He indicated that he will be visiting with the Sea Place Manager today.  
Allen Parsons  
Director Planning and Zoning Board  
Town of Longboat Key

Longboat Key’s Trusty Mayor!

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier  
Hello there, Mr. Schneier! All I have to say to you is how grateful I am to have heard about, and make contact with, a considerate, intelligent, and caring person such as yourself. As a New Jerseyan, I’ll even go so far as to claim (factually) that you truly do make a name for yourself as a fantastic mayor of the Town of Longboat Key in the beautiful state of Florida, and I can only wish that every other town in America would

have a mayor just like you! Thank you very much!  
Matthew Jonas  
Longboat Key

A couple of questions

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Penny Gold  
I hope this note finds you well. Did you receive my below email? I’d be interested in your thoughts on this subject? Also, are you on the Board at your condo association?  
Marc Pachtman  
Longboat Key

A couple of questions

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier  
Great weather this season although the red tide put a crimp in my traditional beach walks.

How are you?

Have you had a successful legislative session to date?  
Do you live in a condo on Longboat Key? If so, are you on the Board?  
Secondly, I suspect that you are well aware of the insurance crises all of the associations along the coast are experiencing. The chair of insurance committee of Bayport informed us

that he expects our rates for wind insurance alone will increase a minimum of 100 percent leaving our association with a significant shortfall.  
It seems to me that the Governor of Florida should be focusing on this crises which undoubtedly is or will affect all coastal associations.  
Can Longboat Key as a representative coastal community call on the Governor to address this crises immediately? Thanks for continued consideration.  
Marc Pachtman  
Longboat Key

A couple of questions

To: Marc Pachtman  
I am not on our condo Board, but I know our condo complex has been struggling to meet the 500 percent premium increase on common elements that hit us last year.  
I believe our cost jumped from about \$670,000 to \$3.4 million, without notice. In fact, the cost wasn’t revealed to the Board until the very last day of our contract.  
Seaplace has never had a major claim and actually had a contract for roof replacements in place at the time. After the HOA was forced to pay for an extension, coverage was eventually pieced together through Citizens and a variety of other insurance carriers. A terrible turn of events. After this big bite, we are hoping this will be the last of our rare hikes for a while, but we shall see.  
The insurance legislation passed last session seems to have done little to address policy costs or solve the underlying market problems. Again, we must wait to see how carriers react.

Penny Gold  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

Tiki Bar

To: Longboat Key Commission  
We strongly object to the proposed Tiki Bar at 5620 Gulf of Mexico Drive. This is a problem waiting to happen for multiple reasons. The overserved crossing Gulf of Mexico Drive after dark for a stroll, or a tryst, on the beach creates a dangerous situation. There also is no way the noise ordinance will be obeyed. This beach across from this address is all private access that will be continually violated. This is not Bradenton Beach. This is a nice residential neighborhood and it should be kept that way. We neither need, nor want hoards of guests from the Zota and the St. Regis flooding our neighborhood with drunken vacationers. Please vote to keep Longboat Key the nice place it is.  
Peter and Betty Aden  
Longboat Key

Tiki Bar

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
What Tiki bar is this?  
Ken Schneier  
Mayor  
Longboat Key

Tiki Bar

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
Details on the proposed restaurant, with bar and outdoor dining are linked-to in the attached. It’s on the P&Z Board’s upcoming Tues (4/28) agenda.  
Allen Parsons  
Planning and Zoning Board Director  
Town of Longboat Key

Tiki Bar

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
The agenda packet for the April 18th P&Z Board Regular Meeting is linked to here (the agenda packet is too large to attach at 1,054 pages). The meeting will have two quasi-  
See Letters, page 11

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# OnPatrol

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

## April 14 Citizen assist

11:13 a.m.  
Officer Montfort responded to the police department for a walk in complaint. When Officer Montfort arrived at the station he was greeted in the lobby by the complainant who stated that he has a woman staying at his residence and she has been a resident for nine months. He further stated that he discovered that the woman was married and wanted her removed from the residence. Officer Montfort advised that he would have to pursue a civil action in order to pursue eviction. Officer Montfort advised him to contact the Sheriff's Office to start civil proceedings. Case clear.



Officer Montfort arrived in the area and did observe a man riding a bicycle southbound on Gulf of Mexico Drive. The man was wearing a red jock strap and Officer Montfort observed the man to be completely covered. Officer Connors also observed the man and stated he was covered and not exposed. Case clear, no crime committed.

## Unlocked door

11:35 p.m.  
Officer Martinson was conducting business checks at the 5300 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive when he found the front door to an ice cream shop unlocked. The night manager was still working next door and had the keys, so he came over to lock the door and contacted the owner. Case clear.

## April 15 Fire

3:50 a.m.  
Officer Martinez responded to Bayport Way in reference to a fire. Officer Martinez was told by the complainant that a powerline was arcing and producing a small flame. Upon arrival, the Fire Department was on scene. Dispatch advised that FPL was notified and in route. No further incident. Case clear.

## Traffic hazard

9:15 a.m.  
Officer Montfort while on patrol responded to the 1000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive and observed a vehicle disabled in the roadway. Officer Montfort greeted the operator who advised the vehicle stopped working after pulling onto Gulf of Mexico Drive from the condominium. Officer Montfort assisted the operator by pushing the vehicle out of the roadway and onto the grass on the shoulder of the road. The driver informed Officer Montfort that a tow truck was in route with an estimated time of arrival of one hour. Case clear.

## Citizen dispute

5:55 p.m.  
Officer Connors was dispatched to the area of Greer Island for a report of a past disturbance between boaters. Upon arrival, Officer Connors spoke to the complainant via phone, who advised that she and her family had left the area. The complainant advised she and her family were attempting to pull up to the beach when the adjacent boaters started exchanging words that they were too close and requested space. The complainant advised that words were exchanged and they left the area without incident. No further police services were needed. Case clear.

## April 16 Injured squirrel

10:30 a.m.  
Officer Connors while on patrol was flagged down by someone who advised that an injured squirrel was last seen in the area of the 4200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. The squirrel was located and transported to Bradenton Beach Wildlife Center. Case clear.

## Underwear as bicycle wear

11:34 a.m.  
Officer Montfort responded to the 4400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of a man riding a bicycle wearing a jock strap. It was further reported the man was traveling south.

## April 18 Suspicious incident

9:03 a.m.  
Officer Ferrigine responded to the police department for a walk in complaint. Upon arrival, Officer Ferrigine met with the complainant who stated he had gotten papers in the mail saying he had to pay money and give all his personal information or his property would be seized by the government. The complainant showed Officer Ferrigine a copy of the paperwork which appeared to be fake with false addresses. The complainant was advised not to call or send money to them. Case clear.

## Fire assist

11:38 a.m.  
Officer Smith responded to the 4800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a boat fire. Upon arrival, Officer Smith observed a boat approximately 3 miles off in the Gulf of Mexico and saw thick black smoke coming from the vessel. Officer Smith was advised by Fire/Rescue that it was a fishing boat and did not need emergency services and was just exhaust from the boat's engine. Case clear.

## April 19 Suspicious vehicle

4:05 a.m.  
Officer Martinson while on patrol, observed a vehicle in the back of a restaurant in the 200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. As Officer Martinson was checking around the vehicle a man came walking down the rear staircase out of the restaurant. The man said that he works for a renovations and has been doing some small handyman type work inside the restaurant for the past couple of nights. He said he has been working during the night hours to avoid being in the way while the restaurant is open for business. Case clear.

## Car in bike lane

1:30 p.m.  
Officer Connors was dispatched to the 6500 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of a landscape vehicle in the bike lane. Upon arrival, Officer Connors observed the vehicle to be slightly in the bike lane but it was occupied. Officer Connors advised the operator move fully out of the bike lane when stopping. The vehicle was removed and no further police services were needed. Case clear.

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# Editor Letters



**Letters, from page 9**

judicial (combined) cases. The public hearing items are:

Special Exception & Site Development Plan applications for a proposed restaurant with a bar and outdoor dining area, called the Lo’ Key Island Grille at 5620 GMD (corner of GMD and Tarawitt Dr.). The property owner previously applied for Special Exception and Site Development Plan approval for this property. Those prior applications were denied by the P&Z Board at their Regular Meeting. The P&Z Board has final approval/denial authority for these applications.

PUD/ODP amendment & Final Site Plan amendment applications for the St. Regis project proposing to primarily add a new 2-story parking structure at the northeast portion of the site at 1621 GMD. The P&Z Board will be providing a recommendation to the Town Commission on these applications.

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

**More parking**

To: Longboat Key Commissioner

Phil and I read that the St. Regis is going before the board to ask for more parking. We strongly oppose this. The question we have for you is will this be a rubber stamp sort of thing or does I pay for us to come to the meeting? Let me know your thoughts and what you think we should do. Also, time and place if that’s the way to go.

Charlotte Zweifach  
Longboat Key

**More parking**

To: Charlotte Zweifach

The St. Regis application will be heard by the Planning & Zoning Board at their next meeting on Tuesday, April 18 at 9:15 a.m. The Planning & Zoning board will then make a recommendation on the application, which then will be heard and voted on by the Town Commission (dates TBD). It is absolutely worthwhile to get involved and express your concerns/opinions about the proposed application for a parking garage. If you are unable to attend the P&Z meeting next Tuesday you will have another opportunity when the application is heard by the Commission.

I hope this answers your question.

Debra Williams

Commissioner  
Longboat Key

**Town of Longboat Key 2023 Session Week 6**

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Re our plan for a 12-foot multi-use path along Gulf of Mexico Drive, maybe we could combine the 8 feet that FDOT will fund with 4 feet to be funded by the new money provided for SUN Trails, etc., and referenced at the outset of the Ramba report.

Ken Schneier  
Mayor  
Longboat Key

**Town of Longboat Key 2023 Session Week 6**

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

That new funding along with what FDOT has already recognized as a need to replace the existing 8 ft. path is all good news for us. We just need to position ourselves for both funding streams (which we will make every effort to do).

Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key  
Tangerine Bay Cub - Town Filing Fee Matter  
To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin

It was a pleasure to meet you today. Thanks so much for stopping by Tangerine Bay Club to introduce yourself. And, thank you for your service to our LBK Town Commission.

Following is a summary of the issue we discussed. Perhaps you could inquire about how the Town came to adopt the methodology described to assess condo associations a new administrative filing fee.

Tangerine Bay Club (TBC) received the letter-invoice below from the LBK Planning, Zoning, & Building Department charging us \$500 per building as an administrative fee to file with the Town our Building Safety Act (BSA) Phase One Milestone Inspection Report.

TBC has 10 low-rise buildings with a total of 90 units. Therefore, at \$500 per building, this is a \$5,000 fee to file our BSA Milestone Inspection Reports with the Town on top of the thousands of dollars spent with a structural engineering firm to do the Milestone Inspections to comply with the BSA. The Town’s methodology is not fair. For TBC’s 90 units, this administrative filing fee is \$56/unit. Compare that to Beachplace that also has 10 buildings (\$5,000 total fee) with 336 units for a cost of \$15/unit. Or, Longboat Key Towers with two buildings

**See Letters, page 12**



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**LONGBOAT KEY CLUB**  
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# Editor Letters

Letters, from page 11

(\$1,000 total fee) and 88 units for a cost per unit of \$11.  
I wonder if the Town would be amenable to rethinking this burdensome fee structure it has levied on condo associations that are financially suffering under the weight of BSA compliance costs and skyrocketing insurance premiums.  
Again, thank you for visiting TBC and for listening.  
Clare Villari  
Board President, Tangerine Bay Club

Tangerine Bay Cub - Town Filing Fee Matter

To: Clare Villari  
The pleasure was all mine, you folks have a beautiful property I'm sure you're all very proud of. As promised I have sent your letter up the chain to our Town Manager Howard Tipton to assign your concerns to the right place. If there is anything else the Town can do to assist you, please don't hesitate to call.  
Gary Coffin  
Commissioner, Longboat Key

Tangerine Bay Cub - Town Filing Fee Matter

To: Clare Villari  
Thank Ms. Villari for sharing this concern and Commissioner for forwarding it to me. Unfortunately I am not familiar with how our rates were constructed but we will review and

get back with you.  
Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager, Town of Longboat Key

Tangerine Bay Cub - Town Filing Fee Matter

To: Clare Villari  
The fee for these structural building recertification reviews was established based on the typical anticipated staff time associated with administering the program responsibilities & the associated review time by the Building Official for the structural reports. The structural reports will be building specific. We will be reviewing the suggestion and conferring with peer jurisdictions on fees. I will follow-up with you on any potential changes in approach. Again, thank you for bringing this to our attention.  
Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager, Town of Longboat Key

Tangerine Bay Cub - Town Filing Fee Matter

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
I met with Mrs. Villari today and she expressed some concerns about our formula for BSA filing fee. I asked her to send a note, which she did and advised her I would send it up the line.  
Gary Coffin  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

See Letters, page 14

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Kennedy, from page 1

to be deeply honest and totally dedicated to his beliefs and willing to back them up with personal courage and scientific evidence. Kennedy is a powerful speaker, with a message for change that is eagerly received by the majority of voters who believe everything is rigged against them. Kennedy says their government has been lying to us Americans, and that this is inexcusable. He promises to never lie, a nearly Sisyphean task.

New Hampshire voters are quirky. The huge vote for Gene McCarthy in 1968 drove President Lyndon Johnson to withdraw from running again. Today, NH voters are furious at President Biden for moving the first primary to South Carolina. New Hampshire is a state filled with disgruntled white voters. Dennis Kucinich, a populist former mayor of Cleveland, and an eight term congressman from Ohio, introduced Kennedy at his announcement last Wednesday. He is expected to play a large role in the campaign. Kennedy did not mention the word vaccine in the long speech.

Below is a conversation I had last week between me and Bobby:

*I will start off with a softball question but it's not so simple. A rambling answer derailed your uncle Ted Kennedy's aborted campaign for the presidency in 1979. What inspires you to run for President now?*

RFK Jr.: My top priority will be to end the corrupt merger between state and corporate power that has ruined our economy, shattered the middle class, polluted our landscapes and waters, poisoned our children, robbed us of our values and freedoms and destroyed the American dream that we all grew up with.

I believe that this country is desperate for change, a new kind of leadership, one that is not beholden to special interests or corporate donors, but that truly represents the people of this country. I want to run as an FDR president. It is a crime that 62% of our workers (those without a college degree) are making less money than they made 40 years ago. The fact that most Americans can't afford to buy a house or pay for a college education is an outrage, as is the reality that people can't afford their healthcare anymore. Why, you ask? For one simple reason: because of the tremendous influence of money; the people's voice is no longer reflected in politics.

Republican President Dwight D. Eisenhower nailed it more than 60 years ago when he warned that the military-industrial complex will devastate our Democracy, impoverish our middle class, spread chaos across the globe and obliterate our moral authority. Today, both political parties are the war party.

*Despite your well-known work on environmental issues, particularly your advocacy for clean energy and water and opposition to fossil fuels—and your work creating over 350 River Keepers all over the globe, we cannot ignore the elephant in the room: most of the mainstream media considers you Anti Vax and dangerous.*

I am Anti a lot of things...I am Anti-Monsanto for putting cancer causing chemicals in pesticides that ordinary gardeners use. I won a \$290 million judgment against them. I am Anti-Outsourcing our good jobs overseas, Anti-government censorship in the media, Anti-government Mandates, Anti-Crony capitalism, Anti-the war against the middle and working class, Anti-the CIA hiding files about JFK and RFK assassinations 50 years later, Anti-hiding information about drug testing, Anti-government censorship of Covid origins in Wuhan.

And yes, I am skeptical of new drugs. And shouldn't we all be skeptical when the pharmaceutical industry colludes with its captive regulators at the FDA to promote unproven drugs so they can make money? We don't know what the long term effects of many of these MRNA vaccines will be. Unlike all other medicines, vaccines do not have to be safety tested with placebos. If something goes wrong, the Pharmaceutical companies by law will not have any liability.

If you end up with a stroke or heart attack or other long-Covid complications because of a vaccine, you have no recourse. I am appalled by the notion that drug companies, by Federal Statute, are not liable for injuries they may cause down the line.

However, I'm not anti-vaccine, I just want to assure that vaccines are adequately tested for safety and efficacy. I want safe vaccines. All of my seven children have been vaccinated. I support safe vaccines. When we were growing up there were only three vaccines, now kids have to get 72 shots—not all of them are necessary. 16 of these vaccines are for many diseases that are not even casually contagious.

This pandemic is ending, our priority now should be to prepare for the next pandemic and start testing drugs and treatments now. I believe in science.

*Bobby, I know that with other scientists, you have called for double blind, placebo vaccine testing by the FDA, as is done with all other drugs, and you are alarmed by the close financial ties and kickbacks that powerful pharmaceutical companies have with the FDA and the CDC, as documented by Science Magazine.*

*The revolving door is pervasive. Out of 107 FDA researchers, 40 received from \$10,000 to \$1 million in post hoc earnings, according to Science magazine. AstraZeneca paid the government \$520 million to settle lawsuits involving alleged improprieties. Is this what you are talking about when you say that the FDA and CDC have been taken over by the pharmaceutical industry?*

RFK Jr.: Such cozy relationships are not tolerated in Europe and other developed nations which have strict limits on the participation of drug panel advisors. In the U.S, doctors and scientists ricochet back and forth between government regulation gigs and the industries they are supposed to be monitoring.

Why is it that children in the U.S. get more vaccines than in other developed nations and yet our children's health ranks 34th in the world, despite the fact that the U.S. spends twice as much as any other nation? American drugs cost more in this country than they do in Canada. There is something profoundly wrong here, and nobody wants to fix it.

*I know that you have been especially concerned with the erosion of free speech and censorship. The recent revelations that Twitter and Facebook had been taking orders from the White House over what speech is permitted and what speech should be censored has been especially disturbing to many people.*

*Another example of free speech suppression is when your book "The Real Anthony Fauci" was the best selling book in the country, according to the Wall Street journal, USA Today and other literary sources. The New York Times didn't even list it among their top 20 best-sellers. Moreover, your book did not get any reviews in the main-street media.*

RFK Jr.: I was very surprised that no one reviewed it. I had hoped that reviewers would try and tear it apart, so I could answer them with scientific facts. But it didn't happen.

The First Amendment, freedom of speech is the capstone of all other rights and freedoms. It is the most important amendment because without freedom of speech you cannot have a democracy. The first act of any tyrant is to clamp down on dissent and the easiest way to do that is to censor the opposition. The Government tried to silence Daniel Ellsberg and the New York Times about the Vietnam war. More recently, when Edward Snowden revealed that the CIA was listening to our phone calls, they caused him to flee to Moscow under threat of a lifetime jail sentence. And Julian Assage is still in jail facing a life sentence for telling the truth about the Iraq War. It's crazy. It's as if the government doesn't trust Americans to know about these things.

Now they are trying to get at me in other ways with misinformation.

It's a sign of my campaign's strength that all week the Elite of DC's establishment media simultaneously and shamelessly published misrepresentation even before I announced my presidential campaign.

Steve Bannon has nothing to do with my presidential campaign. Zero. I have never discussed a presidential run with Mr. Bannon.

The national press are beholden to a deep corporate power structure that doesn't want change. I'm not surprised.

*You bring to the campaign some considerable liabilities. Voters will be concerned about your lack of political experience. How do you respond to those concerns, and why do you believe that you are qualified to be President of the United States?*

RFK Jr.: The current political system is broken. The American Dream has turned into a Nightmare for many, and to free us from this nightmare we need a new kind of leadership that is not at the mercy of special interests and corporate donors. I have spent my life fighting for justice and equality. I believe that my experience as an attorney and environmental activist has prepared me to tackle the challenges we face. My family's legacy of public service has instilled in me a passion for justice. Both my father, Robert F Kennedy, and my uncles, President John Kennedy, and Senator Edward Kennedy, were champions of the underdog, fighters for what's right, and tireless advocates for the voiceless. Their legacy inspires me every day, and it's a great honor to carry on their work.

We need to come together as a nation to tackle the challenges and to build a future that is fair and just for all. No democracy can survive without a thriving middle class.

*One of your issues is environmental justice. How will you deal with the disproportionate impact of pollution on low-income communities and communities of color, and what specific policies would you implement to address this issue?*

RFK Jr.: As President, I would work to address the root causes of environmental injustice, including systemic racism and economic inequality. I would prioritize investments in clean energy and sustainable infrastructure in low-income communities and communities of color, and work to eliminate toxic pollutants in these communities. I would also ensure environmental regulations are enforced fairly and that polluters are held accountable for the harm they cause.

COVID-19 pandemic was mishandled in many ways, from failing to provide adequate testing and protective gear for front-line workers, to not prioritizing treatments instead of vaccines. As President, I would look to the future and take a science-based approach to the next pandemic, that will ensure that all Americans have access to medical care regardless of their socioeconomic status. I would also work to rebuild trust in public health institutions.

*Income inequality has been a disgrace and many economists think it's going to get worse soon with crippling inflation, high interest rates, and a looming recession. 15 million people are slated to lose their pandemic medicaid healthcare eligibility in the coming year. How can this be dealt with in our deeply divided partisan politics?*

RFK Jr.: As President, I would work to raise the minimum wage to a living wage, invest in affordable housing, and ensure that all Americans have access to quality healthcare and education. I would also work to reform our tax system to ensure that the wealthy pay their fair share, and to close corporate tax loopholes that allow corporations to evade taxes.

*America's public spending on health care, housing, and education, has been woefully inadequate. To reach the level of Canadian or European basic living standards, America needs to more than double its level of spending. As a result, Americans are much sicker, less educated, poorer and more unhappy than citizens of most other industrialized countries.*

*There has been enormous new wealth created, but these new riches from the "Third Industrial Revolution" have produced a dystopian nightmare for the majority. The money has not "trickled down." Inequality has broken the Golden Age promise of universal progress and dreams of middle class upward mobility. This latest re-engineering of America is not working for the majority.*

RFK Jr.: Inequality has gotten exponentially worse over the last 40 years. Powerful elites have rigged the system. The top one percent has ripped off a staggering \$50 trillion from the bottom 90% during the last four decades, according to a study by the highly respected, non-partisan Rand Corp.

The Rand Corp found that, if the income distribution in the three decades from 1945 to 1974—a glorious period of prosperity—had remained constant over the next four decades, the annual income of the bottom 90% would have been \$2.5 trillion higher in just the year 2018, according to a paper by Carter C. Price and Kathryn Edwards.

*You have other liabilities in your past?*

RFK Jr.: When I was young I did foolish and stupid things that I apologize for. There are skeletons in my closet. I am not the perfect Presidential candidate. But our politics need to change and I can bring that about.

My past has made me more compassionate and empathetic toward so many who are suffering. These struggles inform who I am today and how I move about in the world—I'm proud of where I've landed.

Send us your reaction: [letters@lbknews.com](mailto:letters@lbknews.com)



# EditorLetters



## Letters, from page 12 St. Regis

To: Longboat Key Commission

Now that the Town P & Z Board has approved the very first multi-level parking garage on our Pristine Island of Longboat Key, directly across the street from a multi-million dollar single family neighborhood, it is time for all island residents to get involved and ask the Town Commission to revisit the Town's Mission Statement to "Keep Longboat, Longboat!" and deny the St. Regis multilevel parking garage permit application.

As a sympathetic, old, retired CEO Of Universal Orlando Resort and other Theme Park Resort developments this is just plain wrong from a process, operational and harmonious land use standpoint.

First, nothing significant or material has changed from the long ago approved St. Regis project and business plan. So why this drastic solution to a perceived new problem? Answer: The original Resort application would not have been approved with this additional parking and a multilevel parking garage right on GMD directly across from South Bay Isles.

It is simply "another bite at the apple".

Yes, there was a minor permit mistake in allocation of 60 some cars from one side of the development to the other but why the request for incremental parking and a multilevel parking garage only 57 feet from GMD, again, across from a residential neighborhood (Incidentally, the upper portion of cars on the top floor will be visible from adjacent properties and the proposed garage landscape screening will not be really effective for many years, if ever).

Yes, the originally permitted use of some electric lifts for valet car stacking could possibly slow valet service which can Easily be resolved with more dedicated valets to that specific operation. Why should a solvable operational problem be a Longboat Key resident aesthetic problem?

Why not get some St. Regis Resort real world operating experience before trying to fix some perceived problem with a drastic and unnecessary solution?

A good plan has already been approved and is well along in construction.

In addition and pivotal, it is inarguable that allowing the first commercial multilevel parking garage to be constructed on our island is precedent setting.

This newly proposed parking structure, in addition to the already approved building mass of the St. Regis project, is striking compared to the Colony Resort, a shock to many.

More building mass should not be allowed on this already visually crowded site.

Clearly this proposed parking structure is not in keeping with the Town of Longboat Key's unalterable Mission Statement to "Keep Longboat, Longboat".

This is job one for our elected Town Commission. Yes, the St. Regis Resort will be a real asset to our community and hats off to Chuck Whitall and Unicorp, the developers, for their tireless efforts on this complex improvement project and their efforts to mitigate neighbor resident concerns. We hope that approach continues.

In closing, please, everyone, write Town Commissioners and make your voices heard before and at the May 1 Town Commission meeting. We do not need or want a multi-level parking garage on Longboat Key...anywhere. To our Commissioners and P&Z, thank you for your service to our beautiful Community.

Bob Gault  
Longboat Key

## St. Regis

To: Bob Gault

Thank you for your thoughtful and thorough comments regarding the St. Regis application. I understand that you and many others were disappointed by the P&Z decision yesterday. As you know this will go before the town commission for a first

and second reading. I hope that you and others will be able to attend these meetings so the commission, the applicant, and town residents can hear your thoughts and address your concerns. As far as I know the dates have not been determined yet but should be posted shortly.

Debra Williams  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

## St. Regis dust

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Can we ask Planning and zoning to calculate the number of parking spaces that would be necessary if this project was submitted today under today's requirements?

Gary Coffin  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

# KeyCrossword



## Who's What?

Edited by Linda and Charles Preston

### ACROSS

- 1 After-shower powder
- 5 Lord or lady
- 10 Vote in
- 15 Teen hangout
- 19 Aroma
- 20 Arabian ruler: var.
- 21 Scale sign
- 22 Potpourri
- 23 Loblolly
- 24 Source of troubles
- 26 Ustinov, in "Quo Vadis?"
- 27 Seafood choice
- 29 Take as one's own
- 30 Large-billed bird
- 32 Important folkways
- 34 Art supporter
- 36 Perched
- 37 Founded
- 40 Faucet
- 42 Fashionable fabric
- 44 Wooded tract
- 48 Escapes
- 50 Kind of cabin
- 52 Fast food furnishers
- 54 Soaks flax
- 55 Hgt.
- 56 Went by car
- 59 Talks on and on
- 61 Coal measure
- 62 Lavish affection upon
- 64 Livery worker
- 66 Vitamin A source
- 68 Courtroom machine
- 70 Quilting party
- 72 Swift and Orwell works
- 73 Infrequent
- 74 B'wy sign
- 76 Nursery napkin
- 78 Rocky peaks
- 79 Moment
- 82 Droop
- 84 Home builder
- 88 Desert herdsman
- 90 Canine's appendage
- 92 Final beginning
- 93 Silkworm
- 94 Seabirds
- 96 "A Night to Remember" subject
- 98 Cagers org.
- 99 Cleopatra's waterway
- 101 Serious
- 103 Playing marble
- 104 Abolish
- 106 Small land mass
- 108 Fight off
- 110 Camp accommodation
- 112 Activists
- 113 Tear
- 115 Beer choice

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- 117 Lease a second time
- 119 Ocular sections
- 123 Political policies
- 125 Secluded
- 129 \_\_\_ vera
- 130 Corporant
- 133 Carbonated drink
- 134 Form of address
- 135 Raneer raiment
- 136 \_\_\_ else!: Mom's mandate
- 137 And others, shortly
- 138 Sound of exertion
- 139 Expletives
- 140 Former rulers
- 141 Exhausted

### DOWN

- 1 Parts of separates
- 2 Excavator's entrance
- 3 Single
- 4 Shellacked: sl.
- 5 Candle
- 6 Inn in Istanbul

- 7 Letterman number?
- 8 Mother of Castor
- 9 Wear away
- 10 Slipped away, as time
- 11 Radio fan
- 12 Recede
- 13 Cut short
- 14 Assessments
- 15 Ironclad ship
- 16 Actor Baldwin
- 17 Pisa dough, once
- 18 Screwball
- 25 Highway
- 28 Computer component
- 31 Varnish ingredient
- 33 Sassafras drinks
- 35 Purple shade
- 37 Rosary
- 38 Apportion
- 39 Gold strike site
- 41 Redcaps
- 43 Starling relative: pl. var.
- 45 Church assessment

- 46 Irving or Oliver
- 47 Feudal field hands
- 49 Laundry additives
- 51 It's a good thing
- 53 SAC part
- 57 Kind of soldier
- 58 Tiny bit
- 60 Yucca look-alike
- 63 Related on mother's side
- 65 Beak
- 67 NASA weather forecasting system
- 69 Priestly garb
- 71 Gifted with visual memory
- 75 Clumsy one
- 77 Discuss at length
- 79 Ancient Celtic tribe
- 80 Nostril
- 81 Voice for Verdi
- 83 Obtained
- 85 Braz. neighbor
- 86 Fiery afterglow
- 87 Iranian cash
- 89 Rise up against
- 91 Edge

- 95 Covered with calyxes
- 97 Military student
- 100 Most otherworldly
- 102 Systems of government
- 105 Witnessed
- 107 Food container in England
- 109 Late-night name
- 111 Brat
- 114 Out-of-date
- 116 Changed the clock
- 118 Sly looks
- 119 Grating sound
- 120 Lamb
- 121 Rent
- 122 Party extra
- 124 Loans for college-goers: abbr.
- 126 Former photo section
- 127 Dash
- 128 Mrs. Rogers
- 131 Cubs stat
- 132 Call \_\_\_ day: retire

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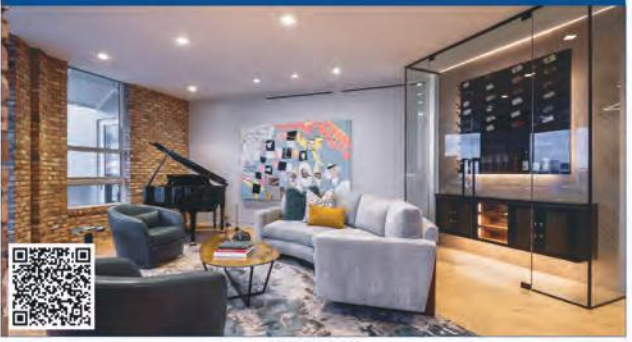
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